

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: April 26, 2016
Approved Date: - May 31, 2016
Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room
601 Munroe St., Sacramento CA 95825

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 6:55 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Board deferred approval of the March 2016 Draft minutes to the May Board meeting to allow additional time for board review/comment

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

President's Report (Larry):

- Audubon CA is following statewide environmental legislation at the state capitol. Larry mentioned two bills of particular interest. **AB 2148** calls for regulation of private drones (which can have negative impacts on habitat and animal behavior) being flown over public lands. **AB 2087** would require the establishment of regional conservation priorities across the state. Audubon CA will be letting the chapters, including SAS, know when/if any local involvement/support may be needed regarding these bills or other issues that may arise as the 2016 legislative session continues.
- The California Department of Fish & Wildlife is taking comment on listing tricolored blackbirds. It is not clear what Audubon CA's position is regarding whether listing should proceed.
- On June 7, 2016, Audubon CA is hosting a policy conference call that Larry cannot make. Audubon CA is planning a lobby day the following day, June 8. Jane may be available to participate in the call and/or the lobby day. Jane will get more info from Larry after the meeting.

Treasurer (Marcia):

- Marcia was unable to attend the April 2016 Board meeting. She will provide an updated treasurers report at the May 2016 Board meeting.

Corresponding Secretary (Diana)

- Diana circulated mail that had recently arrived at the P.O. Box for board review. Nothing further of note to report.

Membership:

- Mara, the new Membership Chair sent an updated membership report by e-mail prior to the meeting. Board members with questions should check in with Larry or Mara after the meeting.
- The Board had a discussion regarding using e-mail, rather than regular mail, to facilitate online membership renewals. Larry will contact Mara and ask her to call Subhash so that they can investigate/discuss the benefits and any challenges in allowing members to renew online.

Programs (Sally):

- The May 2016 membership program at Effie Yeaw will be on Saudi Arabia. For the 2016-2017 program season, Sally already has September and March planned. She has lots of leads to fill out the schedule for the rest of the year, which is coming along well.

Outreach (Bill):

- Bill reported that outreach activities/events are doing well and generally covered. Walk on the Wildside will be coming up soon. Bill does still need volunteers to help with the wildlife art festival coming up in July. Interested board members should contact Bill for more info.
- The organizers of the Lodi Crane Festival have informally inquired whether SAS might to donate an item as a prize/give away for the Friday night dinner that is part of their program. After some discussion, the Board was unsure what SAS could give, since the Birding in the Sacramento Region book was what we have given in the past, but we are presently out of stock. Bill said there is some time for SAS to decide, as the event is not until late fall, and he expects the formal request for donations to come some time in September.

Education:

- Larry reported that there will be an article in the Observer seeking an Education Chair. Board members who know any person who might be interested should contact Larry. Paul Tebbel has agreed to put the word out at Effie Yeaw, as they have many volunteers with education backgrounds who may be interested.

Resale Merchandise:

- Larry spoke with Chris Conard regarding the status of the update to the Birding in the Sacramento Region book. Chris said the delays at this point are on his end, and he will redouble efforts to get the updates completed.

Conservation (Larry)

- ECOS/H2020 continues to monitor ongoing projects in Natomas, Elk Grove, Galt which have previously been reported on at prior SAS Board meetings. ECOS/H2020 will let SAS know when it may need financial or grassroots support by SAS members as these projects proceed through the administrative approval process.
- There is a bill in the legislature sponsored by Cooley and McCarty to create a lower American River conservancy. ECOS and SARA were not consulted. It is not clear what the impacts on the American River Parkway might be from this proposal. It may be a good bill that brings more resources/funding for management and enforcement. Or the bill may weaken existing environmental protection on the lower American River. SARA and ECOS are meeting with the sponsors and monitoring the bill, and will let SAS know if they need financial or grassroots support (or opposition), once they have more details on the bill's actual purpose and effect.

Communications (Subhash):

- The SAS website is current and up to date.
- Per the discussion earlier in the meeting, Subhash confirmed he will be looking into capacity for SAS to establish an online membership renewal system.
- Subhash conducted a presentation at a school in Cameron Park last week, which was well received.

Old Business:

- **Bobelaine** (Larry). The maintenance contract with Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps has been signed. Yesterday the crew foreman toured the property, and today the crew came in and cleaned up 3.5 miles of trails. Mary Scheidt and John Hulls are both involved in guiding and overseeing the work to be done. Arrangements are being made with the Corps to return later this week or sometime next week to finish the work started today.
- **Big Day of Giving** (Subhash): The Big Day of Giving is May 3rd. Larry handed out handouts encouraging the membership to participate at the membership meeting at Effie Yeaw last week. Subhash has also sent out emails to SAS' email lists announcing the event.
- **Climate Change Workshop** (Jane): After some consideration, Jane has decided that she probably will not be doing a specific climate change project in conjunction with Audubon CA for this year. Desiree at Audubon CA has asked whether SAS might have an interest in helping with Audubon CA's statewide climate change outreach effort. Jane noted that any such effort would have to be a chapter endeavor.

- **2016-2017 SAS Board Election Held** (Larry): Larry conducted the 2016-2017 SAS Board election at the April membership meeting at Effie Yeaw. The slate proposed by the Board was approved by the membership, as follows:
 - **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

- **Maya Khosla project:** After last month's Board meeting Bill obtained and circulated to the Board additional information regarding a, \$1,800 grant funding request for a new filming project being proposed by Maya Khosla. The Board discussed the excellent work done by Maya on her prior grant, but also wanting to see other organizations step up to help support her ongoing work/efforts. **MOTION** (Subhash/Tom) \$900 to support Maya's newest grant proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

- **SAS / YAS Boundary Adjustment:** Larry has heard nothing more from YAS or Audubon CA regarding YAS' proposal to move certain zip codes in West Sacramento and the Yolo bypass from SAS' assigned membership area to YAS' assigned membership area. The Board agreed that there is no need for SAS to pursue the matter unless or until it might be re-raised by YAS or Audubon CA.

New business:

- There were no items of "new business" discussed, other than the matters already covered in the "old business" portion of these minutes, above.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.