

**Sacramento Audubon Society**  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Date: November 29, 2016  
Approved Date: January 31, 2017  
Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room  
601 Munroe St., Sacramento CA 95825

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order: 7:04 p.m. / **Roll Call: Board Members Present:** Sally Walters, Diana Hickson, Jane Taylor, Bill Bianco, Sue Darst, Jane Van Kessel, Marcia Ferkovich, Grant Boice; **Board Members Absent:** Larry Hickey, Gibbe Parsons, Keith Wagner / **Approval of Minutes:** October 2016 Minutes approved by consensus.

II. **Public Comment/Guests:** None

III. **Presentations:** None.

IV. **Officer Reports**

A. **President's Report (Sally):** Sally attended CAS Assembly near Yosemite earlier this month and learned:

1. The website administrator for the Napa/Solano chapter, Laura Erickson, does website design and coordination. (See the discussions below regarding retaining her services to migrate SAS' website to new platforms under "Membership" and "Communications".)
2. The SAS board president and another SAS representative should attend in future to cover more workshops and presentations.
3. CAS called for chapters to engage more young people in birding and assuming leadership positions.
4. Boards should seek clarity of what, why and how money will be spent by those seeking Audubon conservation grants.
5. David Sibley is pretty impressive in person as well as a field guide author/illustrator.

B. **Treasurer (Marcia):** Marcia reported:

1. SAS currently has \$52,000 in the bank, with \$7600 in a time deposit that will become SAS' when it matures.
2. Local membership and donations are down.

C. **Corresponding Secretary (Diana):** Diana circulated accumulated SAS mail.

D. **Other Officers (if anything to report):** None

V. **Committee Chair and Board Member Reports**

A. **Board Member and Chair transitions (Sally):** None

B. **Programs (Sally):** Sally is seeking a new programs chair to replace her.

C. **Outreach (Bill):**

1. Galt Winter Bird Festival is set for Saturday, January 21.
2. Bill circulated a list of 2017 events which SAS co-sponsors or in which it participates; dates are pending for several in spring and summer.

D. **Education (Gesna):**

1. Gesna sent an email update on committee activities to Board Members.
2. Grant reported that the proposed Rancho Cordova birding program has been cancelled due to insurance liability for field activities.

**E. Membership: (Sally, Sue):**

1. Sue received from Mara an outline of her processes with Excel and steps she takes, with her limited time, to have “the Observer” printed and distributed.
2. Along with a proposed website migration to a Wordpress Platform, SAS board should consider marketing/membership vehicle Constant Contact which can distribute newsletters and membership/donation solicitations via email. Marcia commented that membership is declining because SAS is unable to follow up with current technology.

**F. Communications (Sally):**

1. The offer of Laura Erickson of the Napa-Solano Chapter for her services to migrate SAS’ website to a Wordpress Platform includes training of 2 or 3 people as website administrators.
2. With tentative approval from the board, Sally will appoint trainees and get the specifics of Ms. Erickson’s proposal, estimated in the \$1500-2000 range, for board approval of a contract in January.

**G. Resale Merchandise:**

1. Sally emailed Chris Conard and Linda Pittman, who last worked on SAS’ Sacramento bird book, with no response.
2. She will call them for an update to be reported at a future meeting.

**H. Conservation (Larry): None**

**I. Bobelaine Committee (Larry [via email], Bill, Diana):**

1. Contract negotiations with SRCC are in progress; dates for the three days of maintenance will be coordinated between SRCC and SAS.
2. No new information from CFW is yet available on Bobelaine’s “ecological preserve” designation. Board members suggested CFW may “grandfather in” SAS activities because of longevity.
3. Ken Poerner is going above and beyond the call of duty in making improvements at Bobelaine, including benches at the river overlook.

**J. Other Committee Reports (if any): Nominating (Diana):**

1. SAS needs a nomination committee, whose function is currently handled by Keith, of 1 or 2 people to recommend new members for next year’s board to be appointed at May’s meeting.
2. Sally will seek volunteers.

**K. Board Member Reports (if any): None**

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Publishing “Observer” 12 Times per Year (Sally):** With board intent to move forward with 12 issues, Sally will email affected SAS members Chris Conard, Mara Weston, Marcia Ferkovich, Andi Salmi.

**B. Birdwalk Android App Donation to App Developer (Diana):**

1. No word yet from a cost consultation on proper reimbursement for Josh Gabil’s Android app development.

2. Margaret Gabil is interested in SAS' approving an I-Phone version of the Sacramento Bird Guide.
- C. Big Day of Giving:** Jane VK will move forward with fees and training by December 31 and coordinate next steps with Subhash on his return.
- D. Funding for field expenses for Swainson's Thrush research last May:** With Marcia's assurance that funding is available, the board approved \$2500 for this program. (Hickson, Van Kessel) Diana will provide Marcia with payee information.
- E. Board member input on updates to SAS by-laws (Keith):** Keith will update the board at the January meeting.
- F. CAS 2016 Collaborative Grants, due November 18:** No action needed.

## **VII. New Business**

- A. \$1500 funding request for continuing Bushy Lake research, restoration and public outreach:** Board approval was granted (Taylor, Darst) and payee information will be solicited.
- B. \$500 reimbursement, payable in February, to Steph Clymer, February speaker at the general meeting:** Sally will check on total amount needed for travel reimbursement and report back; the meeting topic is publicizing the use of "e-bird".
- C. 5th Annual Kids' Christmas Bird Count January 7-8 prize donations:**
  1. Sue collected "prizes" from board members who brought them to the meeting.
  2. She will pick up any other donations we may have and will also solicit prizes from wild bird stores and bookstores.
- D. SAS needs a volunteer, replacing Marlene Ishihara, to chair hospitality (snacks and coffee) for general meetings:**
  1. The need will be published in a future issue of "The Observer.
  2. In the interim, Bill and Grant will provide snacks for the January meeting.
- E. Not agendized but discussed via email among board members were the 2017 meeting schedule and room reservations at Lemon Grass:**
  1. All 2017 meetings will be held on the customary last Tuesday of each month except for October's, which will move to the 24<sup>th</sup> because of Hallowe'en.
  2. Lemon Grass staff had already reserved the room for 2017 but accommodated the change in October at the board's request.

## **VIII. Adjournment: 8:28 PM**