

Minutes (Approved)

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date / Time: April 27, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
 - A. Call to Order 6:33 pm
 - B. Roll Call
 1. Board Members Present: Daphne Reimer, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Bill Bianco, Nancy Gronert, Paul Miller, Elliot Chasin, Harriet Saeck, Heather White, Diana Hickson
 2. Board Members Absent: None
 - C. Approval of Minutes (March 2021) – approved by consensus
- II. Guests / Public Comments: Kristin Dockter, Eric Johnson
- III. Presentations: None
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President
 1. Letter of support for Woodland Regional Pond habitat enhancement sent to the Wildlife Conservation Board. These recommended enhancements relate to tricolored blackbirds. (See Bill's email of March 17, 2021)
 2. Sharon Wisecarver has given notice that she would like to step down as editor of *The Observer*. A replacement will need to be found. She has not given a final month, but is requesting SAS find a replacement. If anyone knows of anyone who might be interested contact Bill.
 3. Audubon California Tri-colored Blackbird Project
 - a. Via email, motion to pledge \$2500 to Audubon California for their tri-colored blackbird project as described in Sarah Rose's email of March 9th, 2021, with understanding that Audubon California will let us know if this funding is needed. (Diana 1st, Daphne 2nd)
 - b. They have received our pledge agreement. We will find out in August, if they need the funds we have pledged. It is dependent on whether they receive money for the project from the Federal Government.
 4. Westvelt Team
 - a. The Westvelt Team manages several properties in the Sacramento Valley. These properties are closed to the public. The team has reached out because they are interested in opening the properties for Christmas Counts and scientific studies.
 - b. Bill passed the information on to Maureen Geiger. She will contact Sara and see how we can help.
 5. Signed support letter for the Greater Sage Grouse, opposing the rider on the appropriation bill. The rider removes funding for Sage Grouse research.
 6. Received an email from a Tony Jones asking if SAS has a position glycofosphates. Glycofosphate is an herbicide. We do not have a position.
 7. Contacted by Megan with California Audubon. They are looking for a replacement for the Central Valley Representative. Email Bill if you know anyone who is interested.

B. Treasurer

1. Local dues are \$17,000. Our annual budget was only \$12,000. Donations are doing really well. Total income is \$69,000 including the \$20,000 we got as a bequest. Cost for printing *The Observer* is almost half of what it used to be.
2. Paid for our first two Effie Yeaw Nature in the Classroom zoom programs.
3. Insurance
 - a. Representative has asked if we want to do an audit. Harriet will follow-up with Bill
 - b. Daphne has a question about liability, related to the Earth Day Trash Event. Would SAS be able to sponsor and would volunteers be covered if we held our own trash pick-up event, if we were the only group as opposed to under another organization? Harriet says yes, we are covered for such an event. The only thing we are not covered for is driving.
4. WebEx subscription automatically renews on July 1, 2020 for \$162.00

C. Corresponding Secretary

1. Postcards
 - a. Postcards have been updated to reflect comments from the March board meeting.
 - b. Received a quote from Charmichael Printing: 500 postcard full color, 2-sided, for \$95 plus tax. They should be available 3 to 4 days after the order is placed.
 - c. Motion to purchase 500 postcards from Charmichael Printing at quoted price. (Nancy 1st, Harriet 2nd) approved unanimously.

D. Other Officers: None

V. Old Business

A. SAS Scholarship

1. SAC State

- a. Daphne spoke with a development associate at SAC State. She provided Daphne with a worksheet to use when developing the scholarship. Daphne will send the board a copy of the worksheet.
- b. Scholarship amount would be \$2500. It can be distributed incrementally or all at once.
- c. Should the scholarship be limited to those working towards a degree in biology or environmental science? There are many other majors that could be appropriate or even majors that seem unrelated but the student's focus might be on birds. The application could be used to better understand how what the student is studying relates to SAS's mission. This would allow us to reach a broader audience. Daphne will follow-up.

B. Nominating Committee

1. Eric Johnson and Kristen Dockter are interested in joining SAS Board next year.
2. The slate of officers and directors needs to be sent to Sharon to be posted in the June *Observer*. The ballot should be in the July *Observer* and also available on the website, similar to last year.

C. International Bird Rescue and Grant Request – Motion to award International Bird Rescue \$2000 grant request (Elliot 1st, Jane 2nd) approved unanimously

VI. New Business

A. Arden Pond Mitigation Project

1. Current proposed mitigation will modify the pond at William B. Pond Recreation Area, removing half of the pond area to create spawning and rearing habitat as mitigation for downstream bank protection work.
2. Bill sent letters to Diana Poggetto. Chair, American River Parkway Committee and Liz Bellas, Director, Sacramento County Parks Department, expressing SAS's concerns over the proposed mitigation projection.

B. Policies and Procedures

1. Guidelines for Promotion of Fundraising Events / Activities
 - a. Diana updated the document. It was previously updated in 2014
 - b. Consensus is that the document should be simplified to include only the fundraising guidelines. Diana will send out the simplified version.
 - c. A separate document should be created that outlines the goals and guidelines for each type of media. Follow-up with Cliff and Anthony about what guidelines they currently have and are following. Add as an agenda item for May Board Meeting.
2. Duties of Retail Properties Chairperson
 - a. Bill modified current document and sent it to the Board members.
 - b. The PDF document needs to be converted to a word document and Diana will use it to modify the Policies and Procedures document.
 - c. The current version of the Policies and Procedures document has been uploaded as a word document to the Board Members Documents page on the website. Anyone can download the document, make the necessary changes to the document, and then email it to Mary. She will then upload the newly revised version to the website.

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

A. Membership (Jane)

1. Membership is increasing. A large number of people will be made inactive this month, but over all the numbers are going up.
2. Received a letter from a prison inmate. He is concerned about the swallows that make nests at the prison. The guards destroy them, repeatedly. Jane will forward the letter to Elliot who will send the letter to a contact he has at CDFW. Bill will respond to the letter, explaining that we have forwarded the concern on to the CDFW.

B. Education (Bill)

1. Still in need of a chair person for the Education Committee. If a volunteer cannot be found, it has been suggested that the committee be split into the individual elements.
2. Have received a few requests for presentations. Some we have been able to do, others are not feasible because of COVID.

C. Website (Mary)

1. 210 people have signed up to receive Action Alerts
2. The number of visitors to the Bobelaine page has returned to normal, as opposed to March when the page over double the number of average visits. Hopefully, this is a reflection of the new Birding Locations pages.

3. Currently, the committee is working on adding new locations to the Birding Locations pages. As locations are recommended for the DIY Field Trips, they are also being written up and added to the Birding Locations pages.
 4. Still looking for a few more volunteers to join the website committee.
- D. Conservation (Elliot)
1. Nothing new on the Elk Grove Hospital Update. There was never a subsequent planning meeting. There are rumors that the project might be moving to Rancho Cordova.
 2. Turtle Pond at Sailor Bar has been in the news recently. It is completely covered by mosquito algae. People are being encouraged to write to the parks department and their county rep. Eric asks whether SAS will write a letter on the issue and will forward information on the issue to Elliot.
- E. Outreach (Bill)
1. Nothing from Chalk it Up as of yet. When we do hear back, we will give the artist a theme. Bill is looking for ideas for themes. Signed-up for two squares. Potential for outreach table at the site.
 2. Nothing yet from Lodi Crane Festival. Their website has been updated with a link for the 2021 festival.
- F. Accessibility
1. Four different sites are ready to be written up for the accessibility page. Once written, Paul will work with Mary to add them to the website.
 2. Linking to the Birdability map may not be the best choice for explaining accessibility levels. Working towards a better solution.
- G. Properties Committee: None
- H. Bobelaine
1. Shed doors are not yet repaired. SAC Door and Gate is having trouble getting parts to complete the repair.
 2. Bill continues to investigate options to repair rust on roof.
 3. Mule appears to have slow leak and may need to be repaired in the near future.
 4. A couple milkweed patches were discovered. Volunteers are keeping an eye out and hoping to see them spread.
- I. Other Committee Reports: Field Trips
1. The Field Trip Committee does not foresee leading trips until late fall.
 2. Main concern is liability. The field trip leaders have expressed concern about someone getting COVID and then suing SAS and the trip leader.
 3. Harriet will try to get something in writing specifically relating to COVID liability for the field trip committee.
- J. Board Member Reports
1. Nature in your Classroom
 - a. First sponsored program reached 54 third grade students. A second school has signed up and should reach 105 third grade students. A third school has expressed interest. Sponsoring the third school would use up the \$1,000 allocated to the program for this year.
 - b. Received positive feedback from the teacher at Ethel Phillips, the first school to participate in the program.

- c. Motion to allocate an additional \$1000 to the Nature in the Classroom program for the remainder of the fiscal year (Mary 1st, Diana 2nd) approved unanimously.
- 2. General Meeting / Speaker Presentation
 - a. The last meeting before the summer is May 20. Dan Airola is the speaker.
 - b. Do we want to consider an outdoor meeting for September? How much notice does Anthony need if we make the switch back to in-person meetings? Mary will follow-up with Anthony.
 - c. Anthony is looking into the technology necessary to stream in-person meetings when they resume. If anyone knows of someone with the technological skills to help with this project, please contact Mary.

VIII. Adjournment 8:41