

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee**  
**Minutes September 9, 2015**

Louden Nelson Community Center  
301 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Called to Order 7:04**

**Attending:** Courtney Casteanos, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Greg McPheeters,  
Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic

Melissa Ott, Steve Lustgarden

**Online Votes**

Motion to have our Conservation Chair send letter to Bay Chapter regarding tree removal approved August 21st

Motion to send letter to State Water Resources Control Board protesting renewing petition allowing reduced flows in Newall Creek passes on August 28th

Motion to send letter to National Sierra Club with comments regarding the proposed Coast Dairies National Monument passes on August 28th

**Welcome - member comments**

Gillian has been invited to South Africa to help establish rape prevention programs with educators and so will miss an executive committee meeting and one conservation committee meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

August Minutes

Gillian moves to approve; Keresha seconds; approved with one abstention due to absence

**Treasurer's Report (Mary)**

Greg reported for Mary; looks similar to before

**Nominations/Elections Committee (Greg)**

Note that Tawn has resigned from executive committee; so Greg will likely fill in as chair for this committee

Has been communicating with chapter; request to review materials before out; Keresha asks that if there is time

Interested candidates need to let us know by October; bios are due by October 22nd

Ballots out in December; estimated about 200 ballots back

Chapter feels they can count ballots by 4th or 5th of January

### **Events and Outreach Committee (Greg)**

Committee Report - are meeting quarterly; had previously approved a shark researcher event in October; speakers and date confirmed - October 15th Taylor Chapple who works at Stanford; at the Grange

Upcoming Events - Harvest Festival and OPERS festival; National Drive Electric Day October 20th; TPP green drinks event occurred, with letters written to Sam Farr

Rita from Chapter said that they have been given direction from Greg Casini to not put up events for other groups on meetup and our website. So as we have direction from Chapter to not put up these events and as it is more work for us, then we maybe shouldn't. However it does serve as a central place for the environmental community to view environmental events, which also is a boost for us as well. Keresha would like to talk to Greg Casini regarding this. Greg would like to check in with Rita first about this before Keresha checks with Greg. Directions may be different for Facebook as more content on Facebook may mean more viewers. Greg supports finding volunteers to do this rather than using Melissa's staff time for this. 350.org may even be an offshoot of Sierra Club or somehow connected so then it seems we should be able to post their events at least.

### **General Discussion about 2016 Fundraiser**

Maybe a dinner dance; possibly catered possibly not; maybe India Joze or maybe somewhere else

Also some discussion about maybe having a smaller event maybe twice a year that is less time consuming from us; finding some balance between having a big event or smaller fundraising events

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

**Water (Erica):** Updated committee's work: Currently several elements for the potential portfolio. Element 0 is conservation; Element 1 is in-lieu recharge of aquifers (selling excess winter flows to neighboring districts so they may rest their wells with aquifers we share). Element 2 is aquifer storage and recovery (injection wells of excess winter water). Element 3 is where controversy lies as it may be either desalinization or direct potable reuse of recycled water. Questions arise about the timing and level of investments in these solutions, and in which ones.

Ron wrote a statement for Erica to read at the WSAC meeting: The Sierra Club recommends to commit all resources to maximize conservation, in-lieu aquifer recharge, and aquifer storage and recovery to meet current and future needs. We support waiting a time period as recommended by the technical experts to determine the effectiveness of this plan before putting any substantial resources towards a manufactured water supply.

Ron motioned to approve; Keresha seconds; unanimous

**National Monument Proposal:** Scheduled a conference call to be discuss with the National Committee of the Sierra Club likely to be next week; we will be one vote of five regarding the decision. May be difficult as Barbara Boxer wants the monument and it is a part of a package of legislation. Information regarding our concerns has been distributed but perhaps not fully absorbed by the national committee

**Tree Removal Program in Bay Area** - Gillian received a letter; basically says that their chapter wants to remove the trees for fire prevention and to restore biodiversity; however research shows that the eucalyptus did not cause the fire being referred to and also more effective fire measures include removing trees near structures versus cutting down all the trees. Courtney recommended contacting an expert in the area. Greg also supports letting chapter know. Gillian will draft a letter to circulate and vote upon.

### **Water Quality Group**

Gillian would like to potentially support actually funding some testing ourselves so we can have some data to use for this.

**Cannabis committee:** We do not have a representative. Had an odd vote with four people for three positions; however our representative was listed separately from the other three people and so was considered as a separate agenda item later; very odd process.

**El Jardin:** Seaside company wants to have the land and use for their own purposes; Ron feels action should be directed towards the council. Courtney is fairly familiar with the location and can draft a letter to send to council.

**Neighborhood event:** Keresha is organizing a neighborhood block party and is considering calling it a Sierra Club fundraiser; Sunday September 27th. It will close of Neary Street, and will have a live band. Gillian feels a little strange with doing that; maybe having just a table would be good.

**Adjourned at 9:08**