

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2019**

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Branciforte Small Schools

840 North Branciforte Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Called to Order 6:35

Attending: Steve Bakaley, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Mike Guth, Jane Mio, Rachel O'Malley, Erica Stanojevic

Mary Odegaard; Ron Duncan (Soquel Creek Water District)

Online votes

Welcome! Introductions...2 mins

Approval of Minutes...February meeting...2 min

Keresha moves approval of minutes, Gillian seconds, approved with one abstention

Treasurer's Report (Mary)...2 mins

Positive balances in checking and savings; have gotten recent December allocations from Ventana and have been communicating with them regarding January

Trician has found more members who would be suitable to add to our March fundraising appeal mailing

Will need help for another stamping/ mailing party; Steve, Gillian and Rachel volunteer

Conservation committee

Pure Water Soquel - Ron Duncan

Questions about safety of water produced

Ron notes that he believes that we need an "and" solution, not a "this or that" solution

Rachel moves that we have an informational event in the future and we invite people from various perspectives and that we don't take a position as a committee until we gather more information; Jane seconds; motion dropped

Gillian suggests starting at the excom level first

Steve supports starting at ExCom and comments that we should make sure to have enough volunteers ready if we have a public event

Will host a separate and internal meeting first regarding this

Executive Committee (Gillian)...60 mins

Elections: Vice chair and committee chairs (Gillian)

- Rachel and Steve are nominated for vice chair
- Rachel is elected as vice-chair

Gillian nominates Steve as Events and Outreach Committee Chair

- Discussion about structure of committee - with why outreach and events are lumped together
- Support for nomination stated
- A note that our list serves may be a good way for people to get involved
- A few comments regarding the synergetic energy between Outreach and Events
- A note that most Sierra Club entities have a separate Outings chair position
- A suggestion that Steve chairs those activities he enjoys most and Rachel reaches out to local people to find more volunteers for other jobs
 - Steve supports this
- Steve elected as chair for what is current "Events and Outreach Committee"

People elected chair asked to create committee member list and a one page bullet point of a committee charter

Gillian nominates Erica as chair for conservation committee

- Erica elected as chair
- Erica needs to look at bylaws and overall Club policy regarding conservation committee
 - Steve will send some info to Erica regarding National policies

Discussion about conservation committee structure

A request to rethink the relationship between Transportation Committee/Conservation Committee/Excom

- Concerns about transportation committee members speaking at public meetings with no support for Sierra Club position

Gillian nominates Keresha as acting chair of Transportation Committee for another month

- Keresha elected as acting Transportation Chair

Comment that group leaders (committee chairs) may not publically take position contrary to club position

Another comment that if people identify themselves as only individuals and clearly identifying and representing only oneself then they can take positions contrary to club position

Concern that there may be some bias regarding how communicating during meetings
Discussion

A comment that perhaps Transportation committee take on the legislative work while conservation takes on the Administrative work such as reviewing EIRs

A comment that our last excom meeting was very full and so our chair did her best to keep our meeting on track and no committee leaders were allowed much time (and even so we went over time); when people were asked to end their speaking it was done in order to respect time

A comment that throughout our group's history there have been challenging issues that have divided us and that we all should take responsibility for our own actions and communicate peacefully together

Gillian nominates Steve as Webmaster

Steve elected as Webmaster

Loma Prieta move discussion and vote

- A comment that everyone on excom should be able to vote on this as it is such an important issue; a comment that we should have a supermajority for such a big issue
- A comment that the direction that the Club is going in is fewer chapters rather than more chapters
- There are economies of scale that would be beneficial if we join Loma Prieta
- Ventana does not seem to really want to deal with us; Loma Prieta has indicated that they would like to have us
- There is not a possibility that we would be a separate chapter
- We could run positions to take over the chapter; then we would need to take care of their area as well and that may be too much for us
- If we became chapter then we'd have to be responsible for Ventana as a group - that sounds like a lot of responsibility!
- A comment that individuals should directly get the emails from National etc - we we should be joining the list serves
- A comment that in the past we've always been able to handle our own issues
- A concern that although those who visited us stated we would have flexibility that may change if Loma Prieta leadership changes
- A comment that they would be a resource not a drag
- A comment that if we were forced to do things such as create our budget ahead of time then that would force us to have strategic discussion ahead of time not simply being reactive to issues
- A comment appreciating the quality of work coming out of Loma Prieta
- A comment that having the strength of Loma Prieta would help us be more impactful
- A comment that they have similar issues to us, and the interchange of knowledge would be beneficial
- A comment that our independence is great
- A concern about the time commitment would be challenging

- A comment valuing the history and wanting to know more about the history - we were once part of Loma Prieta
- A comment that we still can dialogue with Loma Prieta, that is not restricted from us even if we are separate from them
- A concern that we have a different culture than Loma Prieta
- A comment that Loma Prieta is more conservative than we are; they are more concerned with politicians who will win
- A concern that us visiting their meetings would drain our resources
- A comment that we need to do the hard work to redevelop our strength locally before we work with them
- A comment that we should be working through creating legislation that protects the environment and that Loma Prieta would strengthen our ability to do so
 - A few comments that we could still work with them and create coalitions locally for such
- A comment that are dependent on individuals for dealing with many crucial things right now (treasurer, sending emails, etc); if we join Loma Prieta we would have some backup
- A comment that joining them wouldn't change our workload
- A comment that having flexibility on creating our positions without having to ask permission is very helpful
- A comment that there was a reason that we switched chapters previously and that we may be able to trust the previous excom
- Straw poll - 2 yes votes to switch; 3 no; two undecided
- A comment that we may be able to wait; another comment that it may be harder to do so if we wait

Steve moves that we change our affiliation; Mike seconds;
3 in favor; 3 against; one abstention; motion does not pass

Lawsuit (Gillian)... 15 mins

Erica moves that we give another \$300 to the group who lead the Nissan lawsuit contingent on their legal costs not being paid; Kerasha seconds; unanimous

Recommendation for settlement agreement (folks from CFST and ExCom met and came to a consensus. Details in closed session at ExCom meeting).

Protocol for discussing FEIR Highway I lawsuit outside of ExCom - Keep it short. The lawsuit is against the inadequacies of the Caltrans EIR for Highway 1 widening.

Events Committee (Steve)...15 mins

Treasurer training summary

- Learning that to use C3 general funds is actually not that hard
 - Steve moves that we request Ventana sends us to reimburse \$750 from their C3 funds to our Santa Cruz group general C3 fund; Mike seconds; unanimous
 - Steve moves that we then ask the Sierra Club Foundation to reimburse us for the \$750; Mike seconds; unanimous
- A question about whether we can do the same thing with the \$600 for the Sustainable Soquel issue
- A question if Trician is ok with doing all this; Steve indicates that she is willing to work on this

Ratification of revised slide show presentation schedule - Mike moves to approve slide show; Rachel seconds; unanimous

Funding for first aid classes for outings leaders - Steve moves that we reimburse outing leaders in good standing for their classes; a friendly amendment saying up to four outings leaders; Rachel seconds; unanimous

- A comment that the leaders should then be able to commit to leading hikes for two years or something - a note that this is only for outings leaders in good standing
- Good standing means that the leaders lead at least two hikes a year

Retreat

If anyone has a topic then please give it to Jane or I by next Wednesday

Erica will redo doodle

Conservation Committee (Erica)...10 mins

PG&E update

Pure Water Soquel presentation brief update

Bird Safe Design brief update

North Coast Rail Trail brief update

Transportation Committee (Jack)...10 mins

Adopting a rail trail letter writing policy

Next Meeting: April 10th, 2019