

SAS Board Minutes

May 25 2021

Via Zoom call

Participating: Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Carolyn Homan, Judy Brunkal, Mike Williams, Cynthia Donald, Lowell Spring, Doug Spencer (via phone), Laurie Buswell, administrator **Guest:** Harry Fuller

Absent: Jenny Ammon, Maureen Leong Kee

Call to Order: Tim called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes from April – Michael noted one correction under Conservation section: Tim got an email (not Time). Mike moved minutes be approved as corrected; Cynthia seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of April Action Items – Tim needs to add the AHNC strategic goal revisions to SAS Strategic plan.

Board of Directors election – Six Board members were re-elected at the annual meeting section of the May Birders' Night: Tim, Michael B., Carolyn, Lowell, Judy and Doug. The Board now needs to elect officers. Judy nominated Tim as President/Treasurer; Carolyn nominated Michael B. as Vice President, and Tim nominated Carolyn as Secretary. Mike moved that the officers be elected by acclimation; Carolyn seconded. Motion carried.

SAS Office Move – Tim said Marion Soil and Water has to be out of the Hawthorne location by the end of August. They are hiring movers and will get a quote for the cost for SAS to put furniture on their load. Other expenses to anticipate with the move are new phone and Internet connections. The recommendation is to get a cell phone rather than a land line. ***Action item: Laurie to research costs. Cynthia suggested "jet packs" for Internet, which work wherever you are. Laurie will check with her.**

The new lease with MSWCD should be the same cost as now. Laurie said it will be approved at the next Soil and Water board meeting, which will be held this week.

There are many notifications regarding the move that need to be handled: IRS, Secretary of State, National Audubon, our Facebook page and website, new letterhead, etc. Mail will be forwarded for 6 months; SAS will get a P.O. box. ***Action item: Tim will track all this with Laurie.**

Financials – Tim noted SAS is behind \$2,000 in individual contributions. The appeals letters have done better, though, so income is up \$1,000. For expenses, SAS spent a lot on the Yard/Garden show for 2020, which was cancelled. That will avoid any expense ahead of the 2022 show, so some ground should be made up.

Tim said the insurance expense is lower than last year, in part because Education programs were cancelled due to Covid and there was no need for harassment coverage. Overall expenses are down about \$2,000 but there's \$1,500 outstanding expense and the unknown cost of tree removal at the Nature Reserve.

Tim said we may need to add an appeal. We can draw on reserves and some events, such as Birds and Wine, will be coming back. Options are limited.

COMMITTEES

Wood shop – Chet Zenon is stepping down as leader but would like to keep working in the shop. John Jorgeson has been approached to take over leadership. He and Chet are talking. Two other volunteers are helping in the shop. Chet had to buy another 100 board feet, so that expense is to come.

Field trips – Trips are resuming in June, the first at Minto Brown June 6. Cynthia said there is no limit now on participants. Email notices will be sent since notification came too late for an article in the Kestrel. Information also is on Facebook and the website. There are new destinations in the works.

Conservation – There was a story in the Statesman Journal about the lawsuit. The ruling was no injunction on leases for salvage logging and there is no information regarding an appeal. Tim has talked with Dave Ehrens,

president of the Benton Small Woodland Association, who is more positive about the situation than some. He said a relatively small percentage will be logged and that plantation stands are good for wildlife. They stagger future cuts so long-term, the stand composition changes. Tim is going out with Dave to learn more.

Education – Lowell reported on school events coming up at Perrydale and Cascade. Perrydale plans programs Monday-Thursday June 28-July 29, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. daily. Participants are divided into two groups: preschool-4th and 5th-11th grades. SAS is providing 2 to 2 ½ hour programs, younger kids in the a.m. and the older group p.m. SAS dates are June 30, nest boxes a.m. and p.m.; July 1 on birds a.m. and p.m. (instructors needed); July 8, furry aquatic animals (beaver and sea otters), Bobbi Allaire; July 12, a.m. and p.m. sessions on bats.

Cascade Elementary (Turner) plans three weeks of programs Mon-Thurs, Aug.2-5, 9-12 and 16-19. SAS has particular responsibility Aug. 16-19. There will be demonstrations on fly-tying and fly casting (Tim). The last week will be devoted to Nature, with one portion involving nest boxes. Jenny Ammon has money to pay for them and will help with the demonstration. He said another bird option is needed, perhaps on raptors. Cynthia said she has information. There is money in the Education restricted fund to pay for a raptor display.

Birder's Night – Judy said Harry Fuller is interested in taking this program over now that Eugenia has retired. The committee is looking at how to integrate Zoom even after in-person meetings resume. With Zoom, speakers from all over could be involved, as well as attendees from far away. Zoom also provides meeting recording possibilities. Tim said the Oregon Audubon Council meeting discussed Zoom possibilities and Portland Audubon's media specialist is going to do a webinar on it. Tim thinks we just need a camera and remote mike to add Zoom capability to in-person meetings.

Webinars – Mike Unger provided a report. Tim said the Beginning Birder classes only drew about 5 people. They were recorded, though.

Nature Reserve – R&R is coming June 30 to remove the ice storm-damaged trees. Regarding the tree that fell onto neighboring property, Michael got a voice mail from the owner, who said they are interested in working with SAS. R&R is planning work at the neighboring property July 14, which will require coordination from the Nature Reserve side. Michael has not been able to reach Lee to work out details.

Nature Center – Tim said the DMT meeting notes are to come. Graham said the Nature Center cannot open until the Department of Interior Ok's it but it's a quickly moving scenario. The Refuge's new intern starts June 21. Road signs are going up.

Marketing – Tim and Carolyn had a virtual meeting with Jeri Haugh, who has been helping MSWCD with marketing. Tim said he will get a report on her comments to the Board. She had many good suggestions, including writing some articles and multi-purposing them for the Kestrel, Salem Reporter, other Nature organization publications, etc. Harry Fuller has agreed to write some of these on seasonal topics like nesting and fledging. Some other suggestions were promoting through Instagram, local radio and television. Retirement communities also are always looking for programs.

Independence Hotel request – They are interested in promoting bird tourism and taking advantage of proximity to two wildlife refuges. Mike suggesting providing pamphlets from the refuges at least and Judy said we could send them our Kestrel for current birding trip information. ***Action item: Cynthia said she would call the manager to talk about possibilities.**

OAC meeting – Tim said SAS may want to adopt a diversity statement, which was discussed at the OAC meeting. He said the group adopted 11 conservation priorities this year, which he'll send to the Board. They also will be sharing speaker information statewide and plan workshops on use of Zoom.

New bequest – We received a letter regarding the estate of Inge Wenner. No word on amount.

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m. **Next meeting:** 6 p.m. June 22 at the Nature Center (weather permitting.)