

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board Minutes - May 29, 2012
SMUD Building

PRESENT: Cathie LaZier, Don Schmoldt, Gary Fregien, Jonilynn Okano, Karen Zumwalt, Keith Wagner, Linda Pittman, Sally Walters, Subhash Chand, Tim Fitzer
ABSENT: Darrell Mohr

Minutes of the April 24, 2012 Meeting were approved as submitted.

President's Report – Don Schmoldt

- California Native Plant Society is holding a research symposium August 28-30, 2012 at the Sacramento Convention Center
- The High Country News had several articles on Solar Panel placement.
- National Audubon Society is trying to get protection from leasing and oil drilling in the Teshekpuk Lake IBA in Alaska.

Conservation – Keith Wagner

- Keith spoke with the consultant who is working on the flood planning with DWR at Bobelaine and found a problem with the DWR hydrological models. A small waterfall (Shanghai Falls) breached flood level and destroyed the model so they are back to square one.
- Margaret Leavitt attended the ECOS meeting and Keith is not sure if she will accept the position but he will continue to work with her. There is an upcoming Habitat 2020 meeting but he does not know if she will attend the meeting.
- There are no updates to the Elk Grove SOI; a lawsuit was filed.
- We have some concerns about the Cordova Hills project in the East county South of Rancho Cordova because of vernal pools and grasslands.

Subhash Chand –

- Subhash and Tim discussed Cliff Hawley's possible involvement to develop a Facebook site for SAS and have no concerns with his ability to take on the project. Subhash also spoke with Garry George regarding any guidelines and attended a webinar on the same subject. The advantage of Facebook is that it can reach new people with little effort. Cathie has spoken with several local organizations that are currently on Facebook and are very pleased with their results.
- Subhash has several ideas for presentations and will develop them to use once the speaker's bureau is created. We could put an ad in the Observer requesting interested persons to volunteer to be in the Speaker's Bureau and to contact Sally. The deadline for July/August Observer is June 15, 2012.
- Subash initiated a discussion about SAS goals, objectives, and a five-year business plan. Subhash suggested that we set objectives, monetary goals, create a speaker's bureau and have fundraisers for some of our goals. We need to put this information on the webpage and observer to get it out to our members.
- Cathie stated that different people have different objectives. Example: Dan Tankersley and Maureen Geiger feel we need to focus on inner city kids. We need to develop a plan to get more people involved.

- Keith – We need to select speakers who are good communicators and knowledgeable. It is good to have budgets and mission but we need to keep it in perspective; we are already widely respected among other local environmental groups. We are active participants in Habitat 2020 and ECOS and other environmental organizations spin off what we started. We do want to interconnect and support, not compete, with these organizations, some of which we help fund. We are trying to find an education chair and to encourage more people to volunteer. We need to find someone who is more active in getting info out to our membership and other organizations and continue to fund these organizations. We also have more scheduled field trips than any other Audubon group. We do have a need and room for expansion. Cathie – we do have many volunteers who lead trips and do outreach, beginner bird and family friendly trips and our goals are to maintain and grow. At present, we do not have a fundraising committee or an education chair, and our greatest need is for even more volunteers to carry out our programs and help us expand them. Re other ways to raise money – Bird-a-thons, etc. - we used to hold a “Birding for Bobelaine” and we might reinstate it to raise money for Bobelaine expenses
- Sally – Sally will work on an outline and bring back in August. Sally volunteered to coordinate requests for speaker’s bureau and get the requests out to people in the speaker’s bureau.
- Karen – we already use others – talk about growth, see the product, programs need handout or flyer. How can we get involved in SAS?
- Gary asked if the programs that Subhash is developing would be web based.

Treasurer’s Report – Cathie LaZier

- Cathie moved that the 2012-2013 budget be approved as submitted, Jonilynn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Outreach - Cathie LaZier

- Lea and Cathie worked the Green Fair on the steps of the Capitol where many groups were represented. The event was well attended and coordinated with order.
- Several people volunteered for the Walk on the Wildside. We staffed a booth and Tim and Maureen lead two trips in the morning, an adult and a family friendly trip.
- Thanks to Subhash for getting the audio video equipment and producing the files for the Outreach table.

Karen Zumwalt – Corresponding Secretary

- Karen reported on mail that was received.
- We received information from USPS regarding Bulk Mail and bar codes. Karen will send the info to Lea to follow up with the company that sends out our newsletter to ensure that we are meeting the requirements of the USPS.
- Received information on the wastewater treatment plant that backs up to the Cosumnes River Preserve 17-35 acres might be involved - An EIR may be forthcoming.
- Karen mentioned that solar panels are going up all over.

Linda Pittman

- The Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip still has 12 slots open. Linda posted the information on other websites and was able to fill half the slots, leaving six more open at this time.
- Bobelaine - Cathie forwarded an email to Linda from Alan Kilgore who GPS'd the Bobelaine trails. Karen and Linda visited Bobelaine in the afternoon using the printed map as a guide and found that several intersections are without signs. There is also a refrigerator that we should get rid of that has been there over 20 years. There is an Egret and Heron rookery across the river east of the refuge. Alan noted places that we need sign and shared his GPS file for mapping. He also offered to help remove the refrigerator. We may want to organize a work party to put signs up. We should do the map first then the signs. We should also update the items in the glass case. Don may have keys for the case. Keith talked about funding and our budget with National for maintaining Bobelaine.

Gary Fregien

- Gary is leading a trip in about 3 weeks to the Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass area and Magdalena Ranch. This trip has a potential for a future donation to Magdalena Ranch.

Sally Walters

- Sally discussed the Ailanthus / Tree of Heaven at Bobelaine. Sally has worked with John Rusmore - a Certified Pesticide Applicator (CPA) on noxious weed projects with State Parks. Prior to treatment Rusmore must register the proposed work and treatment plan with Sutter County Ag Department. John is required to obtain Herbicide Recommendations (like a prescription) for this invasive species; roundup does not kill it. Keith stated that we must comply with National and that there may be grants, programs or other resources available to kill it. Sally and Keith will coordinate their efforts. Gary suggested contacting the County Agriculture department prior to proceeding.

Don Schmoldt adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Jonilynn Okano Recording Secretary.