

APPROVED MINUTES
Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Date/Time: January 28, 2020; 6:30 p.m.
Location: Turley and Associates
2431 Capitol Ave., Sacramento, CA

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes. Call to order at 6:28
 - A. Roll Call:
 1. Board members present: Gesna Clarke, Bill Bianco, Harriet Saeck, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Daphne Reimer, Diana Hickson, Elliot Chasin
 2. Board members absent: Grant Boice, Sally Walters, Heather White
 - B. Approval of Minutes (November 2019): Approved unanimously.
- II. Guests / Public Comment: John Harding, member of the Website Committee in attendance to present the Web Committee Update
- III. Presentations: Web Committee Update
 - A. John Harding demonstrated the new website, providing an online sample of the design, layout, navigation, pictures, and text. All members were impressed with the new look and features demonstrated. Some examples of the capabilities presented include: mapping field trip locations, dynamic pictures, and an interactive calendar.
 - B. One of the possible designs for the new logo was included on the website presented. There are currently 4 variations of the logo being considered. A final decision on the new logo will be made at the February board meeting. Any comments or suggested changes to the current samples should be sent to Elliot no later than February 11, 2020.
- IV. President and Treasurer Reports
 - A. President (Bill):
 1. As requested at November 29 meeting, Bill followed up with Subhash, about closing down the Yahoo Group. Subhash is taking the necessary steps to close down the Yahoo Group.
 2. Signed on to a letter supporting the Migratory Bird Protection Act, H.R. 5552
 - B. Treasurer (Harriet):
 1. Financial statement: this year vs last year. Dues are up, donations are up. Dues from national have been received.
 2. \$1000 dollars was donated to an agriculture group at the beginning of last year. The group has finally cashed the check. This will be coming out of this year's budget rather than last year's budget.
 3. There was an extra page in the most recent *Observer*, which increased the printing costs per item. However, thanks to the increased number of people receiving *The Observer* electronically costs are still down.
 4. Harriet followed up on the Letters of Trust discovered by the Archive Committee. Only two are open at present: one for \$60,000, the other for \$1,000.
 - C. Corresponding Secretary (Diana):
 1. There is enough letterhead and envelopes for about one month of correspondence. A decision needs to be made about the new logo before ordering more.
 2. Diana has been paying out of pocket for postage, considering it a donation to the Sacramento Audubon. Moving forward the corresponding secretary will purchase a year's supply of stamps at one time and submit receipt for reimbursement.
 3. Discussion of switching to a postcard as a cheaper alternative to the traditional letter for thank you letters. Decision by consensus to remain with letter.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Bobelaine Tree Cutting
 1. Three areas of work need to be completed on the Bobelaine Property
 - a. Removal of and pruning of trees along the west property line
 - b. Removal of trees along the southeast property line

- c. Removal of the brush pile.
2. Bids have been received from three companies: Davey Tree, J & M Reforestation, and Richard's Tree Service. Each bid was broken into an estimate for each of the above jobs. Bids are good for a year. Elliot brought up the need to schedule the work to be completed prior to nesting season. Only Davey Tree expressed similar concerns when presenting their bid.
3. Motion to authorize Bill to enter into a contract with Davey Tree to complete the work on (A) the West Property Line by March 15. (Gesna, Elliot 2nd)
4. Amendment if Davey Tree cannot complete the work by the March 15th deadline, Bill should contact the second choice, Richard's Tree Service. (Elliot, Jane 2nd) Motion with amendment passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

- A. Birding 101 Booklets; printing order request
 1. Maureen Geiger and Cathy Lazier have request 100 copies Birding 101 Booklets be printed. These booklets are handed out at beginning birder walks and other educational presentations. They were last printed approximately 2 years ago. The cost of printing 100 copies is \$234.54.
 2. Motion:to approve the printing of 100 Birding 101 Booklets (Diana, Jane 2nd), passed unanimously.
- B. Sacramento Audubon Society Credit Card
 1. The website committee is requesting that the Sacramento Audubon Society get a credit card. Squarespace, the company being used to design and maintain the new website, only accepts payment by credit card. This card could also be used for larger expenditures such as the recent tractor maintenance. Harriet expressed concern about being the guarantee for the card. Gesna suggested the president should be both the guarantee and holder of the card.
 2. Motion to get a Sacramento Audubon Society credit card, president of the Sacramento Audubon Society will be the guarantee and hold the card, and a reasonable limit should be set on the card (Elliot, Diana 2nd), passed unanimously.
- C. Chapter Membership Cards
 1. Should Sacramento Audubon Society issue membership cards. Gesna received a card from national and thought a similar card from Sacramento Audubon could be beneficial. Mary asked "what are the benefits of having the card?" Elliot asked "How much would it cost and how would we implement it?" Diana suggested "A postcard with perforated card." Jane expressed concern over additional postage. Bill suggested the discussion be tabled until additional information to answer these questions was available.
- D. Walk on the Wildside Sponsorship: Motion to sponsor Walk on the Wildside for \$500 (Jane, Diana 2nd), passed unanimously.

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

- A. Education (Gesna):
 1. See report sent out 1/19/20.
- B. Membership (Jane):
 1. Followed up on having mail automatically returned when it is not deliverable to the address on file. Post office individual she spoke with was unaware of this service. Will attempt to find someone else to speak with regarding Ancillary Service Endorsements.
- C. Website (Gesna):
 1. See III. Presentations
- D. Pelagic Trips (Harriett):
 1. Committee is proposing a three-part, two-day trip. Day 1, Part 1: a morning walk through the Elk Horn Slough Nature Reserve, led by an on-site docent. Day 1, Part 2: an afternoon boat trip, approximately 1½ hours, through the slough led by Elkhorn Safari. Day 2: a half day pelagic trip out of Moss Landing. Considering October for the trip.
- E. Conservation (Elliot): Nothing at this time.
- F. Nominating: Nothing at this time.
- G. Outreach

Bill presented spring and summer outreach opportunities to the board. Speak to Bill if you wish to volunteer for any of these events. Bill will be sending these events out to volunteers shortly.

H. Archive Committee

Jane and Daphne have reached out to members, previous board officers for help in locating copies of old board minutes. Looking for suggestions on who else to ask.

IX. Adjournment: 8:46

Education Committee Report January 2020

SAS to Participate in Bushy Lake Restoration Project

- CSUS Environmental Studies Professor Michelle Stevens joined Education Committee members at their January 6 meeting. At the committee's request Michelle came to discuss a proposed student internship in which she seeks help from SAS to develop a bird monitoring and data analysis program. Field Activities member Dan Williams also attended the meeting and offered to work with Professor Stevens and a CSUS student intern to lead the bird monitoring and data analysis program. More specific details about the project and how you may be a part of the SAS team will appear in the March issue of The Observer.

Environmental Education Program

- Friday, January 10, Bill Bianco and Frank Gray led a small group of Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps students on a field trip through Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA). Bill reports that it was foggy most of the trip making it near impossible to see too far into the ponds. The best sightings were a Peregrine Falcon, a couple of Red-tailed Hawks and Long-billed Dowitchers. Other sightings included the regular ducks, Pintail, Northern Shovelers, Wigeon, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal. Although the fog hampered visibility, the experience was new and different for the novice birders who, hopefully, will share what they learned about YBWA with other classmates.

- Friday, January 17, Tim Fitzer and John York led 6 six corps members on a field trip to Nimbus Hatchery. John reports that the trip went OK. Birds were lacking, but the corps members really enjoyed the Goldeneyes and Mergansers and the waders. They also liked the hatchery - looking at, feeding and catching the fish. Sheila Green convenes the first classroom session at John Muir Charter School February 14. The school is located at the SRCC site.

SAS Supports Local Birding Club

- California Montessori Project's (Capitol Campus) Dean of Students, Shannon Schmidt, reached out for support and SAS donated several resource books and field guides to the club. Club members will meet weekly and schedule once a month (Saturday) field trips. They hope SAS birders will accompany club members on upcoming trips. The schedule is pending. Let Gesna or Bill know if you want to help out with one of their field trips.

Nature Bowl (NB)

- **Extended Coach Training**

Sacramento Valley Conservancy's Camp Pollock is the host site for the February 1 extended coaches' workshop coordinated by Sacramento Audubon Society and facilitated by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. This session is primarily available to new team coaches to better prepare their teams for semi-finals. Read more about Nature Bowl at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/2/Nature-Bowl> .

- **Semi Finals set for March 31, Camp Pollock**

Six teams are registered for semifinals at the Camp Pollock site. Registration is down this year, but there may be late registrants. If not, semifinals may be consolidated at one site location. Anyone interesting in volunteering for a morning, afternoon or full day shift may contact Bill or Gesna.

- Special thanks to Sacramento Valley Conservancy which does not charge SAS a fee to use the site or facilities. Will SAS send a thank you to them, in care of Executive Director Kelly Hopkins following March 31 semifinals?

Kids and Teens Bird Counts

- Maureen Geiger is stepping down as coordinator of the annual Kids Christmas Bird Count and Wendy Money may also step down as coordinator of the teens' Christmas Bird Count. Education committee members will discuss this at their March meeting and explore options for continuing the program and identifying others who may be willing to coordinate the 2021 program.