

North Cascades Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

March 9, 2020, 7:00-9:00 pm

Board Members Present: Steven Harper, Jamie Huson, Sue Parrott, Pam Borso, Kirsten Anderson, Robert Kaye, Owen Bamford, Kristin Murray and Deborah Kaye. Guest: Frank Ancock, NCAS member.

1. **Additions to the Agenda** - Summer volunteers picnic.
2. **Approval February Board Minutes** - Approved.
3. **Treasurer's Report** - Sue gave the Treasurer's report and noted that we received the funds raised from Kirsten's Facebook post for the Harrison Reserve Project.
4. **Communications**
 - a. April newsletter deadline is March 15th.
 - b. Nicole's request for Board maternity leave. Nicole's Board maternity leave will begin April 1st. During her leave, Kristin will handle Nicole's duties as Web Content Manager and Kirsten will continue to post content to social media. Nicole's immediate responsibilities as Scholarship Chair will be handled as follows: Owen will reach out to Don Burgess (WWU) and Steven will reach out to Rachel Rothberg (WWU Birding Club) to encourage students to submit NCAS scholarship applications. Kirsten will post to social media to promote the May 1st application deadline.
 - c. NCAS will co-sponsor renowned field guide author David Allen Sibley's visit to Village Books in Fairhaven on Tuesday, May 19th at 7 pm. David will present his latest work, *What It's Like To Be A Bird - From Flying To Nesting, Eating To Singing, What Birds Do And Why*. Steven will reach out to Village Books to see if we can table at this event.
5. **New Business**
 - a. Covid 19 Contingencies - The Board agreed to follow suggested guidelines from the Whatcom County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control regarding the spread of the Covid 19 virus and our organization's community outreach activities. Seven days prior to our membership meeting, Steven will check these government resources and consult with Board members regarding the status of our meeting. If the decision is made to cancel our membership meeting, Steven will notify the Whatcom Museum staff and Kirsten will post to social media and assist with sending an email notification.
 - b. Audubon Council Of Washington (ACOW) Update - Steven, Robert and Kirsten are participating in weekly planning sessions with other chapter leaders in NW Region 1 and staff from State Audubon to help plan this event. Target dates for ACOW 2020 are either the first or second weekend of October. Board members were asked to share any ideas they have for location, theme and speakers with either Robert, Steven or Kirsten.
 - c. NW1 Regional meeting April 9th - This meeting is scheduled to take place at Skagit Publishing in Mt. Vernon. Time TBA. Steven will share the meeting agenda with Board members when available.
 - d. Summer Volunteer Picnic - The Board considered having a summer volunteer picnic again this year. Pam and Deborah will work together to plan this event and share details with Board members at our next meeting.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Proposed Bylaws Change - Pam will submit appropriate language to change our bylaws to remove term limits for all NCAS officers except that of President to Kirsten for inclusion in our April newsletter.
 - b. Room for Holiday Party and Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Follow-up - Since the Mt. Baker Theatre will not take reservations for the Encore Room until May, the Board decided to have Sue go ahead and reserve the Bellingham YWCA on December 8th for our holiday party and December 20th for our CBC potluck.
 - c. NCAS Brochure Review - Due to the cost of printing our existing tri fold color membership brochures, the Board decided to redesign our brochure so it will fit on a 4"x8" double sided card. Jamie volunteered to work on updating the language on our brochure to focus on the activities NCAS engages in that membership dues support. The Board also agreed to add an additional membership level of \$100+. Kirsten volunteered to design the card, once the content has been updated.
 - d. Wilderness Committee Proposal Follow-up - Robert has reached out to Tom Uniack, Executive Director of Washington Wild, regarding their interest in supporting efforts by the Canadian environmental organization, the Wilderness Committee, to persuade the Canadian government to extend protected area status to the entire Canadian Cascades portion of the Skagit Watershed. Robert also plans to contact Joe Foy, Protected Areas Campaigner and former Executive Director of the Wilderness Committee (Vancouver, BC) regarding their efforts to protect this area. Robert will report back to the board as needed.
 - e. Follow-up on National Audubon List Solicitation Letter and Procedures - Contacts for zip code 98229 have been added to our list. Owen and Jamie will work together to send our solicitation letter via Mailchimp.
 - f. Earth Day 50th Anniversary Speaker Proposal by Steve Hollenhorst, Dean of Huxley - Steven is waiting for more information from Steve Hollenhorst.

- g. Whatcom Birds Follow up - The listserv for Whatcom Birds is set up and operational. Jamie and John Bower are finalizing some details and when everything is ready, John will send an email announcing the newly revised service.
- h. Smart Trips Follow-up - Paul and Sue have chosen three destinations for Smart Trips birding outings to be scheduled sometime in May and June: Post Point Heron Rookery and Padden Creek, Whatcom Falls and Conley Creek and the Interurban Trail. Sue has written something that Paul can use to help recruit field trip leaders for the three possible Smart Trip Birding Field Trips. Once we have leaders we can move ahead as Smart Trips does most of the logistics. To date, Paul has not sent out the request to field trip leaders.
- i. List of NCAS Property - Deborah created a spreadsheet (Board drive, Resources folder) to track pertinent information regarding equipment (computer, projector, binoculars, etc.) owned by NCAS. Board members are encouraged to complete the spreadsheet as needed.
- j. Making Little Green Light (LGL) Work for Us - Steven is working on learning more about this software so that he is able to share his knowledge with other Board members as needed.
- k. Training for LGL, Mailchimp and Website - Steven is working on identifying who should be responsible for providing training on each of these platforms and which Board members should be trained. Steven's goal is to have training sessions scheduled in the coming months.
- l. WWU Student Interns Available for NCAS Projects - Jamie is in contact with a professor at WWU who teaches a mixed media course and will have students available in early April for potential NCAS internships. The professor has suggested that we outline several projects that students could help us with over a 10 week period. The professor can then match our project with a student who has the necessary skills. Board members needing help with suitable projects should submit their outline to Jamie as soon as possible.

7. Committee Reports

- a. Committee Reports - Kirsten, Publicity Committee Chair, reported that we have acquired over 100 new Instagram followers over the last two months for a total of 425 followers and that we currently have 1,006 followers on Facebook.

Adjourn - Next Meeting: April 6, 2020, 7-9 pm, Whatcom Land Trust Office, 412 N. Commercial St., Bellingham

Upcoming Presentations, Programs & Events

Membership Meeting Presentations

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

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

May 19: David Allen Sibley presents *What It's Like To Be A Bird - From Flying To Nesting, Eating To Singing, What Birds Do and Why*, Village Books in Fairhaven, 7 pm