

**Sacramento Audubon Society**  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Date: May 26, 2015  
Approved Date: August 25, 2015  
Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room  
601 Munroe St., Sacramento CA 95825

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order: 7:07 p.m.

**Role Call: Board Members Present:** Linda Pittman, Marcia Ferkovich, Subhash Chand, Keith Wagner, Diana Hickson, Darrel Mohr, Larry Hickey, Bill Bianco. **Board Members Absent:** Gary Fregien. **Guests Present:** Sally Walters (incoming 2015-2016 Board member and Programs Chair), and Sean Wirth (Co-Chair Habitat 2020)

**Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes for the March and April 2015 Board Meetings approved by consensus.

**Guest Presentation: Sean Wirth, Co-Chair Habitat 2020**

Larry Hickey, Conservation Chair and SAS 2015-2016 President Elect, introduced Sean Wirth, co-chair of Habitat 2020, to give a presentation to the SAS Board on current conservation projects that Habitat 2020 is currently working on. Habitat 2020 serves as SAS' conservation committee, and also serves as the conservation committee for Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS). Larry thanked Sean for all the past and ongoing work that Habitat 2020 does on SAS' and its members' behalves.

Sean began by sharing that he took a recent trip to Japan, and circulated some birding photos that he took while he was there. Sean is preparing a slide show for SAS' upcoming October 15, 2015 general membership meeting.

With regard to Habitat 2020's current work/projects, Sean reported on the **Russel Ranch Project** (Folsom); the **South East Connector Road Project**; Sacramento County's development of a **regional parks management plan**; the **SACOG Green Print**; and a development project in the vicinity of **Mather Field** that may adversely impact vernal pool and grassland resources, as follows:

The **Russel Ranch** Project continues to move ahead in the City of Folsom south of Highway 50 with no source of water. Unless some unexpected party weighs in, there appears to be no legal avenue/opponent available to take the project on. H2020 is focusing the limited resources it has on projects that might viably be challenged or changed, such as the City of Elk Grove's Sphere of Influence expansion plans, and the Cordova Hills project in the County of Sacramento south-east of the City of Rancho Cordova.

The **City of Elk Grove** is attempting to get out in front of the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that is planning the **South East Connector Road Project** (from Elk Grove to Folsom) by piecemealing and approving just the segment of the road within Elk Grove. Habitat 2020 has submitted objections/comments on the City's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the piecemealed project.

The **County of Sacramento** is gearing up to hold a stakeholder meeting in advance of preparing a resource management plan for the County's parks. Sean will be going to represent Habitat 2020 and ECOS, and will be letting SAS know if outreach to SAS' membership or funds from SAS are needed to respond to this planning effort as more information becomes available.

**SACOG Green Print.** ECOS has settlement money (\$250,000) from a prior lawsuit involving the South East Connector Project that is dedicated to funding the Sacramento Area Council of Governments' (SACOG) development of a plan for conserving the County's regional habitat/open space resources. ECOS is working with UC Davis on developing a scope of work, which SACOG has approved. SACOG and ECOS are now both awaiting a JPA that has been created to oversee the project to approve the scope of work to be done.

The **County of Sacramento** is considering a proposed development project near Mather Field. The development is on lands previously granted to the County for vernal pool conservation. The County and developers are attempting to rely on other vernal pool resources around the development to mitigate for impacts to the already protected vernal pool resources the Project would destroy. The Splash! Center and Eva Butler are concerned about the proposal, and are and in ongoing contact with ECOS and Habitat 2020 due to the project's adverse impacts on vernal pool resources that are presently used by and of concern to Splash!

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

- This year's Farrallon Islands trip, was very slow to fill. Linda now has it filled up except for four slots.
- Larry, as president-elect for 2015-2016, reported that Audubon CA is hosting a Chapter Council meeting in Merced in June. Larry is planning on going and will report back to the Board at its August meeting.

**Treasurer (Marcia):**

- Marcia circulated SAS' financials by e-mail before the meeting. Board members with any questions should contact her.
- Marcia will put together a proposed 2015-2016 budget to circulate at the next SAS Board meeting in August.

**Membership (Lea):**

- Lea Landry sent SAS' this month's most recent membership stats via e-mail for Board review.

### **Corresponding Secretary (Diana)**

- Circulated general mail received at SAS PO Box for review.
- One of the letters Diana received was from a prisoner at the lone prison, stating that cliff swallow nests were being knocked down/destroyed by prison staff. Diana will call CalTip to notify them of the prisoner's report for potential follow up/response.

### **Programs (Subhash for Linda):**

- Linda will be retiring as Programs Chair. Sally Walters will be rejoining the SAS Board and will be Program Chair for 2015-2016. Sally, who attended the meeting, was thanked by the SAS Board for coming back to the Board and oversee Programs next year.
- Sally asked to reschedule the November 2015 general membership meeting one week earlier than usual (November 12, 2015, instead of November 19, 2015) to avoid conflicts with the Central Valley Bird Symposium. The Board approved moving the meeting date as requested.

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

- At the Walk on the Wildside event, Darrel gave away a collection of outdated SAS promotional materials (tees, buttons, etc.).
- SAS Presently appear to have enough volunteers to cover the North Laguna Creek event at the end of the month, the Wildlife Art Festival, and the Harvest Festival in August.
- Volunteers are still needed for Effie Yeaw Nature Fest in October 2015, and the Lodi Crane Festival, November 7-8, 2015.
- SAS will be participating in the Central Valley Bird Symposium in November 2015.
- Darrel will be handing over coordinating SAS outreach efforts/coordination to Bill Bianco. Darrell and Cathie LaZier (who still receives many such inquiries) will be forwarding outreach event inquiries to Bill.

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

- Subhash gave a presentation to approximately 90 school children in El Dorado Hills, and received several thank you letters.
- Jenner convened a meeting of the education committee, including, Bill, Subhash, Jenner, Wendy Money, Maura Weston, and a representative of Soil Borne Farms. Overall, the education committee still needs more volunteers. Linda suggested putting an article in the Observer asking for volunteers.
- The attendees at the meeting also discussed the potential of having some sort of toys at outreach tables/events for kids to play with while adults talk.

### **Conservation (Larry)**

- Larry, as SAS' delegate to Habitat 2020 and ECOS, had nothing further to report regarding conservation, beyond the matters covered in Sean's presentation at the beginning of the Board meeting (see above).

**Old Business:**

- **SAS Insurance** (Larry). Prior to the Board meeting Larry forwarded a quote for expanded insurance coverage for the Board, recommending that the Board add Directors & Officers insurance to its policy. **MOTION** (Wagner/Chand): \$1,200 to pay for D&O Insurance for one year. Motion approved unanimously.
- **Donation to Effie Yeaw in Memory of Jonilynn Okano's Service to SAS.** **MOTION** (Wagner/Mohr) \$250 to Effie Yeaw in memory of Jonilynn Okano's service to SAS. Motion approved unanimously.

**New business:**

- **August-November SAS Board Meetings:** Keith was asked by the Board to schedule the August-November 2015 Board meetings at Lemongrass cafe.
- **Board Involvement in SAS Committees/Activities:** Subhash would like to see more board involvement in SAS volunteer activities. Subhash circulated a spreadsheet regarding board member involvement in SAS committees and activities for the Board's consideration.
- **SAS Acceptance of Electronic/Online Payments:** Subhash asks if we should accept electronic payments for SAS membership and merchandise and how the Board might make that happen. Larry will ask other chapters if they do so at the upcoming chapter council meeting. Subhash will consult with Lea as to how to get info to her on incoming membership payments.
- **Point Blue (formerly Point Reyes Bird Observatory):** Subhash received a newsletter from Point Blue, thought they had several good programs/projects that SAS might offer to help fund. After some general discussion the Board concluded that Point Blue probably has many sources of funding available, although SAS might fund some future project if Point Blue or its partners make a specific proposal/request.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.