

MINUTES

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date/Time: May 28, 2019; 6:30pm

Location: Turley and Associates

2431 Capitol Ave., Sacramento, CA

Date approved: June 15, 2019

I. Meeting called to order: 6:35pm.

A. Roll call:

1. Board Members Present: Diana Hickson, Bill Bianco, Harriett Saeck, Daphne Reimer, Grant Boice, Elliot Chasin (arrived at 6:45).
2. Board Members Absent: Rosalind Becker, Jane Van Kessel, Heather White, Sally Walters. All notified.

B. Approval of April Minutes performed via email.

II. Guests/Public Comment: None

III. Presentations:

A. Daphne had some suggestions for shortening the board meetings.

1. She recommended setting a time limit on presentations given by the public and by Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) committee chairs. Ideally, a written report would be submitted by the presenter to the Board a few days prior to the Board meeting. Another idea was limiting the Board meeting to two hours. After two hours the Board could vote to continue or adjourn. Time limits could be assigned to each agenda item. And lastly, the Board could vote on items via email.
2. Bill Bianco said he will give time estimates for the agenda items prior to the meeting. Board members will need to give him feedback regarding the time assignments and he will adjust accordingly. Bill also says the Board needs to utilize the vote via email during the summer break. Bill pointed out that email responses should be added into the minutes and would not need to be reviewed at the next meeting. As for the proposal of putting new business first on the agenda, Bill said it just wouldn't work.

B. Bill attended the Central Valley Council meeting on May 2. The meeting was to promote better communication and collaboration between California Audubon Chapters and California Audubon. One topic was "Opportunities and Threats in the Central Valley." Grant Boice asked what was our relationship with California Audubon. The example given was Advocacy Day which is organized by them.

C. Bill attended Advocacy Day on May 6. 58 Audubon Chapters (5 from SAS) and 27 California Audubon staff members participated. 68 California State Representatives were visited by the chapters and California Audubon staff. The bills currently under consideration by the Assembly and Senate will most likely be voted on this fall. Currently, Advocacy Day occurs once a year. There is discussion of making it a biannual event.

IV. Officer Reports:

A. President (Bill)

1. The question was asked whether SAS wants to write a letter arguing in favor of keeping the Grey Wolf on the Endangered Species list. US Fish and Wildlife Service wants to de-list it. It was decided

that since it isn't an Audubon issue we will not write a letter. Elliot pointed out that the Grey Wolf will still be listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

B. Treasurer (Harriet)

1. Income: Dues have exceeded budget. Donation level is at budget. The Big Day of Giving (BDOG) amount has not been posted to 2019. Only 2018 was included. The BDOG for 2019 was approximately \$3700. The money will be deposited directly into the SAS account. One donor gave using her Golden One card to take advantage of Golden One's matching program. She wanted to know if there was a way to verify if her donation had been matched. Harriet said she will look into it but isn't sure if it can be verified. Diana said Golden One had a set amount it was donating to BDOG. If the donation occurred after Golden One had reached its threshold her donation would not have been matched.

2. Farallon Island SAS Trip: 19 have registered. 25 need to be registered. Registration will be opened up to others using Linda's list shortly.

3. Expenditures: \$215 to Network Solutions for our annual subscriber fee.

4. June's financial statements will be the final financial statements for the fiscal year. Harriet will email the financial statements to the Board in early July.

C. Corresponding Secretary (Diana)

1. The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) is asking for donations to purchase habitat. It's trying to raise \$50,000 by June 15, 2019. We donated \$500 to FRLT in 2018. Diana said that June 15 is FRLT's internal deadline. After some discussion about targeting our donations and the corresponding policy it was decided to wait on donating to FRLT.

D. Other officers reporting: None

V. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports:

A. Board Member and Chair Transitions (Sally): None

B. Programs (Anthony Assay): None

C. Outreach (Bill)

1. Additional SAS pencils are needed for outreach events. There are two choices: 1000 pencils for \$180 (18 cents each), costing \$195.75 (tax included) OR 2500 pencils for \$375 (15 cents each), costing \$408.81 (tax included). Bill proposed we order 1000. Diana made a motion in favor of purchasing 1000 pencils. It was seconded and approved unanimously by the Board.

D. Education (Gesna): None

E. Membership (Jane): None

F. Communications (Wendy): None

G. Resale Merchandise (Becky Norris) (Bill): None

H. Conservation (Larry, Elliot)

1. The next Habitat 2020 meeting is June 4. Elliot is unable to attend. Bill and Grant are going. Bill inquired about the Elk Grove Hospital email. Elliot is recusing himself through June from conservation issues because of a work conflict of interest so didn't look at the email closely. The subject of the hospital might come up at the next Habitat 2020 meeting.

I. Bobelaine Committee

A. Megan Hurtle of California Audubon wrote a letter regarding the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency's possible purchase of property along the levee adjacent to Bobelaine. An appraiser is meeting Bill, Larry and Ken on June 4 at the site. After the appraisal the flood control agency will decide if it wants to purchase the land. Elliot said this could get really complicated as Bobelaine is a wildlife sanctuary owned by National Audubon Society, the levees are owned by some agency but are possibly maintained by another entity (Sutter Butte Flood Control?). SAS's role here is to give National Audubon feedback on the situation. Further clarification on ownership, easement and legal implications is needed.

B. University of Connecticut graduate student Austin Spence contacted Bill asking for access to Bobelaine to study hummingbirds. He'll be using feeders to study their diet as well as trapping/banding the birds. The project will last 5 days. Elliot said we should practice due diligence here and verify that Austin Spence has the correct permits for trapping birds and handling wildlife. Bill will verify that these permits are in hand.

C. Ken says that the tractor and mule are due for servicing this fall.

VI. Old Business

A. Policies and Procedures: Diana recently updated them and sent the document out to the Board. This will be standard every time there is an update. Elliot asked where does the document "live." Diana has a copy as do all Board members. It was noted that new Board members need to receive copies.

B. Purple Martins: Bill reported that the City of Sacramento has agreed to everything Dan Airola has proposed except for a management and conservation plan. Dan said he will be implementing a plan of his own and will be looking for funding from SAS and other non-profits. He might have budget costs by August or September. Included in the costs will be a graphics designer. He plans to start in August or September.

D. Budget

1. Discussion regarding raising membership dues: Gesna's report on the history of SAS due rates demonstrated raising SAS dues is long overdue. Bill asked which expenses do we want the dues to cover. It was decided that dues should cover the following: The Observer printing, membership professional fees, postage and insurance. Harriet will do a cost analysis of price increases over the last 5 years for these categories. She'll send it out before August's meeting. The Board needs to finalize the dollar amount and decide how we'll announce the rate increase to the membership. Elliot suggested that the increase shouldn't just be to catch up with our present expenses but should be an amount that can cover expenses for a few years or more.

2. In order to approve the new budget the Board is waiting to hear from the Website Committee on its cost estimate for the new website.

3. Harriet asked for a current list of grant requests to review every 6 months. This led to a discussion of deadline dates for grant submission. Since we want a biannual review, it was decided that the grant

submission periods would be: May 1 to October 15 with Board approval at the October meeting with the November meeting available if more discussion is necessary; November 1 to April 15 with Board approval at April's meeting with May's meeting as a backup. Available grant amounts listed on the website are \$500 - \$2000. It was asked if we should even offer grants of \$2000 given our impending shortfall. Diana suggested we can say "up to \$2000" even if that amount isn't available that year. Bill will rewrite the description on the website reflecting these changes. Elliot suggested we should list in The Observer the grantees and amounts received at the end of each disbursement period. We do list annually but will now list biannually. Harriet said the biannual listing should be added into "Policies and Procedures."

VII. New Business

A. Daphne asked for feedback about the car donation link she sent out recently aka "passive fundraising." She'll investigate further and report back.

VIII. Adjournment: 8:08pm