

**Agenda for the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society board meeting  
November 6, 2019, 5:30 p.m. at the home of Sid Webb**

1. Acting president – Elaine Stachera Simon (October and November)  
Wayne Treers – CBC/December
2. Approval of October board minutes
3. Approval of Treasurer’s end-of-October balance report
4. Adopt a Spot – no suggestions from Facebook. Thoughts?
5. Discussion of grant application to Audubon. Question re insurance/background checks.
6. 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary party – update from Diane – agenda for the evening, what do we need to do to help party committee? Elaine to provide update on pre-gala telephone call with Jon Hayes and Desiree Loggins (Nov. 6).
7. Committee reports:
  - a. Education
  - b. Publications
  - c. Program reminders for November and CBC in December
8. Other business

**Minutes for the Mesilla Valley Audubon Society board meeting November 6, 2019**

1. Elaine Stachera Simon, as acting president, convened the meeting at 5:30 PM. At Sid Webb’s house. Members Present: Elaine Stachera Simon, Sid Webb, CJ Goin, Gil Sorg, and Diane Moore. Beth Bardwell was present to report on the MVAS Bird Monitoring and Conservation Project.
2. October Board Minutes were approved without change. The Nov-Dec-January Calendar required changes. The date for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be Wednesday, November 13. The “Beginner’s Bird Walk” at Tellbrook Park will be held November 20. There will probably will not be a Field Trip on January 18, 2020 due to new program plans (see below). With these changes in place, the calendar from the October meeting was accepted.
3. The Treasurer’s report was accepted without changes.
4. Adopt a Spot: After considering other options, MVAS will offer to volunteer its services to keep the area around Llorona Park ~~and south to 1-10~~ \*clean as part of the Las Cruces “Keep Las Cruces Clean” program. Elaine will work with the city on this project.
5. Grant Application for the MVAS Bird Monitoring and Conservation Project. Beth Bardwell has worked on revisions to the Audubon Western Waters Grant which had

been presented at the last board meeting and subsequently at a meeting of MVAS birders interested in the project. A draft of the grant had been sent to the board members prior to the meeting. The only changes recommended were related to MVAS hiring Amy Erickson and the costs that would incur if she were to come to Las Cruces to give a lecture on data collection on bird surveys and follow up with a field demonstration the following day. The board accepted the revised grant application. The only steps ahead now are for Beth to be sure that New Mexico Audubon's Desiree Loggins has no further suggestions and that Amy Erickson can come at a mutually acceptable time. Beth and Sid will be sure to send the application (electronically) before the deadline of November 15. MVAS members who have expressed interest in the project will receive an update from Sid Webb this week.

6. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. Diane has been working non-stop with arrangements. It is on schedule to be held at Trails West on Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00 PM. 43 MVAS members are registered to attend, including several past presidents of the organization. Catering services are finalized. Diane would like to have a list of all past presidents (Sid assigned). Diane would like bird calls and pics (???) and will try to make this happen on her own (Diane). Needed accessories include computer and projector (Sid), old photo albums (Sid). Elaine spoke with John Hayes and Desiree Loggins who plan to attend but will spend much less time in Las Cruces than previously indicated. They will not plan to meet with any officials of Las Cruces and will not participate in any bird walk here the day following the party. They will plan to return some other time. Prior to the party, Diane will send a reminder to all who signaled they would attend.
7. Education: CJ described a good experience with the teachers and students at Tombough Elementary School. In the absence of the Schulte Award, perhaps some of the money designated by MVAS for education could be directed to them as an award and to help pay for a bus to be used on a field trip some time next year. CJ is feeling his age and believes he should significantly curtail his activities next year.
8. Publications: Sid described changes he wants to make in the Conservation section of the webpage. He hopes to engage Beth Bardwell and Mark Pendleton in this effort. In the setting of National Audubon Society's release of its landmark climate report, this Audubon chapter will feature that issue as relates to both local and national priorities.
9. Program reminders:
  - a. Wayne Treers will be in charge of the December meeting as part of his duties as chairman of the Christmas Bird Count efforts.
  - b. The December Field Trip will be Amy Erickson's taking attendees of her lecture on a bird walk where she will emphasize those methods of data collection required of people who are doing birding surveys (see #5, above).
  - c. CJ will no longer lead bird walks in Mesilla Valley Bosque after the first of the year (2020).

10. Other business: Gill Sorg describes meeting with officials from the US International Boundary Water Commission at the worksite where they will create a new riparian habitat and where the MVAS Bird Monitoring project will complete its studies. The meeting confirmed their desire to finalize exact plans for the water diversion by February, 2020, and to embark on the project next fall (9/2020). This project is going to have a dramatic impact on life on the Rio Grande.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 5:00 PM at Sid Webb's home.

Sid Webb

Acting secretary

11/6/2019

- Correction offered by Elaine and Gill. No extension for "Toss no Mas" south of La Llorona Park
- Correction offered by Sid Webb. The planned dates for Amy Erickson, Audubon NM ornithologist, to visit Las Cruces are Friday and Saturday, January 17 and 18. In conjunction with the MVAS Bird Survey, she will give a lecture on collecting data for bird surveys on Friday and will lead a birding tour on Saturday to demonstrate her ideas.
- The next meeting will be held at Good Samaritan in the Conference Room on December 11 at 5:00 PM, not at Sid Webb's home.
- The meeting will be at 5:30 PM, not 5:00 PM (correction of the correction)