

Cascabel Conservation Association
Spring Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2023

In person attendance at CCC: Barbara Clark, Birgit De Gregorio, Gail Loveland, Anna Lands, Katie Talbott, Tom Talbott, Daniel Baker, Bob Evans, Chris Eastoe, Dave Shreeve, Kai Staats, Karen McKelvey, Andrew Volz, Edith Robinson, Rosemary Logan, Marissa Katz, John Welch, Erik Revere **Attendance via Zoom:** Cindy Salo, David Omick, Pearl Mast, Susan Tollefson, Tom Orum, Nancy Ferguson

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. Introductions and silence- Chris
- b. Reading of sojourner reflection- Karen
- c. Minutes of January 7, 2023: Bob Evans moved to approve minutes and Tom Talbott seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

2. BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Board membership

Gail Loveland placed in nomination for board. Vote to take place at next meeting

Topic from the January meeting of having John Welch of ASW as board member was revisited, either as ASW representative or as private member- currently his role is to support collaboration between organizations. The situation remains fluid at ASW due to changes in leadership (Bill Doelle retiring) so he would need clarification about ASW supporting a change in his role. It was agreed that if this were to occur, that there would not need to be reciprocity (having a CCA member on ASW board) and that he would not need to be "exofficio" (non-voting member) as there are no other non-voting members. No motions were made as this is an evolving issue that will be up for discussion in future meetings.

b. Finances - Birgit reviewed treasurer report and brought up 2 immediate concerns

1. that CCA needs a CPA asap to complete the non-profit taxes which are due mid May, and likely a filing extension will be needed
2. that our entire accounting system needs to be revamped as our funds and sub-funds have complexities that Quickbooks is not adequate to manage

She also expressed concerns about recent bank collapses and questioned whether we need a diversification strategy so we don't risk having our assets frozen and being cash strapped.

Chris- noted that our assets are distributed in accounts that are FDIC insured

David- suggested contacting another non-profit, and soliciting names of possible CPA candidates

Katie- clarified that though an enlisted CPA would set up a new system, that Birgit would continue to manage treasury responsibility

Barbara/Karen- suggested Birgit file for tax extension asap, to which she agreed

Kai- questioned whether tax person needs to be local

MOTION: Barbara Clark, second by Tom Talbott

David Omick will contact Peter Else and get the name of LSPWA tax preparer and whether that person would be willing to take on another organization for the purpose of tax preparation only. The board can approve the outcome of the inquiry to expedite tax completion. Motion unanimously approved.

The CCA board will seek quotes and availability from various sources regarding the revamping of the structure of financial accounting prior to the next meeting. David suggested Pearl and Birgit informally confer with David Blocker for suggestions and direction, as it is important that Birgit is comfortable with the system.

MOTION: Katie Talbott, second by Tom Talbott

The membership agrees that the board can move forward with this, if a suitable candidate is found. Motion passed unanimously.

3. McGinnis-Verbance land

Katie read an email sent March 7, 2023 in which our offer of \$77,000 was rejected. Discussion ensued regarding strategy going forward, including letting our offer stand vs taking it off the table. Concerns were expressed regarding an investment buyer coming forward, and the need to maintain conservation values for that property. Suggestions included whether the possibility of a conservation easement being acquired prior to sale or giving CCA first right of refusal might be considered. Questions were raised as to whether prospective buyers are being apprised of the realities on the ground such as no water supply, cows periodically on range, and road erosion due to flooding.

CONSENSUS / ACTION: Katie will write a response and convey that the CCA offer stands for now and add inquiry about above expressed concerns.

c. Baicatcan land committee

1. John and Erik reported that the agave project is progressing with the help of multiple volunteers. 175 agaves are ready for transplantation in October. Siting is still under discussion but leaning toward the upper runway.
2. John reported that ASW is looking at emerging technologies from Capella Space involving data capturing and background imaging via satellite and

whether Baicatcan would be an appropriate site for utilizing this technology. (There was lengthy inquiry and discussion regarding this which is not included here due to CCA being informed subsequent to the meeting that Baicatcan would not be under consideration for this)

d. Saguaro-Juniper

Katie announced that S-J has been approved by UA Agriculture extension service as a host site for agricultural apprentices. The calves are getting big and everyone is happy!

3. CONSERVATION PROGRAM

a. *See attached summary report read by Anna*

MOTION: Anna Lands, second John Welch

Membership authorizes the Conservation Committee to sign onto the Center for Biological Diversity's protest to the SunZia EIS if it matches CCA concerns.

Motion unanimously approved.

- b. The Conservation Committee made an application to the board for funds from the Meador endowment fund to create a GoFundMe site to support SunZia opposition. The board approved funding Edith Robinson and Marissa Katz at \$16 per hour up to \$200 per month each through May to accomplish this goal. Kai is actively involved with this and introduced information regarding how fundraising circle of influence works and stressed that this is a 1-2 year long term fundraising effort. Asked for CCA members to check in regarding this and emphasized the need to avoid stagnation in our fundraising efforts.

4. HERMITAGE PROGRAM (Susan) *see attached report*

- a. Sojourner report- there are 3 sojourners scheduled for March and 3 for April. The caravan is essentially up and running and the first sojourner is scheduled for the end of March. Sabbatical Gathering for February included the goats! Sabbatical Gathering for March was canceled due to Susan being away for a family emergency. The Hermitage Program is sponsoring a Field Trip with Naturalist Ralph Walcott in Hot Springs Wash (rescheduled from earlier date to March 25)

5. GARDEN/ORCHARD PROGRAM (Gail)

- a. The garden is in transition from its living soil experiment. Gardeners are fighting a lot of grasses.

- b. Garden Party! Scheduled for April 7, 2023

6. EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Update on UA internships. Tom and Andrew are available to advise those wishing to pursue having UA internships in Cascabel. Currently Susan Tollefson and Dina Kagan are pursuing internships through the UA RISE program (Resilience Internships and Student Experiences)

MOTION: Tom Talbott, second Andrew Volz

That the education fund be reactivated to provide some compensation for internship needs, and managed by an advisory committee of interested parties.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. NEXT MEETING: **Saturday, September 9 from 3:00-5:00 PM at the CCC** with Zoom option