

North Cascades Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Whatcom Land Trust Office 412 N. Commercial St., Bellingham

December 2, 2019, 7:00-9:00 pm

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

1. **Additions to the Agenda** - Deming Library service project, holiday party and birding trail signs.
2. **Approval November Minutes** - Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - All of the organizations that advertise in our newsletter have renewed and paid for their commitment for 2020. Sue is in the process of reviewing quotes for our liability insurance. Sue asked Board members to turn in their receipts before the end of the year. Sue will prepare a budget for 2020 for the Board to review and vote on at the February Board meeting.
4. **Communications**
 - a. January newsletter deadline is December 15th. Submit articles to Kirsten, Lynne and Alison.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Review Board Plan for 2019 - The Board reviewed the Board Plan for 2019 and concluded that we have met our technology goals of a new website and database but still need to work on building diversity among our members and volunteers. The Board also recognized the need to focus on the initiatives we want to accomplish and identify strategies to inspire volunteers to help, including outlining exactly what is needed and the amount of volunteer time expected. One Board member suggested that when interacting with the public, our primary message should be climate change and its impact on birds, however, a consensus on this topic was not reached. It was also noted that we need to better communicate the value of becoming a member of NCAS. The Board agreed to have a retreat and short Board meeting on January 5, 2020 from 1 to 4:30 pm at the Whatcom Land Trust office. Steven asked the Board to email him with their ideas for items to focus on at the retreat.
 - b. Earth Day 50th Anniversary Speaker Proposal by Steve Hollenhorst, Dean of Huxley - The Board agreed to join other local environmental organizations as co-sponsors of this event. Steven will follow up with Steve Hollenhorst as needed.
 - c. Giving Tuesday Campaign - The Board approved the donation request for the Harrison Reserve Project that Kirsten took the initiative to create for Giving Tuesday. The request will be emailed to our entire email list on December 3rd.
 - d. New Board Member Kristin Murray - The Board voted to add Kristin Murray to the Board of Directors and extended her a warm welcome. Jamie will meet with Kristin to conduct her new board member orientation.
 - e. Birding Trail Signs - We have two state birding trail signs available to install for sites along the Cascade Loop Birding Trail. Paul will reach out to the appropriate individuals at the City of Blaine and Whatcom County regarding their placement.
 - f. Birding Trail Maps - Steven will package the maps we received from Audubon Washington into sets that we can offer to the public for a donation at our educational outreach events and membership meetings.
 - g. New Hospitality Chair - Gillian Brightwater has agreed to be our new Hospitality Chair. Thank you to Gillian for taking on this key volunteer position.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Recommendations on Community Organization Grants from NCAS for 2019 - The Board reviewed the five proposed criteria to consider for NCAS community organization grants and agreed to add an amendment to the second criteria. This guideline now states (added language in bold) that a collaborative working relationship should exist **or have the potential to be developed** between NCAS and community organization. The Board also agreed to adopt the five criteria as general guidelines to consider when selecting organizations to receive NCAS community organization grants. The Board voted to award the following community organization grants: \$400 to Whatcom Humane Society Wildlife Rehabilitation Services, \$400 to Wild Whatcom, \$200 to Sardis Wildlife Center, \$200 to Vancouver Avian Research Center, \$200 to Washington Wild and \$100 to Shifting Gears.
 - b. South Fork Valley Community Association Community Radio Station - Paul will follow up with Matthew Thuney.
 - c. Website Clean-up Tasks - Nicole will add a link to Skagit birding sites, Steven updated the Harrison Reserve Project page and Robert is working with Nicole on final updates to the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve page. Steven suggested we add more pictures to the website to make it more visually appealing. Board members were asked to share their suggestions for ways to improve the website with Steven, Nicole and Kristen.
 - d. Whatcom Birds Follow Up - Additional information is needed on the status of this service.
 - e. Holiday Party - Pam will reach out to Vajapeyam Sukumar to make sure he is aware of the set up for this Birds of India presentation.
 - f. Deming Library Service Project - NCAS will lead a workshop on building nest boxes as a service project for the Deming Library with some of the nest boxes to be installed on the library grounds. An Introduction to Birding class

will also be presented. Chris plans to propose that the library put up a bird feeder that can be viewed from a station inside the library that is stocked with binoculars and bird identification guides. Chris will propose an appropriate amount to be considered as part of our 2020 budget to support this service project.

- g. Follow-up Items from October and November Board meetings.
 - i. Plan for soliciting memberships from National Audubon members in Whatcom County who are not current NCAS members - Owen will email the letter that was drafted for this purpose to those individuals with email addresses in January. Jamie will create a way to direct people to our website to join so that we can track memberships from these contacts.
 - ii. Determine if donations have increased as a result of our new website - Jamie and Owen are in the process of investigating this issue.
 - iii. Recruit a volunteer or intern from Western Washington University to help NCAS with copy editing and social media. Jamie will reach out to his contacts again.

Adjourn - Next Meeting: January 5, 2019, 1-4:30 pm, Whatcom Land Trust Office, 412 N. Commercial St., Bellingham

Upcoming Presentations, Programs & Events

Membership Meeting Presentations

January 28: SURVIVAL BY DEGREES: 369 SPECIES ON THE BRINK - Trina Bayard

Feb. 25: Insects in Decline - Implications for the Future - Merrill Peterson

March 24: Deadly Deception: The Plight of Birds and Plastics Pollution - Jaco ten Hove and Chris Brewer

April 28: The Great Goat Roundup: Translocation of Mountain Goats from Olympic National Park to the Cascade Mountains - David Wallin

May 26: Fire Ecology of Washington Forests, Today and the Future - Brian Harvey

Educational Programs

Jan. 18: Bird Smarts: Surviving Winter in Whatcom County, Everson Library, 2 pm - Chris Brewer

Jan. 25: Bird Smarts: Surviving Winter in Whatcom County, Ferndale Library 2 pm - Chris Brewer

Feb. 8: All About the Hummingbird, Deming Library, 2 pm - Chris Brewer

Feb 22: Native Plants and Birds: Creating a Bird-Friendly Backyard, Lynden Library, 2 pm - Pam Borso

Feb 29: Eagles Here and Around the Globe, South Whatcom Library, 3 pm - Chris Brewer

March 7: All About the Hummingbird, Lynden Library, 2 pm - Chris Brewer

March 28: Introduction to Birding, Deming Library, 2 to 4 pm, Pam Borso

April 11: All About the Hummingbird, Ferndale Library, 2 pm, Chris Brewer

April 25: All About the Hummingbird, South Whatcom Library, 3 pm - Chris Brewer

May 9: All About the Hummingbird, Everson Library, 2 pm, Chris Brewer

May 23: Introduction to Birding, South Whatcom Library, 2 to 4 pm, Pam Borso

Special Events

Dec. 9: NCAS Holiday Party - YWCA, Birds of India presented by Vajapeyam Sukumar

Dec. 15: Christmas Bird Count and Potluck - YWCA