

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: March 29, 2016
Approved Date: May 31, 2016
Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room
601 Munroe St., Sacramento CA 95825

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Board Members Present:, Larry Hickey, Subhash Chand, Marcia Ferkovich, Keith Wagner, Diana Hickson, Bill Bianco, Jane Taylor, Thomas Cadle, Karen Cadle. **Board Members Absent:** Sally Walters, Linda Pittman.

Approval of Minutes: February 2015 Draft Board Meeting Minutes approved by consensus, with the following changes/amendments offered by: under Bill Bianco's Outreach report: SAS donated only one coffee pot to Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, not two; one. Under Communication's report, substitute "communications" for "conservation." Under Roll Call, change "Role" to "Roll."

Public Comment/Guest Presentation: there were no public comments offered or guest presentation made at the March 2016 Board meeting.

President's Report (Larry):

- On June 8, 2016, Audubon CA will be sponsoring a lobby day at the State Capitol. Larry can't make it. Board members who are available/interested in participating should contact Larry.
- There will be a Audubon CA Chapter Council meeting in Merced in August. Details on dates and topics to be covered are still being finalized and will be covered at a future Board meeting.
- The company that handled the mailing of the Observer unexpectedly went out of business before the last mailing. Alternative arrangements were made by the printing company, and the Observer has now been mailed.
- The date published in the Observer for the April membership meeting date was not correct. Subhash will send out a note using the SAS e-mail listserve to inform members of the correct meeting date.
- Audubon CA is developing and working on current policy issues for 2016, including addressing drones being flown in/over conservation areas, which has also been an issue lately at Bobelaine. More information on Audubon CA's 2016 policy goals and how SAS can help will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

- Birds & Breakfast at Effie Yeaw was a resounding success. Larry acknowledge Cathie LaZier for her excellent work in coordinating this year's event.

Treasurer (Marcia):

- Marcia has reached out to Effie Yeaw to inquire what SAS owes for the monthly membership meetings that have been conducted there, as a review of her records indicates that we have not paid them to date. Marcia is waiting to hear back from Paul Tebbel, and will report the results at a future Board meeting.
- Marcia circulated an updated financial report by e-mail prior to the Board meeting. If any Board members have questions, they should contact Marcia individually.

Corresponding Secretary (Diana)

- Diana circulated mail that had recently arrived at the P.O. Box for board review.
- Diana ordered and has now received more preprinted letterhead and envelopes from Carmichael Printers for sending out SAS thank you notes for donations and other SAS Correspondence.

Membership:

- The Board did not receive updated membership information for this meeting from Mara, the new Membership Chair. Larry will ask Mara if she can generate an updated report for the next Board meeting.

Programs (Sally – planned absence):

- Sally had a planned absence from the March 2016 Board meeting. All remaining membership presentations for the 2016 season (through the May 2016 membership meeting) have been planned. The list of presenters/topics is available for review at the SAS website.

Outreach (Bill):

- Bill reported that all outreach events/activities in the near future are presently covered.
- Walk on the Wildside. Bill reported that Walk on the Wildside has asked for SAS to both (1) sponsor the event (we donated \$250 last year); and (2) donate an additional \$500 to help cover costs for the Wild Things, Inc., show that is held at the event. After some discussion, the Board decided to make a single donation with communication to Walk on the Wildside that they may allocate the funds as between sponsorship and/or paying for the Wild Things, Inc., show as they see fit. **MOTION** (Keith/Tom) to donate \$500 for this year's Walk on the Wildside event. Motion passed unanimously.
- SAS Trip Leader Name Badges. Bill circulated a sample name badge that he has now had printed per the Board's authorization at its last meeting. The

company that provides them can also print ribbons with special messages, such as “Ask Me About Membership,” or any other message that SAS wishes to convey, that can be attached to the badges with velcro. The Board is unsure whether all trip leaders will be interested in wearing name badges, but will check in with Cathie LaZier to ask. After some discussion, the Board agreed by consensus that it would also be good to consider printing some generic “Sacramento Audubon Society” badges and specific name badges for volunteers at Outreach events.

- ECOS Earth Day. Bill has received a request to sponsor ECOS’ Earth Day event. After some discussion, the Board agreed that SAS might sponsor the event, even if it decides not to actually participate in/table at the event. **MOTION** (Subhash/Bill) to donate \$250 to sponsor ECOS’ Earth Day. Motion passed unanimously.

Education:

- Larry reported that SAS is still seeking an Education Chair, and that SAS should make it a priority to find somebody to take on this important role for the chapter. Larry urged all Board members to consider whether they know somebody who might be a likely candidate for the position so that SAS can get its education program(s) formally back on track.

Resale Merchandise:

- At this time, other than the birding checklists, SAS has no “merchandise” to sell. There is a possibility of a future reprint of the Birding in the Sacramento Area book, but the process of updating the book appears to be stalled, and it is unclear whether a print version would be useful/desirable, as there is work presently ongoing to convert the information in the book (and any future updates) into an Android App that would be readily available online. Larry will check with Chris Connard re status of the updates to the book and report back.

Conservation (Larry)

- Larry circulated an article by Rob Burness, co-chair of SAS’ Conservation Committee Habitat 2020, which is critical of local planning and governments in the Sacramento Area as failing to learn from and correct mistakes of the past, instead continuing on with “business as usual,” in terms of continuing to pursue and approve projects in the absence of adequate environmental consideration or protection.
- The Hinkle Creek project in Folsom is proposing the clear a significant number of trees to build a road. The local neighbors are fighting it.
- Larry noted that even though conservation in the Sacramento region continues to be an ongoing challenge, SAS and the environmental community’s efforts remain important and from time to time do pay off in significant ways, such as changes made to the proposed Mather Field development project that turned a very

destructive proposal into a project that was good for both the County and the conservation of the area's vernal pools. The City of Sacramento's recent plastic bag ban is another example of SAS and the environmental community's success.

Communications (Subhash):

- Subhash had a planned absence for this Board meeting, and will provide an updated Communications report at the March Board meeting.

Old Business:

- **Bobelaine** (Larry). The Bobelaine Committee has been very active and busy working on developing a strategy/plan for maintaining Bobelaine following Robert Thomas' retirement as the long term volunteer caretaker for SAS. The Committee is presently finalizing the details of a proposed contract for support labor crews with the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps. Larry will circulate a copy to the Board by e-mail when it is complete and ready for review/approval. Mary Scheidt is stepping up to help oversee/direct the work to be done under the contract. SAS will also be treating visits by the work crews as an education/field trip opportunity for the inner city youth who work for the Corps. There will be maintenance work along the levee at Bobelaine starting in July. The owners of the private properties next to Bobelaine are raising concerns about the amount of traffic into Bobelaine, and some statements have been made that they want to put up a gate to block access at the entry to Laurel Lane. There is no indication at this time of any actual plan or whether it would even be legal for them to do so.
- **Big Day of Giving** (Subhash): Prior to the Board meeting, Subhash circulated a draft of a donation request letter that he is planning to circulate for Big Day of Giving. Board members should review the draft and respond to Subhash ASAP with any questions or suggested changes.
- **Climate Change Workshop** (Jane): Audubon CA is offering small grants of \$2,000 to \$4,000 to the chapters for climate change projects. Jane has some ideas on potential projects which might include habitat/wildlife monitoring, or perhaps a study as to how Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the Sacramento Area may be impacted by climate change. Larry suggested that Jane contact Desiree at Audubon CA to run these ideas by her, and get feedback on whether these types of projects might fit into the scope of Audubon CA's grant program, and also if Audubon CA has any other suggestions/ideas for potential projects.

New business:

- **Nominations Committee** (Keith): Keith reported that the Nominations Committee has made the following recommendations for the 2016-2017 proposed slate of SAS Directors and Officers, and has forwarded the same to Sharon to publish in the April Observer:

- **President:** Sally Walters
 - **Vice President:** Bill Bianco
 - **Treasurer:** Marcia Ferkovich
 - **Corresponding Secretary:** Diana Hickson
 - **Recording Secretary:** Jane Taylor
 - **Board Members at Large:** Thomas Cadle, Karen Cadle, Sue Darst, Grant Boice, Keith Wagner
 - **Past President** (by operation of SAS' bylaws): Larry Hickey
- The election of 2016-2017 Directors and Officers will be conducted by Larry at the April membership meeting at Effie Yeaw.
 - Keith reported that during the Nominations Committee's work, several potential improvements to SAS' Board Structure and elections cycle/process were identified, including creating a better defined role of "president elect" for succession purposes, and also creating staggered terms for Board members, rather than electing an entirely new slate every year. Keith stated his intention to spend some time next year to go through the bylaws and draft some proposed amendments to address these and other issues for the Board's consideration during the 2016-2017 term. Keith noted that any changes to the bylaws would have to ultimately be presented at a future membership meeting at Effie Yeaw for adoption/ratification by SAS' general membership.
 - **Wildlife Care Association grant:** Wildlife Care Association has sent SAS a request for 2016 donations to help support Wildlife Care's important wildlife rescue/rehab operations. **MOTION:** (Diana/Marcia) \$1,000 to support Wildlife Care Association. Approved.
 - **Maya Kohlsa project:** Bill has received a grant funding request for a new project being proposed by Maya Kohlsa. Sally (who was not present at the meeting) has more details on this proposal. After brief discussion, Bill agreed to seek more specific info on the project Maya is proposing and to bring the matter back to next board meeting when Sally is also available to participate in the discussion.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.