

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: May 31, 2016
Approved Date: August 30, 2016
Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room
601 Munroe St., Sacramento CA 95825

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 6:59 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes: March 2016 Draft Board minutes approved by consensus. April 2016 Draft Board minutes approved, including technical amendments offered by Jane at the meeting, by consensus.

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

President's Report (Larry):

- Jane has agreed to represent SAS at Audubon CA lobby day, June 8, 2016, at the state capitol.
- Audubon CA will be hosting a Chapter Council meeting in Merced in August.

Treasurer (Marcia):

- Current SAS Financials have been circulated by e-mail to the Board for review. Board members may contact Marcia with any questions.
- SAS is presently exceeding its budgeted revenue generating goals this year.
- Publication and mailing of the Observer, which is mailed to dues paying SAS members, costs SAS about \$1,200/month, which is roughly the same amount as basic membership dues collected by the chapter during the year.

Corresponding Secretary (Diana)

- Diana circulated mail that had recently arrived at the P.O. Box for board review.

Membership:

- Larry continues to work with Mara, the new membership chair, to investigate upgrading our membership databases/software to improve data consistency and information flow.

Programs (Sally):

- Sally had a planned absence from the May Board meeting. Sally will provide an updated report at the next SAS Board meeting in August.

Outreach (Bill):

- SAS recently attended/conducted outreach efforts at Wildflower Wonders and Walk on the Wildside.
- Upcoming Outreach events: Lodi Crane Festival, November 2016. Wildlife Art Festival July 9-10, 2016, Bill needs one more volunteer for this event.
- On June 3, 2016, Bill will attend and conduct outreach on behalf of SAS at Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps' fundraising breakfast.

Education:

- Larry reported that SAS continues its efforts to find an Education Chair. He has had one inquiry, and is presently following up. Board members who know any person who might be interested should contact Larry.

Resale Merchandise:

- No new information to report regarding ongoing sales of the SAS checklists at local birding stores. At present SAS has no other active resale merchandise, pending ongoing updates/revisions to the out-of-print Birding in the Sacramento Region book.

Conservation (Larry)

- Larry attended a meeting last Thursday with other ECOS/H2020 representatives regarding AB1716 (creating lower American River Conservancy) with the bill's authors/sponsors. SARA is supportive of the bill at this time, but working with the authors on language. Provided the bill remains on track, SAS may be asked by ECOS/H2020 and SARA to formally weigh in with support/approval later this year.
- 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.

Communications (Subhash):

- The SAS website is current and up to date.

Old Business:

- **Bobelaine** (Larry). SAS has been billed for maintenance and upkeep work completed by the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps at Bobelaine. The

work they have completed has been exemplary, although more remains to be scheduled/completed.

- From mid July through October Bobelaine likely won't be publicly accessible due to planned levee maintenance work.
- **Big Day of Giving** (Subhash): Due to internet difficulties unanticipated by the organizers, the Big Day of Giving faced significant technological challenges. Even so, SAS did receive over \$1,600 in donations from 32 donors. Subhash notes this amount is comparable to what Effie Yeaw received the first year that it participated in the event. For future events: Subhash notes that the more an organization puts into participating in and promoting the Big Day of Giving, the more they stand to gain.
- **Climate Change Workshop** (Jane): SAS will not be implementing a specific climate change project in conjunction with Audubon CA this year, but may in the future.

New business:

- **Observer publication:** The Field Activities committee has asked the Board to consider publishing the Observer 12 times per year (presently published 10 times per year) to keep more current on upcoming field trip listings. Per the Treasurer's report (above) the current cost of publishing 10 editions each year is on a rough par with income generated through the chapter's basic membership dues. Publishing two more editions of the Observer each year would add about \$2,400 to current production/publication cost. After some discussion, the Board agreed to defer a decision on this request to next year's Board. The Board identified three key issues for the 2015-2016 Board to consider: (1) benefits gained by publishing two additional editions of the Observer; (2) should chapter dues be raised to cover two additional editions; and (3) should SAS provide an option of paper or electronic delivery to its the members, and does SAS have the capacity to track and implement such choices if they were offered?
- **Nature Bowl.** Bruce Foreman from California Department of Fish and Wildlife sent a thank you note to SAS, and asked the chapter to be more involved in next year's Nature Bowl. Keith suggested that perhaps Audubon CA and other chapters should also know about the event/be involved, since it is a statewide event.
- By consensus, the Board agreed that Keith should book the Lemon Grass meeting room for SAS Board meetings from August through November 2016.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.