

Minutes [APPROVED]

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date / Time: October 26, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
 - A. Call to Order – 6:32 pm
 - B. Roll Call
 1. Board Members Present: Bill Bianco, Daphne Reimer, Harriet Saeck, Mary Forrester, Jane Van Kessel, Nancy Gronert, Paul Miller, Eric Johnson, Anthony Asay
 2. Board Members Absent: Heather White
 - C. Approval of Minutes (September 2021) – approved by consensus
- II. Guests / Public Comments: Meghan Hertel, California Audubon
- III. Presentations: Feather River Project
 - A. Overview
 1. Juvenile salmonoids lack appropriate habitat along the rivers for rearing. The salmon are being pushed out to the ocean too quickly, meaning they are smaller and face an increased risk of predation.
 2. The project would modify an existing flood channel at Bobelaine, allowing it to flood every 2 to 3 years as opposed to every 10 years, which is about how frequently it floods naturally.
 3. Bobelaine is one out of three parcels along this section of the Feather River that the proposal is hoping to include. The project would include many different areas along the Feather, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Rivers.
 4. The grant proposal process is being led by River Partners. They are a very reputable company with a strong history of this type of work. FlowWest and others are also working on the project.
 5. National Audubon will make the final decision about Bobelaine, but they are asking for the support and input of the Sacramento Audubon Board. They are also asking for a point person from the Sacramento Audubon Board.
 - B. Questions for Meghan Hertel
 1. Q: When will they work? Will they avoid nesting season? Will they protect mature trees? How much of the habitat will be disrupted?
A: The project will need permits and follow the same regulations as any development project. They will need to complete an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) before they can proceed.
 2. Q: How will climate change effect the project? Does their modeling include climate change?
A: Yes, there models do include climate change, but this is exactly the type of questions that need to be asked.
 3. Q: What about accessibility when the channel is flooded? What funding will be available for creating the needed access improvements?
A: Currently, they do not have the funding, but they have said they are willing to write funding for improvements into the proposal and/or help us secure additional funding for the necessary improvements needed to maintain access.

4. Q: Who will be responsible for maintaining the channels and how much maintenance will there be?
A: This is an area we need to pay a lot of attention to – Gretchen recommended setting up an agreement with one of the landowners that has the heavy equipment and could for a fee do the maintenance for several properties.
 5. Q: Why is it being done in such a sensitive area as opposed to a farmland?
A: Because the channel already exists. Bigger biological benefit for less money and less time. Taking our property and adding just a little bit of help as opposed to starting from scratch.
 6. Q: What happens if we say no?
A: They will still move forward and use the properties to the north of ours.
 7. Q: What are the potential negative consequences that National is worried about?
A: Liability, anytime you have large equipment on site you have concerns about liability. Maintenance, ensuring the design requires limited maintenance or that there is a good plan in place to handle maintenance.
 8. Q: What are the chances that the project would be only partially completed.
A: This is a very large project. The majority of investment will be in the engineering and design work, prior to alteration of any habitat. The chance of work being only partially completed is low.
 9. Q: Will Bobelaine have to be completely shut down, and if so for how long?
A: That isn't known at this time.
- C. Motion to support being part of the process and project, contingent upon funding to maintain existing level of public access. (Eric 1st, Mary 2nd) – unanimous approval
 - D. Paul volunteers to be the SAS point person for the project.

IV. Officer Reports

A. President

1. Welcome Anthony Asay to the Sacramento Audubon Board of Directors
2. Motion and approval via email on October 4, 2021 to purchase 350 SAS stickers for \$250 (250 4x4 vinyl stickers for \$126 and 100 4x4 window cling stickers for \$88.)
3. Vaccination Status of Field Trip Leaders
 - a. Field Trip Committee would like to limit those who lead SAS field trips to those that are fully vaccinated against COVID 19. They are requesting the board approval of this measure.
 - b. Board offers conditional approval. Wish to know if the committee will require proof of vaccine status.
4. Tykee James with Amplify the Future will be in the area on Thursday, October 28. Bill and Daphne plan to meet with him and discuss the program while he is here.

B. Treasurer

1. Financials as expected
2. Insurance umbrella policy
 - a. The insurance representative has recommended adding a \$1,000,000 umbrella policy to our insurance policy at a cost of \$1,200 per year. At our current levels of coverage, we have some exposure.
 - b. Board requests inquiry into cost of \$2,000,000 umbrella policy. Harriet will follow-up and email answer.

- c. Board will vote by email, so coverage is in place prior to the resumption of field trips in December.
 - C. Corresponding Secretary
 1. Heather is stepping down due to a job transfer.
 2. Nancy Gronert volunteers to take over the position.
 - D. Other Officers
- V. Old Business
 - A. Nature in the Classroom
 1. Daphne has had responses from over half of the schools she has contacted. Requesting an additional \$2,000, with the understanding that she may need to request additional funds in the future.
 2. Motion for an additional \$2000 for Nature in the Classroom program. (Nancy 1st, Harriet 2nd) – unanimous approval.
 - B. Nomination for California Audubon Representative
 1. Bill spoke with Gaylon Parsons about the position.
 2. Eric has spoken with Robert Snow and feels comfortable volunteering for the position with California Audubon.
 3. Consensus of SAS board to support the nomination of Eric Johnson the California Audubon Board.
 - C. Spending Ideas – held over until November board meeting.
- VI. New Business
 - A. Yolo Basin Foundation: Discover the Flyway, Grant Request – Motion to approve \$1,500 for the Yolo Basin Foundation, Discover the Flyway Program. (Nancy 1st, Jane 2nd) – unanimous approval
 - B. Nominating Committee
 1. Heather White is stepping down from the board immediately, due to a job transfer. A replacement can be appointed to the board at any time. Please email Bill with any recommendations.
 2. According to the Bylaws, a nominating committee chair is to be appointed in January. If anyone is interested in the position, please contact Bill.
 3. At the end of this term, we will have several vacancies that need to be filled.
 - a. Bill will step down as president. He will remain on the board as past president.
 - b. Daphne will step down as vice-president and leave the board.
 - c. Mary would like to step down as recording secretary. She is happy to remain on the board as a director and continue as web committee chair.
 - C. WebEx Upgrade – Monthly Meetings
 1. WebEx is going through an upgrade. This has caused a variety of difficulties in setting up meetings, registering participants, allowing participants to join meetings, and functions in the meetings.
 2. Motion to cancel contract with Webex and switch to Zoom. (Nancy 1st, Paul 2nd) – unanimous approval
 3. Once the switch is made, email the membership to let them know of the change and invite them to register for the November meeting.

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

- A. Membership (Jane)
- B. Education (Bill)
- C. Website (Mary) – Continuing to work with the field trip committee on registration process for field trips as well as an online form for the committee to use in planning field trips.
- D. Conservation – Eric, Bill, and Dan met at Reichmuth Park to view the habitat destruction caused by dirt bikes. They contacted Mario Lara, Director of Youth, Parks, and Enrichment for the City of Sacramento. He will meet with them to discuss the situation at the park on Nov. 3.
- E. Outreach
 - 1. Owl-O-Ween went well
 - 2. Next in-person event is the Galt Winter Birding Festival in February
- F. Accessibility
 - 1. Ran an article in The Observer, inviting members to utilize the Birdability Survey and announcing updates to the webpage.
 - 2. First accessibility field trip will be in December at Stone Lakes. It will be promoted on the website and in The Observer.
- G. Bobelaine
- H. Other Committee Reports – An Action Alert was emailed on October 26, encouraging members to speak out against PG&E clear-cutting the trees in the power-line corridor in Folsom.
- I. Board Member Reports - For several of the SAS Officer Positions, the duties and responsibilities of the position are not clearly written down anywhere. Do we want to correct this?

VIII. Adjournment – 8:33 pm