

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee**  
**Minutes December 10, 2014**

107 River St, Santa Cruz, CA

**Called to Order 6:35**

**Attending: Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Mike Guth, Greg McPheeters, Mary Odegaard, Jukka Naukkarinen, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic**

Melissa Ott

Kieran Kelly: from Mark Stone's office - to check in; new session about to begin; some interesting bills are about banning sales of cigarette filters; Mark Stone will be head of a judiciary committee

Visitor Karen Lacey; Courtney Castaños (running for excom); Russell Hofvendahl from (Seize the Grid) from Sierra Student Coalition at Cabrillo College

Pauline Seales and Ramon Mentor from 350.org in Santa Cruz

Mary and Andy Hsia-Coron from San Benito Rising

**Welcome – member comments**

**Approval of Minutes**

November Minutes

Mike moves to approve

Mary seconds

Motion passed with one abstention from a member who was absent

**Treasurer's Report (Mary)**

Discussed; funds slightly fluctuating

**Elections Committee (Mary)**

Seems to be a small delay; ballots haven't been mailed out yet; should be Dec. 12th

Try to add a note about why it is late and what we are doing; three candidates for three positions so at least not contentious for us

Discussion about editing candidate statements - because we took off Greg's business affiliation; small subcommittee formed to help create more specific guidelines for next year

Ron, Mike and Keresha are going to draft guidelines for future election Bios. Keresha will contact Debbie to see if these guidelines exist from when they were printed them in the Ventana.

**San Benito Rising Update (Ron)**

Pauline Seales and Ramon Mentor  
Mary and Andy Hsia-Coron

Discussion about the campaign's history - campaign was able to reach across all social groups (even republicans voted for the ban) in the county; were hugely outspent by oil industry yet passed the ban! Because the campaign was able to reach local people to give endorsements, ect; drought made people very sensitive to water issues; also seismically active county

Mobilized very early on - series of meetings with discussions and showings of Gasland; connected with kids a lot who then informed their parents  
Got proponents for the measure who were known locally  
Worked to be very inclusive and bring in more and more people throughout campaign  
Got people to take leadership roles in whatever they were good at

Waste water injection wells - another issue that is also super dangerous to groundwater

Currently a claim against San Benito - a claim from oil companies asking for 1.2 billion dollars. County council anticipates lawsuits against the ban due to constitutional issues; no actual lawsuits have been filed yet

May need assistance with a legal defence fund; is a small county without deep pockets

Keresha motions to give money (\$500) to San Benito Rising (PAC) to help them with their legal fight  
Ron seconds; Mike makes a friendly amendment to have it be approved through chapter and state  
Unanimous  
Gillian will check with the other chapters and groups about how to give the money appropriately

Consider revisiting and giving more money as the issue develops and as a lawsuit develops  
Possibly consider hosting a fundraiser

Discussed reaching out to chapter, state and national and Loma Prieta and checking about their level of support and to discuss the potential for a lawsuit against San Benito

Gillian volunteered to call Loma Prieta to find out how they were able to give money to the San Benito Rising group; she will also check in with chapter

**KSBW Coverage Petition (Erica)**

Maybe not support this specific petition; however there were people who may have done some wrong specifically; Keresha will research

### **Outreach Committee (Greg)**

#### **Melissa's Report**

Sent out Convio; was able to reach Ohlone people to verify tan oak issues

Fossil free UC - looking for excom support for issue

Decision to check regarding state and national policy regarding divestment before formally supporting this group

Donors should mention that they don't want to give money with fossil fuels as part of it

Climate March in Oakland

Melissa has done research on metrics on outreach to make sure to pinpoint our efforts

### **Conservation Committee (Gillian)**

Regional transportation plan - not time sensitive

Ideas about what interns can work on

### **Events Committee (Keresha)**

Are seeking a new committee chair

Keresha gave honors to Mary for being amazing and always supporting and working hard for the events committee (and others), and biking all the stuff around

Mike also wants to honor Keresha for her hard work with the events committee, which has brought us both new members and donations as well as served to educate the community

Adjourn 9:03