

SAS Board Minutes

**Sept. 28, 2021 6 p.m.**

**Via Zoom call**

**Participating:** Tim Johnson, Michael Babbitt, Carolyn Homan, Maureen Leong Kee Mike Williams, Cynthia Donald, Lowell Spring, Doug Spencer, Judy Brunkal, Harry Fuller, Laurie Buswell

**Absent:** Jenny Ammon

**Call to Order:** Tim called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Minutes from July**– Michael noted need for two changes: Test (not best) under Review of Action Items and need to omit him as a reviewer of the refuge agreements. Cynthia moved approval with noted corrections; Mike W. seconded. Motion carried.

Re: the agreements, Tim is looking over the changes Graham has made and will work on getting these into shape and will send them to Michael for review. Tim said as few changes as possible will be made to the Partner Agreement, which goes to the Refuge counsel for approval.

**FINANCIALS** – Tim said SAS is running a \$5,339 deficit. He had budgeted \$5,925 but thinks it will end up ahead of that because there are donations coming in from the fall appeal. He withdrew \$4,000 from the Edward Jones investment fund to keep the checking account above \$10,000 and avoid service charges. He will prepare the year-end report next month.

**OFFICE MOVE UPDATE** – Laurie said all systems are getting back on line. The change to Verizon is working well and the network system is good and not as expensive. Her work schedule is working well – spending Monday and Tuesday in Stayton and then a half-day Wednesday om Salem to run errands, do banking, etc. She said she would provide the Board with her personal cell number in case there is an emergency need on one of her non-working days. She said she has a clear voice mail message about her office hours and there are few times when something can't be handled on the two working days.

Tim said he has purchased a new drive for Laurie's computer and Best Buy installed it and backed up all the files.

Google had an incorrect address for SAS (what comes up when someone does a Google search) but Tim thinks it's finally corrected.

**BIRD SURVEYS** – Information on recent surveys done by SAS will be part of the annual reports to National Audubon and U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Tim said SAS gets frequent calls to do these surveys – Ore. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Willamette Valley Wildlife Mitigation, The Confederated Tribes, private landowners. This past year surveys were done for six organizations and three property owners. Most are conservation related. Cynthia said she and Dominic are doing quarterly surveys of a property east of the Molalla River.

**BIRD CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY** – Harry explained a project run by the U.S. Geological Survey that they have asked SAS to join. The MOTUS Network does radio tracking on birds and other species. It's in operation in Europe, the U.S. East Coast and Central and South America. The project can track any species that moves and with the Willamette Valley as a major migration route, the Survey would like to have some monitoring stations set up. If SAS could get a grant to set one up it would be a big boost to this scientific endeavor. Harry suggested perhaps Willamette University might get a grant for a station as well. SAS could put it on top of the Nature center, pending approval from the Fish and Wildlife Service. The cutting-edge technology allows tracking of anything that moves within 15 kilometers.

**\*Action Item: Tim to email the information from MOTUS to the Board.** He said he checked with Graham on installing one at the Nature Center and he is not averse to it as long as the structure is able to handle the weight of the device.

**\*Action Item: Harry will check with U.S. Geological Survey representative for grant sources and specifications of the device itself (weight and other dimensions, etc.)**

**BIRDER'S NIGHT, Harry** – He said programs are set for the year, including Beavers in October and how song birds deal with extreme weather conditions in November, followed by a program from Cynthia in December on southern France and the Pyrenees.

He said he can't find a place that will rent a room for the meetings. Cynthia said that as a presenter she much prefers Zoom. Tim said he is still looking at differing set-ups for the future – an in-person meeting with a Zoom presenter, all Zoom, all in-person.

**EDUCATION, Lowell** – He has a STEM event 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 13 at Willamette Heritage Center/Mission Mill for Campfire and Girl Scouts. He said it's not limited to SAS Education Committee members and topics can touch any STEM element.

He's also working with Dallas Community School on a project that will involve trips to Baskett Slough. In addition, he's been contacted by a teacher working with a special education group at Gervais. No date is set for that.

Lowell said he's not doing nest boxes at big events any more. It's too stressful. Tim and Judy said they are available to help. Chet told Tim he has wood and people to work at the wood shop to get the supply of nest boxes and kits back up.

**CONSERVATION** – Tim said David Harrison continues to provide letters on various conservation issues on behalf of SAS. He also said Joseph Youren has a proposal Marion, Polk and Lincoln counties regarding the Oregon Department of Forestry's Habitat Conservation Plan. Apparently there is no requirement for landowners to protect species in the state's plan, as well as other issues around Barred owls and Northern Spotted owls, and Marbled murrelet numbers being stabilized. David thinks SAS should support this proposal. **\*Action Item: Tim will send it to the Board.**

**FIELD TRIPS, Cynthia** – Nothing new since trips were suspended once again. She will be emailing trip leaders in early October about resuming trips in November. If they are comfortable with it, she will not oppose it. She said they will not go to registration and limiting numbers again. The system did not work as they had hoped. Tim said he didn't disagree with that but hoped that the leaders could agree to use a standard protocol. Cynthia said whatever they decide has to be consistent and she'll support their decision.

**NATURE RESERVE** – Tim said crews are still cleaning up storm damage and are using big limbs as trail boundaries. There is fence damage that needs a repair estimate. Lee has said the volunteer crews should be able to handle it once they get the materials. As far as the oak that fell onto neighboring property, still no word on if it's been handled.

**WEBINARS** – Mike Unger emailed a report. Tim said participation numbers have been falling and he's limiting the schedule through the rest of the year.

**NATURE CENTER UPDATE** -- Tim said DMT minutes would be emailed in a few days. Although opening the Center was discussed, the Covid situation is still too dicey. But there still are projects to work on. He said Bobbie Allaire and her husband Pat have agreed to take on the role of Volunteer Coordinators for the

Center. Sam and Graham also see a need to have a Refuge staff person assigned to the Center. Tim floated the idea of using some of the funds SAS has dedicated to the Center to create a separate fund or “endowment” that would help pay for this kind of operating cost. But Graham says it’s good to have the funds kept for Gehlar completion as a leverage on the Service to continue finding funding for these things. It was agreed to leave the funding as is for now.

**NEW SAS LOGO** – There was no sentiment to change the logo but it was agreed that we need to pay Jeri Haugh for the consultation work she did for us. Tim said his main goal was a higher resolution drawing that would be easier to resize for various end uses and Mike W. has done that.

**More membership diversity** – Tim said we need to keep attracting new Board members and increasing organizational capacity. New people bring new ideas and the goal is to attract those with the willingness to take the lead on their ideas. Cynthia urged everyone to reach out to birders in the field to try to find out what interests them, why they enjoy outings, etc. Carolyn mentioned the possibility of working with a veterans’ group that includes Latinos as a way to tap into a diverse audience for programs. The goal is to have multi-lingual programs and information at the Nature Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Next meeting: