

MINUTES (Approved)

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date / Time: August 31, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
 - A. Call to Order 6:35 pm
 - B. Roll Call
 1. Board Members Present: Daphne Reimer, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Bill Bianco, Nancy Gronert, Paul Miller, Harriet Saeck, Heather White
 2. Board Members Absent: Eric Johnson
 - C. Approval of Minutes (May 2021) – approved by consensus
- II. Guests / Public Comments: Anthony Asay (Monthly Speaker Chair)
- III. Presentations: None
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President
 1. Signatory to National Audubon's letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Letter requests the addition of the Lesser Prairie Chicken to the endangered species list.
 2. Robert Snow, California Audubon Board, sent an update on the activities of California Audubon including current conservation and policy work. Bill will email this information on to the Board.
 3. Capitol Annex Project - Kate Riley, volunteer with California Capitol Historic Preservation Society, sent a fund-raising request which was published in *The Observer* and on the News Blog of the website. Ms. Riley is asking for additional support from SAS in the form of a letter of support. At this time, the consensus of the Board is not to provide additional support in the form of a letter or monetary donation.
 - B. Treasurer
 1. 2021-2022 Budget
 - a. A note about budgets for Non-profits - Budgets are estimates, a hope, sometimes a little bit of a control, however, there is nothing that requires you, as a non-profit, to restrict spending to the budget you set.
 - b. Subcommittee of Bill, Daphne, and Harriet will meet to set-up a proposed budget to present to the Board at the September meeting.
 2. Received a bequest of \$14,000 from the estate of Carol E. Scott. Heather has sent a Thank You to the executor.
 3. With additional bequests, increased donations, and a lack of spending due to COVID, we have a significant amount of cash on hand.
 - a. All Board members are requested to start a dream list of ideas on how to best utilize the additional funds.
 - b. Mary will send out an email with the minutes to start compiling board member ideas.

- C. Corresponding Secretary
 - 1. Using Thank You postcards for donations less than \$200. No feedback yet on the change from letters to postcards.
 - 2. Daphne had return address labels made if anyone needs them.

D. Other Officers - None

V. Old Business

A. Amplify the Future Scholarship

- 1. Amplify the Future reported to Daphne that three \$5,000 and two \$2,500 scholarships were awarded this year, with recipients from California, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and Pennsylvania. They will be sending out an official press release with more specific details soon.
- 2. Daphne and Bill sent letters to the 11 chapters in the Central Valley/Sierra Council encouraging them to participate in Amplify the Future. Yolo Audubon was the only chapter to respond. Daphne will send out additional letters to other chapters.
- 3. Motion to donate an additional \$2000 to the Amplify the Future. (Daphne 1st, Nancy 2nd) Approved unanimously.

VI. New Business

A. Monthly Speaker Program

- 1. Consensus of the Board is to wait until at least January to return to in-person meetings. The September, October, and November meetings will be held using WebEx.
- 2. Work towards a hybrid meeting for January, allowing participants to choose whether to attend in-person or online.
 - a. On-line participants would primarily hear the speaker and see the slide show presentation.
 - b. WiFi availability at Effie Yeaw is a primary consideration. Anthony will check with Effie Yeaw about WiFi and webcam availability.
 - c. Check with Sacramento County Health Dept about meeting requirements.

B. Request to redirect donation made by SAS in October 2016 to UC Davis' Catherine Portman Burrowing Owl Research Fund. The program never got started due to an inability to find someone to run it. General consensus of the board is to request that the funds be redirected to the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology at UC Davis.

C. Donation for the American River Parkway Foundation – A donation does not seem appropriate at this time.

D. Owl-o-Ween Sponsorship

- 1. Effie Yeaw will again host Owl-o-Ween as a more COVID responsible alternative to Naturefest.
- 2. Motion to sponsor Owl-o-Ween for \$500. (Nancy 1st, Jane 2nd) Approval Unanimous.

E. SAS Car Window Stickers – Initial design is a 4"x4" square with SAS logo. Paul will try to have a redesign by September Board meeting.

- F. CVBC Virtual Symposium - Paul with Eric's assistance will be making a 15-minute presentation on the tools for the mobility impaired birder.

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

A. Membership (Jane)

- 1. For membership numbers, see report emailed by Jane on August 14, 2021
- 2. Should we return to having sample newsletters at the stores again? Had stopped distributing them due to COVID. Harriet recently dropped off the checklists. Consensus to start distributing newsletter again.

B. Education (Bill)

- 1. Education Committee meeting on September 9.
- 2. Mary requests that someone from the Education Committee review the Education webpages to verify that the information is still accurate.
- 3. Nature in the Classroom - Provided 11 Zoom programs to local Title 1 schools last year. There is \$1,625 left in budget. This is enough for 13 Zoom presentations. Daphne will be focusing on Sac Unified and hand delivering the letters to the principals. She hopes to need additional funding soon.

C. Website (Mary)

- 1. Requesting content for the News Blog – ideas or articles.
- 2. Seeking volunteers for copy editing and writing
- 3. Would like to add Nature in the Classroom to the Education School Programs page. Daphne will work something up.

D. Conservation

- 1. Lawsuit against Elk Grove - In the original ERI, Fish and Wildlife was Ok with the Swainson's Hawk mitigation. After a few years the city asked for an alternative to the mitigation. ECOS went to court. The court decided in favor of the city. ECOS appealed, and again the court sided with the city.
- 2. Natomas farm land annexation (AKA Airport South Industrial Annexation) - ECOS and Habitat 2020 are meeting with the department of Fish and Wildlife to review requirements. Also trying to set-up meetings with the supervisors and city council members to make sure they are aware of the environmental requirements that must be met in order to do the annexation.
- 3. Elk Grove Hospital is proposing to use Arco Arena site. ECOS and Habitat 2020 waiting to see proposal from developer on what they will do with the wetlands pond. The pond is a rookery for egrets and herons.

E. Outreach (Bill)

- 1. Crane Festival is canceled this year.
- 2. Chalk It Up is Saturday, September 4- Monday, September 6. SAS has two spaces, 201 and 202. The artist reviewed our website for image ideas and will start drawing on Saturday morning. This is a great story for the News Blog. Cell phone photos are Ok for the blog or if Ann can come down and take some pictures. Bill will have an outreach table set up. Would be great to have a QR code linked to our website on the table.

F. Accessibility

1. Paul has 7 additional locations written up to add to the website.
2. Birdability.org has retooled their checklist. Paul will run a short blurb in *The Observer* asking for volunteers to check out additional locations and submit their information using Birdability's checklist.

G. Bobelaine

1. See Committee Report emailed by Bill on Sunday, August 29.
2. The number of visitors has decreased this summer with an average maximum of 5 cars observed in the parking lot on the weekends.

H. Other Committee Reports

1. A T-shirt company reached out to design and sell Sacramento Audubon T-shirts. Daphne received a sample t-shirt. At this time, we do not have a volunteer ready to take on this project.

I. Board Member Reports - None

VIII. Adjournment: 8:34pm