

MINUTES OF THE EAST CASCADES AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 18, 2020

Attendance and Quorum: Present were Tom Lawler, Diane Burgess, Terri Hyde, Carolyn Rochelle, Gordon Wetzel, and Bob Sizoo. Also, in attendance were Ken Hashagen and Amanda Accamando. Garrett Durham was absent. A quorum was present throughout the board meeting.

Meeting called to order at 9:20 am.

The December 3, 2019 Board Meeting minutes were approved.

1. Terri shared the End of Year Financial Report. The Board unanimously approved the 2020 Budget. Membership is down a bit (404 in 2018 to 401 in 2019). The Board is exploring ideas to keep accounting costs down. When we can securely transfer past data to Tech Soup software, we will save money. The 2019 budget for grants was not met. It was much lower than planned. The Board will look for more opportunities to award ECAS grants.

2. Ken Hashagen shared his experience with Holbrook Travel Agency. This company is interested in partnering with Audubon groups to provide guided birding trips. Incentives are offered. Ken, as Past President of ECAS, was offered a trip. He went with Holbrook on a five-day birding trip to Costa Rica. Also, in attendance on that trip were Anne Nora, Ken's wife and Kevin Smith. Ken said the trip was satisfactory, more similar to a Road Scholar trip using a guide and a naturalist than an all-day focused birding trip. His experience was positive. Ken shared many other details. The Board is discussing this opportunity.

3. ECAS Board Officers were unanimously elected for 2020: President Tom Lawler, Vice-president Gordon Wetzel, Secretary Diane Burgess, Treasurer Terri Hyde, and Assistant Treasurer John Brune.

4. No changes were made to the current ECAS Bylaws. There is an ongoing concern for recruitment of new Board members. The current bylaws state five to nine members. Maintaining enough members for a quorum is the main concern. As the 2020 ECAS Board has seven members, the requirement is met.

5. Diane shared the Non-profit Board Service Guide. New booklets are needed for some Board members. The copyright is Dec. 12, 2016. Diane will check on the most recent document and order more.

6. Diane distributed documents for 2020 Board Contact List and 2020 Board Meeting Dates. Diane will notify The Environmental Center of the 2020 meeting dates. Board signatures were obtained for Annual Disclosure Statement and Notice of ECAS Meetings by Email. Signatures for Waiver of Liability were done online via the ECAS website. Mary Oppenheimer will continue as Whistleblower Compliance Officer, pending her permission. Diane will contact her.

7. ECAS 2020 events were discussed: Eagle Watch (Mar. 28-29), Earth Day (Apr. 18), DHWF (Jun. 4 - 7), Potluck Picnic (Jul. 16), and Discover Nature Festival (no date set yet, probably the third Saturday in Sept.), Old Mill Bird Walks (Apr. 10, 24 and May 1, 15, 29), Migratory Bird Festival (May 9), Sunriver Pollinator Festival (June 27), Annual Event (Oct. 16). Volunteers are needed for these events.

8. Diane will update the Fiduciary forms for Mid Oregon Credit Union and Calvert Funds. Diane will contact Mid Oregon Credit Union and Terri will handle the Calvert Fund.

9. Tom will change the voicemail message for the ECAS account. Part of that message will direct callers of distressed birds to the Sunriver Nature Center or Native Bird Care. Diane will check the messages and respond. Tom will set up an online log for Diane to check that she has looked and listened to messages.

10. Diane will continue to update the Access Information for Board Members document and distribute copies.

11. Annual Event: same location, Friday, October 16. A food truck will be provided. Speaker ideas are being considered. One ECAS project will also be featured.

12. The Membership Committee will send a member to each board meeting. It is suggested that one of the Membership Committee members should be on the Board.

13. Birders Night Update – Gordon is the new host in charge of Birders Night. He shared a list of 2020 topics. Almost every date is full. The Board suggested changing the 7:00 – 7:30 timeslot to be more active, not just reading slides. Ideas: the slides can be printed and posted on a tri-fold by Membership Table. Continue to have birders share recent sightings. Focus on that month's special events as announcements/slides.

14. Information from the Grant Committee was shared. Three grants were unanimously approved by the Board: Sunriver Nature Center care support for Trumpeter Swans at Lake Aspen, Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes River Canyon project for improving access to Steelhead Falls, Sustainable Northwest for expenses related to bird surveys and interviews

with elders being conducted in connection with the writing and production of a book about the birds of the Warm Springs Reservation.

15. Future needs were discussed: New board members, Field trips (contact Mary Shivell), Treasurer

16. ECAS needs a new Volunteer Coordinator. The position is vacant. This person needs to communicate with new volunteers and project leaders in order to facilitate their connection. Using Member Planet can help reach our members. The Board discussed using volunteers for bird box projects in Sunriver and other places. This would need to happen in or near March. Also, nest boxes for swallows could be put up at Hatfield and Redmond Sewage Ponds (with permission).

17. Birders need to fill out the new permission forms for use of the Redmond Sewage Ponds. We are trying to make this easy to use and store.

18. The Board will leave the Strategic Plan as is. It is an historical document for ECAS. National Audubon wants to see our yearly Action Plan, so that is where our focus will be. Action Plan goals for 2020: Forest Service – bird boxes at Summer Lake and Sunriver, transform QuickBooks data to Tech Soup to save money.

19. There is a need to have regular birding outings in the Bend area besides Wednesday Birders. After the Old Mill Bird Walks in April and May, we could have weekend bird walks in Shevlin Park in June. To encourage young birders, there could be weekend family bird walks in Sunriver that leave from the Nature Center.

20. The Board is working on adult birding classes. A committee composed of Diana Roberts, Bob Sizoo, and Diane Burgess are working on organizing and implementing these classes for 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm. The minutes were taken and prepared for distribution to the board by Diane Burgess, ECAS Secretary.

Approved at the February 4, 2020 Board meeting.