

North Cascades Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship May 6, 2019 7:00 pm

Board Members Present: Steven Harper, Jamie Huson, Sue Parrott, Deborah Kaye, Owen Bamford, Pam Borso, Paul Woodcock, Robert Kaye, Kirsten Anderson and Nicole Huson. Advisory Board Members Present: Chris Brewer.

1. Additions to the Agenda - None

2. Approval April Minutes - Approved

3. Presentation by Holly Flann, Scholarship Recipient

Holly presented a brief overview of her research project entitled "The Effect of a Coevolved Parasitic Nematode in the Fitness of Desert Horned Lizards."

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Recommendation to get a debit card for NCAS. The Board authorized the Treasurer to obtain a debit card and pin number for our WECU bank account. The Board agreed that the Treasurer shall be the only Board member authorized to use the debit card.

5. Communications

a. Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee: Nicole reported that NCAS received only one scholarship application this year. The applicant was not a Western Washington University student, as is usual, but rather a student at the University of Puget Sound (UPS). Will Brooks, the applicant, is researching the possible occurrence of inter-breeding and hybridization of two species of white crowned sparrows found in the North Cascades. Will is asking for a total scholarship of \$1,565. Nicole will contact Will's advisor at UPS to seek his or her recommendation. Nicole will share Will's proposal and the results of her conversation with his advisor with the Board. Contingent on the outcome of Nicole's due diligence, the Board agreed to fully fund his scholarship application.

Education: Pam has arranged for NCAS to have a table at the Bellingham Farmers Market on one Saturday in August. Susie Davis, Third Grade Teacher at Columbia Elementary School, reached out to Pam regarding some opportunities to help with her students' study of ornithology. Chris gave a presentation on migration to 50 third graders at Columbia. Four Audubon volunteers joined the students at Squalicum Park for a beach clean up. Pam is scheduled to give a presentation on native plants and birds to the students.

Conservation: Robert reported that the Bellingham City Attorney objected to both NCAS and the Sierra Club's requests to be Parties of Record in the appeal, filed by Jamie Donaldson and others, of a proposed lot line adjustment by the owner of several residential lots located adjacent to the Post Point Heron Colony. A pre-hearing meeting with all parties and the Hearing Examiner is scheduled for May 8th.

Membership: Owen started a 30 day trial of the Little Green Light software and is in the process of learning to use the new program and importing membership and donation data. Owen did not import data for memberships that expired prior to 2015. Owen agreed to share this information with Board members to see if the list can be updated to remove people that have moved out of the area, etc.

Publicity: Kirsten reviewed the Little Green Light software and concluded that it has some good tools to use with her publicity efforts. She also reported that our thank you cards and stickers will be ready to be picked up this week and that the stickers came in at a cost of 66 cents each, which was less than expected. Kirstin will highlight the launch of our new website in social media.

6. Old Business

- a. Audubon at the Museum: The Board discussed the ongoing need for additional volunteers to participate in Audubon at the Museum. To increase our pool of volunteers for these events, Chris suggested an experienced NCAS Audubon at the Museum volunteer invite another member to accompany them on their shift so that the individual can learn the ropes and determine if he/she is comfortable representing NCAS at the museum. Going forward, Pam will recruit volunteers for Audubon at the Museum outside of Board meetings.
- b. Additional fund raising efforts for Harrison Reserve Project: Steven will contact Whatcom Land Trust (WLT) regarding the status of their fundraising needs for the Harrison Reserve project. He will also find out if WLT is ready to receive the donations NCAS has received for the project. The Board agreed to include a thank you to all who donated to the Harrison Reserve project in one of our fall newsletters.
- c. Service Project Proposal Update: none at this time
- d. Smart Trips Birding Field Trips Update: note at this time
- e. Issues with Google Drive: Board members are asked to email Jamie with any issues regarding Google Drive.
- f. Web Page - review and feedback. The Board asked Jamie to make the following additions or changes to our web page: add our NCAS logo to the home page (Pam will try to find a high resolution image of the logo to share with Jamie), add a join us or support us/membership link on the home page, add NCAS email addresses to Board member page and add links to Board meeting minutes. Jamie is working on importing and organizing the resources on our plants for birds and birding pages. Jamie will create a master Google document that all Board members can

access to post Audubon events as they are scheduled. The list will be arranged in chronological order so that these events may be included on our calendar, newsletter, and on social media. Jamie agreed to offer a tutorial on updating the web page to those Board members who need access. Kirsten will reach out to Lynne Givler and Alison Henshaw and ask them to review the web page for any needed clean up and editing. Steven, Pam, Kirsten and Jamie will design an email response that will automatically be sent out when someone visits our web page and signs up to receive our newsletter and/or to volunteer.

7. New Business

- a. Review the procedures for voting on the bylaws and electing officers. Do we need special mailing for error? The May membership meeting will begin with the election of the 2019 NCAS Officers. Next, Steven will provide a two minute summary of the proposed changes to the bylaws and conduct a vote. All members in good standing (current/paid members) present at the meeting will be asked to vote (a minimum of 25 such members are needed to pass changes to the bylaws). The text of an article published in the May issue of our NCAS newsletter regarding the upcoming vote on the proposed changes to the bylaws included the incorrect date of the May membership meeting. Since the headline of the article stated the correct date of the meeting and the correct date is published elsewhere in the newsletter, the Board agreed that a special mailing is not needed to address this minor error.
- b. Membership database (Little Green Light): The Board agreed to purchase a subscription to Little Green Light for one year (at a cost of \$40 for non-profits through TechSoup).
- c. Plan for soliciting memberships from National Audubon List of members: The Board will discuss this issue at the next Board meeting.
- d. Post Point Heron Colony - should we spend money to support litigation? How much? Policy? The Board concluded that we do not need a separate policy to address issues requiring time sensitive attention such as those surrounding the Post Point Heron Colony. If necessary, the appropriate committee chair should send an email to Board members with a specific request for action. The Board will discuss whether or not to make a financial contribution to the Post Point Heron Colony lot line adjustment appeal at the next Board meeting.
- e. Responsibility for maintaining updated email list of members and others. (Kelley): The Board agreed to discuss this issue at the next Board meeting.
- f. Additional Board members: Steven asked the Board to recommend additional board members (as Kelley is stepping down in August).
- g. June Board meeting: The Board agreed to skip our June Board meeting and meet instead on July 1. Should any urgent business arise prior to the July meeting, Board members are asked to communicate with each other via email.

Adjourn - Next Meetings: July 1, 2019, 7-9 pm, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, 1207 Ellsworth, Bellingham

Board Plan for 2019

After reviewing the above list of areas to focus on in the next three to five years, the Board chose the following initiatives to focus on in the next 12 months

1. Look internally to understand capabilities before adding initiatives
 - a. What do we have to do to function effectively?
 - b. What do we need to function effectively?
 - c. How do we do it?
2. Build, engage, diversify membership and volunteers
 - a. Build, engage, diversify membership, non-members and community
 - b. Stronger volunteer base (recruit, engage, diversify)
3. Technology
 - a. New Database
 - b. New Webpage
4. Have a story for what NCAS is. Leads to theme for a year
5. Ongoing evaluation of progress on initiatives

How do we move ahead with areas of focuses?

1. Look internally to understand capabilities before adding initiatives
 - Technology: by the March Board meeting, each committee is asked to give input to the Membership Committee on needs and nice haves for a new membership database. Jamie and/or Steven will send a link to committee chairs for the software under consideration for purchase.
 - Develop plan at April Board meeting
2. Build, engage, diversify membership and volunteers

- Develop plan at April Board meeting
3. Have a story (theme) for NCAS
- By April/May Board meetings: distill what NCAS does or is about to a short statement we always share with the community on field trips, at programs, and during membership meetings, etc. Each committee should tell the Board what story your members consistently try to tell and what is important
4. Ongoing evaluation of progress on initiatives
- The Board also agreed that we should publicize what we are doing in our newsletter!

Upcoming Presentations, Programs & Events

Membership Meeting Presentations

- May 28: Elwha River dam removal and river restoration: progress report 5 years after the completion of dam removal. – Jeff Duda
- Sept. 24: BirdNote – Mary McCann and Bob Sundstrum
- Oct. 22: Amphibians of the Northwest – Vicki Jackson
- Nov. 26: Sagebrush Songbird Survey – Christie Norman
- Feb. 24, 2020: Insects in Decline, Implications - Merrill Peterson

Educational Programs

- May 11: Plants for Birds, Everson Library
- May 26: Beginning Birding By Ear with Phil Calise and Pam Borso at Point Whitehorn State Park 9-12

Special Events

- May 30 – June 2: Pearrygin Lake Campout
- July 30: Volunteer Picnic 6-8 pm Fairhaven Park
- Dec. 9: NCAS Holiday Party - YWCA
- Dec. 15: Christmas Bird Count and Potluck - YWCA