

MINUTES (Approved)

**Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting**

Date / Time: September 28, 2021 @ 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: Bill Bianco, Daphne Reimer, Harriet Saeck, Mary Forrestal, Jane Van Kessel, Nancy Gronert, Paul Miller, Eric Johnson
 2. Board Members Absent: Heather White
 - C. Approval of Minutes (August 2021) – approved by consensus
- II. Guests / Public Comments: Anthony Asay (Monthly Speaker Chair)
- III. Presentations: None
- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President
 1. National Audubon Virtual Convention for chapter leaders is October 1-2. It is \$150 or pay what you can. Email Bill if you would like more information.
 2. Gretchen Umlauf with FlowWest is working with River Partners on a grant application for Feather River fish and wildlife habitat enhancement project. Grant would be from the Bureau of Reclamation. Researching the possibility of incorporating Bobelaine in the work. Bill will be meeting with Gretchen and Megan Hertal on Monday, October 4, at Bobelaine for further discussion.
 3. Eric Johnson is asking that the SAS board consider nominating him for the opening on the California Audubon board. Bill has spoken with California Audubon about the position. Eric also has spoken with Robert Snow, who is stepping down, and others on the board. Bill is to check with California Audubon about the position Eric is seeking to fill.
 - B. Treasurer
 1. 2021-2022 Budget - Proposed budget for the upcoming year submitted for consideration and approved by consensus.
 2. Spending Ideas
 - a. Hiring a Social Media Coordinator – more than the board is willing to undertake at this time. Nancy has volunteer to watch the SAS Facebook pages and report on any issues that need to be brought to the board's attention. References to SAS Twitter Account should be removed from the website as the account is not maintained or monitored.
 - b. Website Help – concern is maintaining website should Mary need to step down. Look into companies that maintain and develop Squarespace sites.
 - c. Registration coordinator for field trips – need to understand what could be sustained if we have a person working consistently in a registration position.

- d. Nature in the Classroom – consensus to continue support of this program. It falls under education. Bill suggests Sue Darst, education committee member may be able to help with program.
 - e. Daphne recommended organizing spending ideas based on priority.
 - C. Corresponding Secretary - None
 - D. Other Officers - None
- V. Old Business
 - A. SAS Stickers
 - 1. Final version of sticker approved by consensus.
 - 2. Stickers will be given out at meetings, outreach events, and possibly upon request.
 - 3. Paul will get a quote for printing 300 stickers.
 - 4. Paul will also investigate the possibility of a cling version.
 - B. Monthly Speaker
 - 1. Bill spoke with Effie Yeaw to inform them in-person meetings will not be held until January at the earliest.
 - 2. Virtual Speakers have not been asking to be paid. In the past, most were just looking to have travel expenses reimbursed.
- VI. New Business
 - A. Galt Winter Birding Festival will be held in February. Motion to sponsor the festival for \$500 (Nancy 1st, Paul 2nd) unanimous approval.
 - B. Nature Bowl
 - 1. CDFW is still deciding whether to hold the program in-person, virtually, or some combination of both. If it is held in person, it would be held on April 19. CDFW would like to know SAS level of participation.
 - 2. Past in-person programs encouraged schools to send a team and coach to the competition. SAS volunteers participated in recruitment and on the day(s) of the event. Members of the Education Committee expressed concerns over the advantage that schools with more funds have and the competitive vs. cooperative nature of the event.
 - 3. For this year's program SAS would not be able to help with recruiting schools, due to a lack of a lead volunteer willing to work in this capacity. If the event is held in-person, SAS will have difficulty recruiting volunteers from among membership to help with setting up and judging the events.
 - 4. With Education Committee's comments and Board's review; Board decided that SAS will not participate in Nature Bowl 2022. Bill will write a letter to Genelle Treaster at CDFW informing her of SAS's decision.
 - 5. Remove information about Nature Bowl from the website on October 1.
 - C. Field Trips
 - 1. Comments on Facebook Group questioning when SAS would be leading field trips again.
 - 2. Maureen Geiger, Field Activities Chair, surveyed the field trip leaders. General consensus of trip leaders is to wait to lead trips. When trips are offered, most of the field trip leaders

would like to limit the number of participants, require vaccine, not require masks, and not allow car-pooling or sharing of optics.

3. Web committee is investigating registration options in order to limit the number of participants. At this time, using Square Space tools for registration, it appears it would be necessary to have a registration coordinator (volunteer or contract employee) to communicate with registrants, wait-list registrants, field trip leaders, and website committee. The web committee is investigating additional options to see if more of the process can be automated.

VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

- A. Membership (Jane) – Received a request from a member to pay for multiple years when renewing or joining online.
 1. Auto renewal could be set up online. In the past, members of website committee felt the system was bulky and inconvenient for most users. Additionally, there is the question of lost donations. Many people donate additional funds when they renew their membership.
 2. Alternatively, an option to pay for 2 years for \$70 could be added to website. This option would create a little more work for Jane, but she feels it would be manageable. It might, however, create confusion for users.
 3. Consensus of the board is to leave system as is.
- B. Education (Bill)
 1. Bill has been contacted by someone interested in the Education Chair position. Bill sent materials and is waiting to hear back.
 2. Continuing to wait to give in-person presentations.
- C. Website (Mary)
 1. Year to Date – 40,246 visits to the Website; 151,410 page views
 2. Just completed an intensive review of the website, looking for broken links, confusing language, etc.
 3. The major project in the works is the registration system for field trips.
 4. Working on a minor project of adding a plant guide to the Bobelaine page.
 5. Nancy suggests including links to webcams on Explore.org and will write up a blog post for the website.
- D. Conservation
 1. CNU Hospital at Sleep Train Arena – ECOS is sending a letter to inquire about plans for the wetlands area. The current design available online does not mention the pond.
 2. Natomas farmland annexation (AKA Airport South Industrial Annexation) - Habitat 2020 is sending a letter to the mayor and city. The goal is to get the memorandum of understanding rescinded, as it was sent out by a city employee without the city council's approval.
 3. Reithmuth Park – we received a request to help put pressure on the city to do something about the dirt bikes using and destroying the habitat at the park. Bill is meeting with Dan Airola to view the park. Eric offered to join Dan and Bill as the park is in his neighborhood. Eric offered to write up an Action Alert once the facts are known.
- E. Outreach (Bill) - Owl-O-Ween is the next outreach event.

F. Accessibility (Paul) - Additional locations have been added to the webpage along with a new map.

G. Bobelaine - Still working on removing invasive plants and parking sign.

H. Other Committee Reports - None

I. Board Member Reports - None

VIII. Adjournment: 8:34pm