

**Sacramento Audubon Society**  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Date: February 24, 2015  
Approved Date: March 31, 2015  
Arden-Dimick Library  
891 Watt Ave, Sacramento, CA 95864

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order: 7:22 p.m.

**Role Call: Board Members Present:** Linda Pittman, Subhash Chand, Keith Wagner, Diana Hickson, Darrel Mohr, Larry Hickey, Gary Fregien, Bill Bianco. **Board Members Absent:** Marcia Ferkovich, Jonilynn Okano.

**Approval of Minutes:** Draft January 2015 Board Minutes approved by consensus.

**President's Report (Linda):**

- Linda Attended the tri-colored blackbird consortium meeting by phone. CA Audubon has received a substantial grant for tri-colored blackbird conservation work (\$500K) but a portion of the grant is attached to CA Audubon raising matching funds. Linda intends to draft and circulate a more detailed summary of the outcome of the meeting to the Board.
- Desiree Loggins has been hired as CA Audubon's Central Valley/Sierras Chapter Network Manager and is now SAS' primary contact with CA Audubon. Desiree discussed with Linda a range of cooperative activities with SAS, including asking whether SAS would attend an advocacy day, whether SAS intends to participate in strategic planning workshops being offered by CA Audubon, and whether SAS intends to support CA Audubon's gnatcatcher conservation efforts.
- Linda will be checking in with Chris Conard to inquire regarding the status of update to the Birding in the Sacramento Region book before SAS orders reprints.

**Treasurer's report (Marcia):**

- Marcia was not able to attend this month's SAS Board meeting. She will provide a treasurer's report at the next Board meeting.

**Corresponding Secretary report (Diana):**

- SAS has received a letter from the attorneys for the Kurtz family estate informing us that the Kurtz family has left SAS a bequest of \$10,000 for Bobelaine. The current Board members are not familiar with the Kurtz family or their past connection to the chapter or Bobelaine. Some board members posited that past long-time board members Cathie LaZier or Tim Fitzer may know the family. After some discussion Diana agreed to write a thank you/acknowledgement article for the Observer when the funds actually come through.

- SAS has received notice from the executors of the Greenaway Estate that SAS will be the beneficiary of a \$5,000 bequest from SAS' former Conservation Chair Roy Greenaway and his wife Carol.

#### **Membership (Keith for Lea):**

- Membership Chair Lea Landry has sent SAS' most recent membership stats: NAS members in SAS catchment area: 2888; paid SAS members: 567; members of both SAS & NAS: 197.

#### **Programs (Linda):**

- The Programs Linda has planned through May are as follows:
  - March – Bob Meese – tri-colored blackbirds
  - April – Susan Schneider – The Science of Consequences.
  - May (tentative) Phil Garone – Fall & Rise of CV Wetlands
- Sally Walters has agreed to come back on board as SAS Programs Chair for the 2015-2016 presentation season.

#### **Outreach (Darrell):**

- Bird & Breakfast @ Effie Yeaw will be March 21-22, 2015. Cathie may still need more volunteers to cover that event.
- Other events that SAS is planning to participate in in the next few months include Return of Swainson's Hawk, Creek Week, Walk on the Wildside, and Sacramento State University's Earth Day.
- A wildlife art festival is being planned for July. SAS is considering having an outreach table there.

#### **Education (Subhash for Jenner):**

- Jenner is continuing to plan numerous SAS education events and activities for the coming year.
- Jenner is proposing an open house some time in fall at which the woodpecker movie that SAS contributed grant funding toward would be shown. Linda wondered whether SAS should take such a strong role in promoting the movie. Subhash agreed to ask Jenner to contact Linda to discuss and work out and concerns about the scope and cost of SAS' involvement to bring back for discussion at a future board meeting.
- Darrel recommended that the spotting scope and tripod donated to SAS be put into inventory for field trips/activities, instead of raffling it off, which had been the Board's initial thought. After some discussion the Board agreed by consensus that ongoing availability/use of the scope for SAS trips/activities would be the best use of the scope.
- On Saturday, April 25, 2015, and Saturday, October 10, 2015, SAS will be leading bird walks along American River in coordination with Soil Borne Farms' educational programs.

#### **Communications (Subhash):**

- Subhash continues to maintain the SAS Website. No significant news or other communications items to report.

### **Conservation (Larry)**

- City of Sacramento General Plan Proposed reduction in park acreage service level – Larry reports that at its last meeting, the City’s Planning Commission reversed its earlier decision to propose a reduction in park acreage service levels. Furthermore, new language has been introduced for the General Plan update that would seek to protect the tree canopy (not just individual trees) within the City of Sacramento. Larry reports that Habitat 2020 is generally pleased with the changes, but is also wary of the City Council’s ability to revert to less protective environmental policies. Accordingly, H2020 will continue to monitor the City’s general plan process.
- H2020 is also continuing its work on an integrated database of habitat elements, now called the “Marxan” model. Sean and Rob, H2020’s co-chairs, have been meeting with the folks at UC Davis who are working on the model.

On the SAS Board business side, Larry requested Board authorization to draft some questions to SAS’ insurance agent regarding the scope and extent of SAS’ insurance coverage. The Board agreed by consensus that Larry should proceed and report his findings back to the Board at a future Board meeting.

### **Chapter Building (Subhash):**

- **Board Member Handbook:** Subhash distributed copies of the Board Member handbook that he has assembled. Diana noted that pages appear to be missing from the bylaws section. Subhash will circulate replacement pages. The Board thanked Subhash for his efforts.
- **Conflict of Interest Policy:** Diana agreed to look at the Santa Barbara Audubon chapter’s conflict of interest policy that Subhash previously circulated for SAS Board review, and to come up with proposed, draft language for a similar SAS policy for consideration at the next SAS Board meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Nominations Committee:** Linda appointed Keith to serve as SAS’ Nominations Committee for the FY2015-2016 Board.
- **Donation of \$1,000 To Wildlife Care Association (requested by Cathie LaZier):** Motion - Wagner/Mohr. **Passed Unanimously.**
- **Sponsorship \$250 for ECOS Earth Day Celebration (requested by ECOS):** Motion - Wagner/Mohr. Approved (7 in favor; 1 opposed)

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.