

Minutes [Approved]

Sacramento Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting

Date / Time: January 31, 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
 2. Board Members Absent: Eric Johnson
 - C. Approval of Minutes (November 2022) approved by consensus.

- I. Guests / Public Comments: Sean Wirth

- II. Presentations: 4 Local Issues from ECOS / Habitat 2020
 - A. Coyote Creek Agrivoltaic Ranch Project – Proposed location is near the intersection of Hwy 16 & Hwy 50 among Blue Oak Woodlands habitat on about 2,500 acres. This is a third party project that bypassed SMUD's standard environmental review process. If Sacramento Valley Energy Center, LLC is unable to deliver energy by 2024 than SMUD can break the contract without penalty. Bird species expected to be impacted by the project include Tri-colored Blackbirds and Furruginous Hawks. ECOS has contacted Chris Conard, Dan Airola, and Ed Pandifinol. They are looking for additional bird biologists (experts) that might be able to help with the review.
 - B. South Airport Industrial Project – 457 acres in Natomas Basin. ECOS had communicated with City staff and the project was withdrawn from the Council's agenda in June 2021. However, the City Manager signed the MOU without Council review or approval in July 2021. The primary concern is a lack of land available for mitigation. If the development of this project proceeds, there is concern that it would set a precedent for 2 additional projects. In total the three projects are 7500 acres. Swainsons Hawks and Giant Garter Snakes are the concerned species affect by this development.
 - C. Delta Conveyance Project – 15 years of construction, huge impact to bird species, expect many lawsuits from multiple agency – as bad as the project is the mitigation is worse and expected to be in locations far away from the impact area.
 - D. Kassis Property – Trumark is still planning to build on the lower 20 acres of the Kassis Property which is in the floodway. Rancho Cordova is no longer the lead on this project. Instead, Trumark will be able to bypass the city for decisions.

- III. Officer Reports
 - A. President
 - B. Treasurer
 1. Financials
 - a. Dues for the year are on target. We have not received dues from National Audubon but they should arrive at any time.
 - b. Expenses for Storage Unit have been placed in Office Expenses.
 - c. \$75,000 was moved from the checking account into the US Bank 9-month CD.

2. Nature in the Classroom:

- a. A separate line item has been created for Nature in The Classroom so that expenses related to this program can be tracked separately from other Outreach expenses. In the budget money will be allocated from Outreach to Nature in The Classroom.
- b. Effie Yeaw has contacted SAS about paying for school buses to bring students to Effie Yeaw for the Nature in the Classroom program. When / if Effie Yeaw contacts SAS about providing buses for a particular trip, the Board will need to approve the additional expense via email. There are no liability concerns in providing buses as SAS is simply the sponsor and all contracts are through Effie Yeaw.

C. Other Officers

IV. New Business

- A. Draft of Delta Conveyance Comments: SAS signed on to the Comments on the Draft EIR for this project on December 16, 2022.
- B. Bird and Breakfast: Bill Bianco and Susan Goodrich are reaching out to volunteers to find scope monitors and walk leaders. Currently, they have plenty of scope monitors but only 2 walk leaders for each day of the event. Hoping to find at least 6 walk leaders for each day. Effie Yeaw will also be asking for walk leaders from its volunteers.
- C. Sacramento Earth Day with ECOS: Bill Weaver will get the appropriate information to Bill Bianco. The event is Sunday, April 24. SAS will have an outreach table at the event.
- D. Binoculars for Effie Yeaw
 1. Paul received an email from Kimberly Rider of Effie Yeaw on Dec 22, 2022 requesting replacement of 10 pairs of binoculars for their public programs. SAS providing the binoculars currently being used at Effie Yeaw.
 2. Motion to authorize the purchase of 10 new pairs of binoculars for Effie Yeaw for no more than \$1,500. (Paul 1st, Nancy 2nd) Approved unanimously.
- E. SAS Email Scams: Be aware of scam emails seeming to come from Paul. Do not respond via email. Text if you're not sure.

V. Old Business

- A. Observer Printing Costs: Costs of printing the Observer per piece has increased from \$1.34 to \$2.76 over the past 6 years. Mail service has increased as well as printing. We are currently printing about 300 copies. Continue to monitor costs.
- B. QR Code for Bobelaine: Harriet set-up a QR code through Venmo / Paypal for donations that can be added to any signs at Bobelaine. Paul will put together a sign that can be placed under the plexiglass at the kiosk. Request that a note be added to the sign encouraging donors to add a description to their donation indicating it is "for Bobelaine."

VI. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

- A. Membership: See Membership Reports for December 2022 and January 2023, attached.
- B. Education: See Education Report, attached.
- C. Website: See Website Committee Report for January 2023, attached
- D. Conservation: See above presentation
- E. Field Trips: See attached FAC Report
- F. Accessibility: Working on write-ups for Accessible locations for the website.

- G. Bobelaine: See Bobelaine Committee Report, attached.
 - 1. Proposal for aerial imagery of Bobelaine:
 - a. No cost to us. It as an educational project, asking to use the site. They will stay on the levee and follow the levee along the west side of Bobelaine.
 - b. Motion to allow Nina Valder, a student at American River College, to complete an aerial imaging student project of Bobealine Audubon Sanctuary. (Susan 1st, Jane 2nd) Approved unanimously.
 - 2. Currently soliciting quotes for installing a fixed access ladder at the end of the shed.
 - 3. Bobelaine Donations and Expenses: Currently \$11,000 in the bank earmarked for Bobelaine. We have not requested money from National in several years. Funds should be requested each year from National and placed in a reserve account for Bobelaine.
- H. Monthly Speaker
 - 1. Member request to return to in-person / hybrid meetings: Anthony will research what is needed to facilitate hybrid meetings and present information at the February meeting.
- I. Other Committee Reports
- J. Board Member Reports
 - 1. Bill B. and Paul are setting up the storage unit. If anyone has anything that needs to go in the unit, please contact Paul or Bill.
 - 2. Received a letter from an inmate thanking us for previous information and is asking for information on what human food is safe to feed birds.

VII. Adjournment 8:34 pm

Membership Report

From Jane Van Kessel dated Dec. 14, 2022

For December 2022-

Currently, there are 661 dues-paying SAS members. 409 of these members are receiving e-newsletters. There were 10 new SAS members this month and 1 inactive member came back. 8 SAS members were made inactive this month because they hadn't paid their dues.

There are 2,482 NAS members that live in our chapter area. There were 52 new NAS members this month that live in our chapter area. The new NAS members have either been emailed or sent a letter about SAS and how to join.

Membership Chair's Report, January 2023-

There are 659 dues-paying SAS members. 409 of these members are receiving e-newsletters. There were 8 new SAS members this month and 2 inactive members came back. 12 SAS members were made inactive this month because they hadn't paid their dues or did not wish to renew.

There are 2,516 NAS members that live in our chapter area. There were 27 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 1/31/23

Last education committee meeting 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.
2. Family Nature Walks.
Scheduled walks are 2/18, 4/15, 5/20, & 6/17. Sue Darst needs two leaders for the 6/17 walk.
3. Beginning Birding.
The January walk was canceled due to flooding at Cosumnes Preserve. Walks on 2/12, 3/5, and 4/23 are on schedule at William Pond.
4. Outreach.
 - A. Galt Winter Bird Festival Saturday 2/4/23. Helpers are scheduled and intern Kenneth Dangles will also be helping.
 - B. Dr. Michelle Stevens is requesting SAS outreach table for Bushy Lake Restoration Project. Public event on 4/29/23. We did this event a few years ago when the project started and will be good to participate again. Will need more specific information (time, location) from Dr. Stevens.
 - C. Walk on the Wildside 5/20/23. Event will be like last years; self guided walks into the Bufferlands.
5. Presentations.
 - A. Elk Grove Garden Club 2/6/23.
 - B. Organic Garden Club of Sacramento County. Tentative for either early April or May2023. Need to coordinate with Linda Sanford.
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 on 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

January 2023

Visits to the Sacramento Audubon Website

- 91,172 visits to the website in 2022, compared to 54,677 visits in 2021.
- 42,280 from web searches
- 22,660 direct

In 2022 there were 215,438 pages viewed.

These were the most popular pages.

Page	Views	Time on Page
Gallery of Birds*	32,087	0:01:26
Sacramento Area Birds Checklist*	29,056	0:00:25
Home	20,426	0:01:38
Birding Locations*	19,906	0:03:06
Kids' Corner*	15,656	0:03:24
Field Trips	7,625	0:01:10
Injured Birds	4,373	0:04:25
Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary	4,267	0:02:46
Calendar of Events*	2,974	0:01:08

* aggregate of primary and subordinate pages

Ongoing Projects

- Updating the Sacramento Area Birds Checklist: The frequency data on the checklist was last updated in 2009. In the past 12 years, distribution of many bird species has changed. The website committee is using eBird data and consulting with those who worked on the previous checklist to update the information.
- January 2023 Quarterly Website Review

Field Activities Committee Report - January, 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

2. Current Projects

-Template forms in use for easier scheduling

-Working on trying to insure certain “Seasonal” field trips

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

Bobelaine Committee Report 1/30/23

Last Bobelaine committee meeting was 1/18/23

1. Committee reviewed Gaylon Parsons (CA Audubon) description of how the endowment is managed by National. Nancy is to add the description to the Policy and Procedures Document. Gaylon stated the year 2023 amount is \$8,200. Committee decided SAS should ask for the distribution each January. Committee decided we should keep separate track of Bobelaine funds. Questioned if endowment funds should go into general funds.
2. Committee is reviewing Paul's update of Annual Maintenance Plan. Concerned what happens if we can not get volunteers to do Bobelaine maintenance. A scope of procedures will be added to the plan describing how to proceed if no volunteers develop.
3. The committee decided to leave the Master Plan as is.
4. Feather River Restoration. Information on grant status from River Partners and FlowWest is not satisfactory. Have to contact River Partners frequently.
5. Shed painting. Discussed safety issues with being on roof. Decided to get painting contract to finish roof. Bill to get quotes. Suggestion was made to rent boom lift. Instead of using extension ladder to access roof Bill suggested a fixed access ladder at south end of shed. Be a steel ladder with walk through hand rails and six foot ladderguard. Bill has one quote and is awaiting another.
6. Kiosk upgrade. To remain on agenda for further discussion.
7. Updating of Ecological Preserve Regulations. Exploring who the contact person is at CDFW who knows the process required for updating regulations.
8. Other Items:
 - A. Donation collection box. Under consideration, looking for types available.
 - B. Monitoring camera at parking area. Advantages and disadvantages discussed. Committee agreed a camera would at least be a deterrent to mischief behavior. Open for further consideration.
 - C. Was suggested SAS should be more proactive to colleges in order to get more students involved with Bobelaine.
 - D. Proposal for aerial imagery of Bobelaine. See email sent to board on 1/23/23.