

## **Minutes [Approved]**

### **Sacramento Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting**

Date / Time: February 28, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

#### I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes

A. Call to Order 6:31 pm

B. Roll Call

1. Board Members Present: Paul Miller, Harriet Saeck, Nancy Gronert, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Susan Goodrich, Bill Weaver, Bill Bianco, Anthony Asay, Taylor Florence, Eric Johnson
2. Board Members Absent: None

C. Approval of Minutes (January 2023) Approved by consensus.

#### I. Guests / Public Comments: Larry Hickey, American River Parkway Advisory Committee

#### II. Presentation: American River Parkway Advisory Committee

- A. The American River Parkway Advisory Committee (ARPAC) is comprised of representatives from a variety of non-profit organizations with a vested interest in the preservation and use of the American River Parkway. The ARPAC works with the Sacramento County Recreation and Parks Commission and the Director of Regional Parks. Sacramento Audubon has had a representative on this committee since its inception in the 1960s.
- B. Every 2 years members of the ARPAC must be approved by the sponsoring group. Larry Hickey has served as the Sacramento Audubon Representative to the ARPAC since 2015.
- C. The board approves by consensus the continuation of Larry Hickey as the Sacramento Audubon Representative to the American River Parkway Advisory Committee and requests that he provide periodic updates to the board on committee activities.

#### III. Officer Reports

A. President

1. California Duck Days Sponsorship: Motion to sponsor California Duck Days at \$500. (Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>) Approved unanimously.
2. Policies and Procedures: The policies and procedures were updated over the summer of 2022. The updated version needs to be added to the Board Member Documents page on the SAS website and shared with all Board Members.
3. Volunteer Hours for Report to National Audubon: Each year National Audubon asks for total volunteer hours for each chapter. Please submit to Paul an estimate of the total volunteer hours for all volunteers on your committees.

B. Treasurer

1. National Audubon Dues and National Audubon Donations for Bobelaine were received in February.
2. Storage Unit Expense has been moved into Officer Expense.

C. Other Officers: None

IV. New Business

- A. International Bird Rescue Grant Application: Motion to approve the grant application of International Bird Rescue for \$1500. (Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, Susan 2<sup>nd</sup>) Approved unanimously.
- B. Walk on the Wildside Sponsorship: Motion to sponsor Walk on the Wildside for \$500. (Jane 1<sup>st</sup>, Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>) Approved unanimously.

V. Old Business

- A. Sacramento Earth Day with ECOS: Motion to sponsor Sacramento Earth Day for \$500. (Nancy 1<sup>st</sup>, Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>) Approved unanimously.
- B. Hybrid Meetings for Monthly Speaker Program
  - 1. Anthony spoke with Kimberly at Effie Yeaw. They have all the equipment necessary for Zoom or hybrid meetings and have been doing Zoom programs for the past couple of years.
  - 2. Begin offering hybrid meetings in September 2023. Continue doing Zoom only programs through May 2023.
  - 3. Coffee and pastry were traditionally served at in-person meetings. This was arranged by the hospitality chair. An announcement should be placed in The Observer soliciting a new hospitality chair.
  - 4. For pre-covid monthly meetings, Effie Yeaw did not charge SAS for use of its meeting room.

VI. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

- A. Membership
  - 1. See *Membership Chair's Report – February 2023*, attached.
  - 2. President will provide a response to the long-time member and volunteer who has recently left the organization over the COVID policy.
  - 3. Jane will leave the SAS board at the end of this term but would like to continue as membership chair and on the website committee. Board unanimously approves of her continuing as Membership chair and celebrates her remaining on the website committee.
  - 4. Big Day of Giving needs a new team captain from the SAS board.
  - 5. Motion to provide a Sacramento Audubon Honorary Membership for life to Sally Walters as a thank you to Sally and her husband for all their years of service to the society. (Paul 1<sup>st</sup>, Jane 2<sup>nd</sup>) Approved unanimously.
- B. Education: See *Education Committee Report 2/24/23*, attached.
- C. Website: See *Web Committee Report – February 2023*, attached.
- D. Conservation: ECOS's next meeting is March 7, 2023.
- E. Field Trips: See *Field Activities Committee Report - February, 2023*, attached.
- F. Accessibility: No report at this time.
- G. Bobelaine
  - 1. See *Bobelaine Committee Report 2/27/23*, attached.
    - a. Regarding Feather River Restoration, California Audubon has emailed the grant team further inquiries pertaining to funding for the bridges that will be needed if the channel restoration is completed as outlined.

2. Latest storms knocked several very large trees across the trails. They will be cleared once the chainsaws are repaired.
  3. The QR code for donations through PayPal is working. Working on setting up QR that allows donations through Venmo.
- H. Monthly Speaker: March and May are scheduled. Still looking for a speaker for April. If anyone has recommendations for speakers, please send them to Anthony.
- I. Other Committee Reports: None
- J. Board Member Reports: Look for an article on Bird Banding in the next issue of the Observer.
- VII. Adjournment 7:59 pm

## Membership Report: February 2023

There are 659 dues-paying SAS members. 414 of these members are receiving e-newsletters. There were 8 new SAS members this month and 1 inactive member came back. 9 SAS members were made inactive this month because they hadn't paid their dues or did not wish to renew.

There are 2,596 NAS members that live in our chapter area. There were 30 new NAS members this month that live in our chapter area. These new NAS members have been sent information about SAS and how to join.

## Education Committee Report 2/24/23

### Last Education Committee Report 1/22/23

1. Bird and Breakfast (B & B), Effie Yeaw(EY) 3/18 and 3/26. Bill will be coordinating with EY and Susan Goodrich to recruit leaders and monitors for the events. Nicole Barden volunteered for leader or monitor for 3/26 event. Bill volunteered to monitor on 3/26. Current list from Susan; 5 leaders, 3 monitors for March 18th; 6 leaders and 4 monitors for March 26.
2. Family Nature Walks  
Scheduled walks are 4/15, 5/20 & 6/17. Sue Darst needs two leaders for the 6/17 walk.
3. Beginning Birding  
Walks scheduled for 3/5, 4/23, and 5/7 are at William Pond.
4. Outreach  
Current schedule of events:
  1. Camp Pollock, Educational Speakers; 3/9, 5/11 & 6/8/23.
  2. Sierra College, Science Day; 4/1/23
  3. ECOS Earth Day 4/23/23
  4. Bushy Lake Restoration Project 4/29/23
  5. Sierra College Dinosaur Days 5/7/23
  6. Walk on the Wildside 5/20/23
5. Presentations  
None presently on calendar
6. Kids Bird Count 2024  
Nicole Barden volunteered to be the coordinator for the kids count. Committee discussed the date of the event and decided to move the count to coincide with the Backyard Bird Count. This would be 2/17 and 2/18 2024. Nicole will do registration. Early fall we should start contact with EY for coordinating this event. If event is at EY and we use the meeting room, then it was suggested we make a donation to EY. If we continue the past practice of giving gifts to the kids and providing snacks, it should be a minimum amount.

Next Committee meeting 3/12/23, Mather Lake if weather is acceptable.

# Web Committee Report – February 2023

The Web Committee met on February 6, 2023 for the quarterly review and identified the following areas of concern and action.

## Amazon Smile

- As of February 20, 2023, the Amazon Smile service was discontinued by Amazon.
- All references to Amazon Smile as a method of donating to Sacramento Audubon have been removed from the website.
- As of February 20, 2023, all links previously connected to Amazon Smile automatically changed to Amazon.com.
- Moving forward the web committee would like to find a local bookseller or other online bookseller to use as a link for books recommended on the website.

## Action Alerts Page and Sub-header

<https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/conservation-alerts>

- At the bottom of every page on the website visitors are encouraged to sign-up to join the Action Alert list. There are presently over 600 people signed-up to receive Action Alerts. The last Action Alert email was sent in October 2021. The Web Committee recommends reducing the visibility of signing up for this list by removing the sign-up form from the bottom of each page.
- Short Term Plan: Remove sign-up block from bottom of every page. Add a form to the Action Alerts Page and Volunteer Page where people can sign up to be on the Action Alert list.
- Long Term Plan: Rework the Action Alerts page to be a Take Action page focusing on the personal action individuals can take.

Keep cats indoors	Feed Wild birds safely
Reduce window collisions	Contribute to Citizen Science
Plant native plants	Encourage others to join you in birding
Use your personal purchasing power	Support bird friendly initiatives
- Most of this information is already on the SAS website but scattered about in different spots. The goal of this page will be to provide one location with links and information on the many ways individuals can make a difference.

## DIY Field Trips page and Seasonality of Birding Locations

The DIY Field Trips page was introduced in September 2020. The page was developed as a placeholder until SAS field trips resumed. Content for this page was originally provided by the field trip committee on a monthly basis. With the return of field trips, the committee no longer provides content. Rather than remove the page (which continues to be viewed) the web committee recommends changing the recommendations from monthly to seasonal, adding specific tours from the Birding Locations pages, and adding links for all birding location write-ups that are appropriate for the season.

## Sacramento Area Birds Checklist

The eBird data has been collected and combined. It is an overwhelmingly amount of data. Next steps to simplify the presentation for review by experts.

Field Activities Committee Report - February, 2023  
Submitted by Susan Goodrich, FAC Chair

**1. Recent Field Trips and other birding activities** by month

January - 5 trips cancelled due to weather; 3 trips ran

February - 11 trips scheduled - all went

March - 8 scheduled + 1 BB + 2 EY B&B + 1 Bufferlands

**2. Current Projects**

-Assisting with finding leaders and scope monitors for “Breakfast & Birds” at Effie Yeaw

March 18 - 5 leaders, 2+ scope monitors

March 26 - 6 leaders, 4 scope monitors

-Two new requests for beginning bird trips from community agencies (ARNHA and ASI Peak Adventures, CSUS)

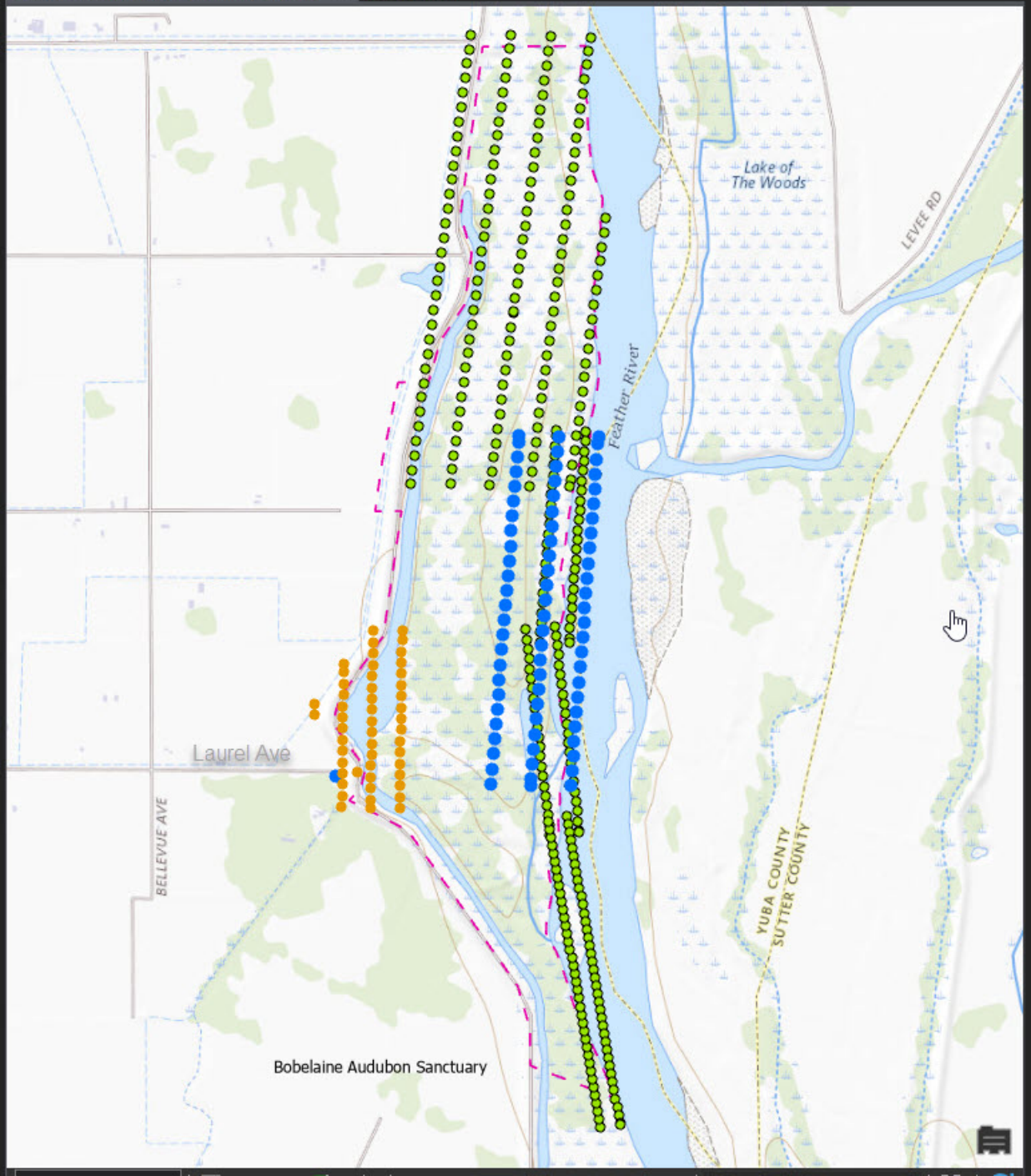
-Continuing to streamline field trip scheduling process

## Bobelaine Committee Report 2/27/23

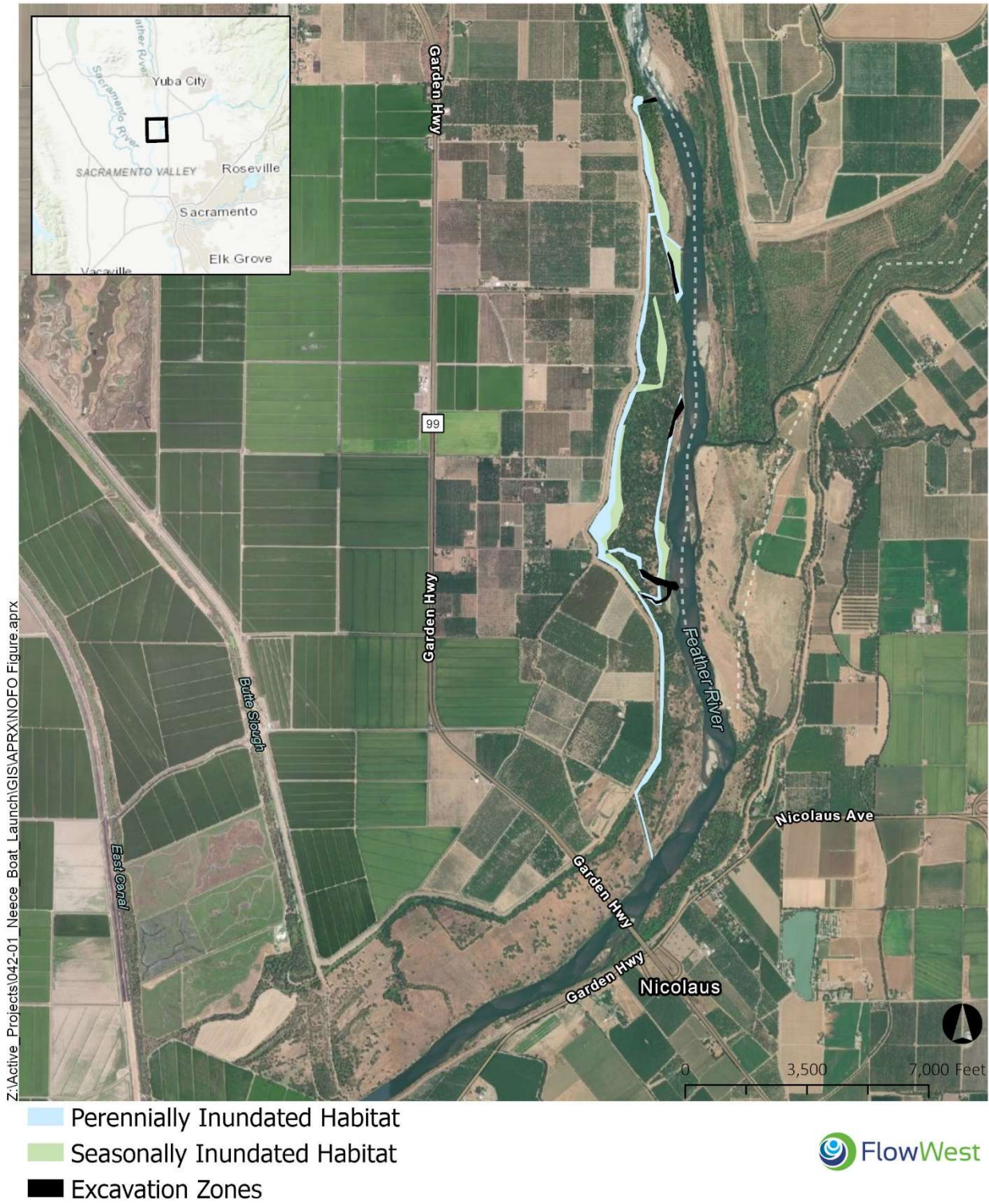
Last Bobelaine committee meeting was 2/15/23

1. Aerial Survey.  
Two thirds of sanctuary is surveyed. Weather, windy conditions is hindering flying of drone. See current coverage map attached. After survey is complete final mosaics and composure of single picture is next step.
2. Feather River Restoration.  
Received the proposed side channel excavation zones plan. See attached. North excavation zone adjacent to the overlook appears that a bridge would be required. Need more detail on proposed excavation to determine number of bridges. In the grant proposal two are called for.
3. Shed painting.  
Received one estimate for shed painting. Gave information to three other painting contractors and waiting to get their estimates for painting. Once received and reviewed, will present to board.  
Committee reviewed fixed ladder estimates and considered not cost effective for the limited time used, looking for extension ladder with hooks for supporting at roof edge.
4. Kiosk upgrade.  
Committee is looking at "Rockart" for kiosk replacement. Reviewing models, sizes and options. Will present to board for review with preliminary costs. Board will have to review new location at Bobelaine.  
Collection box can be included (option) with kiosk model. Committee also reviewed "Rock Ranger" collection box. This would be a stand alone item. Will present information to board for review.
5. Updating of Ecological Regulations.  
Presented deviations in regulations to Kristi Crite, ecologist Preserve and land coordinator at CDFW. She is to review the issue of regulation revisions. Bill is to contact old SAS members for knowledge of how public access got changed.
6. Other Items:
  - A. Monitoring camera at parking area. Need to research on available camera systems. Remain on committee agenda.





**Figure 2. Proposed Features of the Lower Feather River Side Channel Restoration Project, Sutter County, CA.**



**Lower Feather River Side Channel Project Proposed Habitat Features and Excavation**