

SAS Board Minutes

March 23, 2021

Via Zoom call

Participating: Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Maureen Leong-Kee, Carolyn Homan, Judy Brunkal, Mike Williams, Cynthia Donald, Lowell Spring, Doug Spencer (via phone), Laurie Buswell, administrator

Absent: Jenny Ammon

Guest: Joseph Youren, SAS Conservation Committee member; Mike Unger, web classes maestro

Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Board member announcement – Mike Williams announced his new job as state and local media coordinator with Citizens Climate Lobby. It's a full-time job but he said he still will have time for SAS.

Minutes from February – Mike Williams moved minutes be approved as submitted and Cynthia seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of February Action Items – 1. Doug to check with Friends store contact on selling Duck Stamps for SAS. He did and Tim followed up. Store will showcase some of the stamps and we will hope for successful sales! 2. Michael B to contact manager of property next to Nature Reserve about removal of a Reserve tree that fell onto that property during ice storm. The manager did not respond so Michael is trying to contact the owner, Coleman Family Investments in Tigard. Lee said the tree is still lying on the building. Lee also emailed that two Reserve trees need to be removed because of storm damage. Cost could run \$1,000. He's meeting with an estimator and will let Tim know.

Committee Reports

EDUCATION

Webinar Report, Mike Unger – He said the sessions are getting a lot of repeat business. Twenty people have signed up for the upcoming Where to Go Birding session and 8 for the next owls class. A new class to come is Bird ID Guide Essentials. He provided a written summary of the 2020 results. Income so far is \$690, compared with \$700 total last year, so the outlook is good

He has checked into how to provide access to recorded classes for those who missed a session. People can pay \$10 for private YouTube access for two weeks. Mike U. is looking into how to minimize the workload. Mike Williams asked if there are "credits" at the end of the videos, similar to those for NFL games that recording is prohibited except when approved. Mike U. said he can add and Mike W. said he would send sample language.

Maureen asked about setting up the Beginning Bird class on Zoom – probably for a weekend in May. She thinks it will require two sessions. Tim said the info needs to be in the Kestrel and the copy deadline is April 15

Nest Box Program – Judy provided a written outline for a new volunteer to use in conducting the program. Search is on for someone to take over from Lowell. He said it's hard to find someone because it's a big commitment. Discussed publicizing the opening and recruiting options, including a version of the volunteer appreciation event that could be held at the Nature Center when it's open.

CONSERVATION

Ore. Department of Forestry lawsuit update – Joseph Youren had provided written report on the Ore. Board of Forestry meeting on March 3. The Santiam State Forest revised implementation plan was presented and discussed. Industry presented public testimony, as did conservationists. Cascadia Wildlands opposed logging in areas designated for Desired Future Condition: Older and Complex. Legal action still an option but the rumor is that most of the lands that conservationists want protected will be sold and logged before anything could be settled. He said companies are logging Santiam area as fast as possible. He thinks Salem could have serious water quality issues in the next few years because of runoff from the clearcut areas.

Marine Conservation Area proposals -- He also discussed Lincoln Audubon's proposals to monitor Capes Foulweather and Lookout as Marine Conservation Areas. He said these two have some of the last bull kelp forests on the Coast. Purple sea urchins have exploded as sea otters have been hunted to extinction. Lincoln is asking all Audubon chapters to write letters of support and Lincoln has pre-written examples and lists of priorities on its website. They also have a petition to the state Land Conservation and Development Commission for signatures. Links are on the Lincoln Co. Audubon website.

He said they are not proposing changes to fishing, they are just trying to protect the kelp, sea birds on the cliffs and tend the sea urchin areas.

Mike W. moved SAS write a letter of support and encourage individual SAS members to do as well. Michael Babbitt seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bird surveys – 1) Noble Oaks: Tim said Jenny has expressed interest in helping and this has been set up
2) Birdhaven survey: There is an opportunity here for a baseline survey of this property near Stayton. Tim is looking for a volunteer to lead it. 3) Others: ODFW and Kathy Bridges conservation easement

Western Bluebird Conservation Program – Pat Gallagher has to give this up for health reasons. He has an article in the upcoming Kestrel to hopefully spur interest in someone to take this over.

Winter birds Kestrel article – Tim said information of this kind (tips on keeping feeders clean and safe, etc.) is good to provide and hopes we can continue with other topics. Ray has an article on brush piles for your yard in the next issue.

BIRDER'S NIGHT – The SAS general meeting called for in the bylaws for election of Board members and officers will be held as part of the May Birder's Night. Members up for election: Tim, Michael Babbitt, Carolyn, Lowell, Doug, Maureen and Judy. Judy said she would have to think about staying on. Doug said he's willing as long as "attending" via phone from Wisconsin is viable. The others all agreed to another 2-year term if elected. Tim asked Judy to let him know by the April Board meeting.

FIELD TRIPS – Cynthia has asked leaders to think about places to bird once the Covid risk level drops. She's hoping for a reduction in risk level later in April.

FUNDRAISING – Tim said it's possible some events could resume come summer, such as a Wine and Birds event. He encouraged Board members to come up with ideas to help fill the financial gap.

DIVERSITY – Tim hopes SAS can find some opportunities to participate in some Latino events once Covid restrictions lessen. He also wants to transition the SAS website to bilingual, which would help in promoting the Service's programs at the Center for Spanish speakers. FWS has hired a bilingual intern for the summer and are having great success attracting Latino participants. Adding a Latino Board member would be a great step toward an expanded perspective.

NATURE CENTER

DMT report – Graham has finished a draft of the Partner Design/Construction Agreement. Tim has asked Michael B., Doug and Ray to help review it. The updated Facility Use and Operations agreement will be needed too.

Strategic Goals update – A draft was emailed, including Mike's rewrite of Goal 3. Lowell moved to approve the redraft; Michael B. seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Security strategies – Tim said the Service worked with Security Alarm Corp. to get security elements built into the indoor classroom. The Refuge will manage and pay for that. SAC does not provide any surveillance of the outside, parking lot areas. Ring technology can do that. Mike Unger offered to pay for the camera, solar panels and service. DMT accepted that offer and the system will be installed. Thank you Mike U.!

Fundraising – The Aftens' \$50,000 pledge has come in. Tim is asking other pledges to be fulfilled as soon as possible. He said we'll need to come up with a strategy to pursue the pledge by Georgia Marshall – perhaps by contacting her friends at Portland Audubon. ***Action Item: Michael B. said he would prepare letters to people to seek pledge payments.**

SAS OFFICE FUTURE PROSPECTS

Stayton office building – Laurie said SAS needs to visit the space to get an in-person idea of what it looks like and if it would be suitable accommodations. Tim said he needs to talk with the owner of the Hawthorne space about staying on there if need be. SAS has renewed its property tax exemption, which provides the owner some tax relief.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Tim had shared the documents via email. He said he's concerned about Year to Date deficit of \$6,405. One issue is lack of payment from National (our percentage of their membership fees) and a \$5,000 deficit in our own memberships. We are not getting renewals as usual. Also, individual contributions are off about \$3,000. We are doing a bit better on the expense side.

Adjournment – 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting – 6 p.m., April 27 via Zoom