

Minutes [Approved]

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date / Time: May 25, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
 - A. Call to Order 6:34 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 (April 2021) – approved by consensus
- II. Guests / Public Comments: None
- III. Presentations: None
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President
 1. Optics donations for Neotropical Grassland Conservancy
 - a. A notice has been placed on the website and will be in the July Observer requesting the donation of new and used optics. These optics will be passed on to Latin American graduate students for use in grassland research in the Neotropics. (Web post: <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/news/donate-your-used-binoculars>)
 - b. Shipping expenses may need to be approved by the board in the future.
 2. Sacramento Region Regenerative Landscape Working Group
 - a. Received an email invitation to the kick-off event for the Group from ReScape and the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities.
 - b. Jon Williams, a Bobelaine volunteer, is familiar with ReScape and may be able to attend for Sacramento Audubon.
 3. Christy Berger, Habitat 2020 Board Member and Wild Bird Rescue Volunteer, has developed a life-threatening lung disease due to her work with birds. Consensus of the Board to donate individually if desired, not to make a donation from the Sacramento Audubon. If you wish to donate visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-christy-recover-from-a-serious-lung-condition>
 - B. Treasurer
 1. Continue to do well. Dues are \$7,000 above budget.
 2. Insurance
 - a. Harriet is trying to schedule a meeting with the insurance representative to discuss liability for field trip leaders, especially as related to COVID.
 - b. Paul would like to know what our liability is if we place accessibility maps created by Sacramento Audubon volunteers on the website.
 - c. Please send any additional liability / insurance question to Harriet.

- C. Corresponding Secretary
 1. Heather has picked up the printed postcards and will begin using them for the May thank you notes.
- D. Other Officers: None

V. Old Business

A. SAS Scholarship, Amplify the Future

1. Amplify the Future offers annual scholarships for Black and Latinx Birders nationwide. The scholarships are for \$2500 to \$5000 per year.
2. Even though it is a nationwide program, Amplify the Future will specifically target schools, clubs, and organizations in the sponsor's area using email and social media. Additionally, they ask for the sponsors to assist in spreading the word about the scholarship opportunity.
3. Motion to sponsor Amplify the Future for \$1000 this year, in honor of Gesna Clarke, with the intention of additional sponsorship next year (Nancy 1st, Harriet 2nd), approved unanimously.
4. Suggestion to make next sponsorship \$2000 and make that sponsorship earlier in the year, possibly fall.
5. Bill and Daphne will reach out to other Audubon chapters in our area. If there are more sponsors in a specific region, it will increase the outreach in that area.

B. Observer Editor

1. An announcement of Sharon's retirement and the search for a new editor is on the website and in the June Observer.
2. One individual has already responded with interest. However, Bill and Sharon would like to give it more time and see if additional applicants respond.
3. Sharon was also contacted by a small design firm that produces the Chico Audubon newsletter. This is a good alternative, if no other applicants are suitable.

C. Guidelines for Facebook and Instagram

1. Currently, Anthony, who is managing our Instagram account, has nothing in writing directing what content is allowed.
2. Mary will reach out to Cliff, our Facebook Administrator, about the guidelines he follows.
3. The guidelines should be the same as for other media. Diana will look into what is currently in Policy and Procedure and update as necessary. She will pass any changes on to Mary, who will contact Cliff and Anthony.

D. Slate of Officers for 2021-2022

1. Kristin Dockter has withdrawn her nomination for the SAS Board.
2. Request that everyone continue searching for additional nominees and forward suggestions to Bill.
3. The vote will be held as scheduled, June 20 – July 16. Any additional board members will be appointed by Bill and voted on by the board at the August board meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. Membership Survey: Proposed by Kristin Dockter. It will be on hold until such time as Kristin or another volunteer steps forward to pursue the idea.

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

A. Membership (Jane)

1. In May, more email Observers were sent out than paper copies. This is the first time this has happened since email Observers were made available.
2. Three individuals donated volunteer hours through the Big Day of Giving. Jane will reach out via email to get more information on how they wish to volunteer.

B. Education (Bill)

1. Next committee meeting on June 16 at Mather Lake.
2. Rodd Kelsey has volunteered to help with the committee. He previously worked with Audubon California and the Nature Conservancy. He is comfortable doing in-person and virtual presentation.

C. Website (Mary)

1. There are 225 Action Alert Members. The last Action Alert was sent out on May 16, 2021, concerning the Kassis Property in Rancho Cordova.
2. The May web committee meeting has been rescheduled for June 3.

D. Conservation (Elliot)

1. There are no new issues that need our attention at this time. The Next Habitat 2020 meeting is Tuesday, June 1.
2. A conservation chair is needed. Elliot will step down from this position when he leaves the board at the end of June. Elliot will send Mary a brief description of his duties to be posted on the website and possibly in *The Observer*.

E. Outreach (Bill)

1. Waiting to hear from Chalk It Up and Naturefest
2. The Sandhill Crane Festival is scheduled for the first part of November. We should receive a sponsorship request over the summer.
3. The Central Valley Symposium will be virtual this year.

F. Accessibility

1. Paul is working on creating maps for birding locations. These maps will have fully accessible, partial accessible, and non-accessible trails clearly marked, as well as other amenities and parking. Mary will check with the website committee members and see if someone might be able to help with the creation of these unique maps.

G. Bobelaine

1. To apply the rust coater to the roof, workers must wear a respirator. This seems prohibitive to having volunteers complete the work. Bill will get bids to have the work completed professionally.
2. Work on the shed door is stalled, possibly due to an inability to get parts. On May 13, the board approved switching from repairing the current shed door to replacing the door with a roll-up door. Ken Poerner offered to donate the cost of the difference in replacing vs. repairing the door. Bill reached out to SAC Door on the May 13 about making the change. He has not been able to speak with anyone but the secretary. If he does not get a response, he will begin looking for alternative bids.
3. Bobelaine has a new volunteer, John Williams. His background is in ecology and he should be a real asset to Bobelaine. Bill is putting together a list of items that need to be worked on for John and will share that list with the board.

H. Other Committee Reports: none

I. Board Member Reports

1. Nature in the Classroom: Daphne has signed up another school for the Effie Yeaw Nature in the Classroom program. 105 more students will be participating.

VIII. Adjournment 8:10