

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

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:01 p.m.

Role Call: Board Members Present: Larry Hickey, Subhash Chand, Marcia Ferkovich, Keith Wagner, Diana Hickson, Bill Bianco, Gary Fregien, Sally Walters, Jane Taylor. **Board Members Absent:** Linda Pittman.

Approval of Minutes: May 2015 Draft Board Meeting Minutes approved by consensus.

Public Comment/Guest Presentation: None.

President's Report (Larry):

- Larry attended an Audubon California Chapter Council meeting in Merced in June. Larry reported on the following items:
 - Approximately half of the chapters in our Chapter Council area accept online donations. Larry recommends SAS should investigate doing the same.
 - Many of the chapters in our Chapter Council area are small, and struggling for money resources. To conserve resources, some have gone to online distribution of newsletters others haven't. Subhash requested a discussion of SAS going to online newsletters at the Board's next meeting.
 - several chapters use a website/platform called "Meet Up" as social media to promote their events. Subhash says our Facebook page is working well and serves a similar function, but that looking into having a presence on Meet Up may be worth considering.
 - National Audubon and Audubon CA are pushing climate change and diversity as their top policy priorities. Larry notes that where SAS agrees with National and Audubon CA's policies/priorities, our chapter can engage in issue advocacy to support those policies/priorities
 - Larry says he learned a lot about how other chapters operate and encouraged other board members to consider attending future Chapter Council Meetings.
- Observer: Larry reports that SAS had an issue recently with some donors not being recognized in the Observer. There was a disconnect, in that the information on donors from Lea was unnecessarily being passed through Marsha before going to Sharon. Now Lea is sending it to Sharon directly.
- Larry, as incoming president, prospectively thanked the 2015-2016 Board for its service to SAS and its support.

Treasurer (Marcia):

- SAS dipped into its reserves in the amount of approximately \$13,000 last year. SAS received \$1,200 more in donations than expected/budgeted last year.
- Some of the SAS CD's that had been in prior treasurer Cathie LaZier's name at our prior bank have matured. As they mature, Cathie is withdrawing the funds and transferring to Marsha to deposit to SAS' new bank.
- SAS has not yet been paid for its 2013-2014 expenses. Keith acknowledged that he had not yet submitted the Bobelaine expense reimbursement report that Cathie provided to him in July of 2014. Keith will find that reimbursement report and submit it to Audubon CA for reimbursement from the Crandall Endowment funds held by National.
- Subhash: passed around a summary of last years profit and loss for Board review and discussion. The Board agreed that SAS should publish a notice in the Observer that the detailed financials are available at SAS website, publish a list of grants/projects that SAS funded in 2014-2015 in the Observer, and present the 2014-2015 financials at the September membership meeting.
- Marcia presented a proposed, draft 2015-2016 budget for Board discussion. **MOTION (Wagner/Chand)** to approve the budget presented by Marcia with edits proposed by Subhash at the Board meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Membership (Keith):

- Keith thought Lea sent membership stats before the Board meeting, but is not sure. Keith will check, and either circulate what Lea sent to the rest of the Board, or ask Lea to provide the current stats, if they were not sent.
- Lea will be stepping down as membership chair as of December 2015. The membership chair position is a paid independent contractor position, at \$9/hour. Lea presently spends between 5 and 8 hours a month on membership chair work. Announcement will be put in observer and made at membership meeting. Larry will write up an e-mail to send around to the Board to distribute.
- Subhash intends to look into the possibility of enabling online memberships and renewals through the SAS webpage.

Corresponding Secretary (Diana)

- Diana circulated several items of mail by e-mail to the Board prior to the meeting.
- Diana circulated selected mail items in hard copy at the meeting for Board review.

Programs (Sally):

- Sally has 6 of the 8 membership meeting programs already lined up, is working on speakers/topics for the final two.

Outreach (Bill):

- SAS has sufficient volunteers to cover Nature Fest on October 4. **MOTION (Bianco/Wagner):** \$250 for sponsorship of Nature Fest. Motion approved unanimously.

- SAS has sufficient volunteers to cover the Lodi Crane festival Nov 7-8. Bill and Marcia are not certain whether SAS already approved/sent a sponsorship for this years event. Bill and Marcia will report back at the next Board meeting, and make a recommendation on amount, if a sponsorship has not already been approved/paid.
- Central Valley Bird Symposium is requesting SAS sponsorship. The Symposium will be November 19-22, 2015. **MOTION (Wagner/Bianco):** \$1,000 for Central Valley Bird Symposium. Motion approved unanimously.
- The Galt Winter Bird Festival will be January 23. The SAS Board will consider whether and in what amount to sponsor that event at the September Board meeting.
- Bill gave \$80 to Marsha raised from selling Bird checklists, tote bags and donations at SAS' outreach events over the summer.

Education (Larry):

- Jenner has resigned as Education chair. The Board discussed the situation and agreed that an announcement should be placed in the Observer and made at future membership meetings that we are seeking an Education chair until the position is filled.
- Subhash has put out notice to local school districts that SAS is willing/ready to do presentations.

Conservation (Larry)

- Climate change bills are pending in the California Legislature, Audubon CA may seek SAS support or participation in supporting the bills, as the locally available chapter.
- The SACOG Greenprint project is moving forward.
- South East Connector – City of Elk Grove is still trying to get out in front of the JPA in charge of that project by building the portion of the connector that is within the City. ECOS and H2020 are opposed due to the impacts to important habitats in the south county. SAS is standing by for requests for action from ECOS/H2020.
- Larry sent an e-mail to Regional San, registering SAS' opposition to a proposal to build solar arrays in the Bufferlands.

Old Business:

- **SAS Insurance** (Larry). D&O Insurance has now been purchased and is in place for the 2015-2016 year.

New business:

- **Board vacancy** (Larry). The Board has a vacancy due to Jenner resigning. The Board had some discussion of potential candidates. Keith suggested waiting for a month before making any nominations, as it might be helpful to have the new membership chair (whoever that may be) also fill the Board vacancy, so that the membership chair has more regular/direct contact with the Board. The Board agreed by consensus to defer further consideration of the matter to next month.

- **Audubon CA Fundraising Workshop** (Larry). Audubon CA will be sponsoring/hosting a fundraising workshop on November 14, 2015. Larry would like to see SAS represented/participate in that workshop. Larry will go if nobody else does.
- **Big Day of Giving** (Larry). There will be a Big Day of Giving on May 14, 2016. The Board agreed by consensus to defer further discussion on how SAS might participate to a future meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.