**SAVE Meeting Minutes reviewed July 30**

Thursday, June 23, 2016, 12pm Pacific (3pm Eastern)

Conference call at 605-475-4700.

Participants: Derek (in Washington DC), Fiona (in California), Marcia and Randy (in North Carolina).

**1. LA205 studio project**

The latest spoonbill collaboration between SAVE and UCB/LAEP was held during the spring semester, between March 28 to April 27. Its focus was the land around Xinghua Bay in Fujian Province, Fuzhou Prefecture, a non-designated Ramsar site which is significant because of the number of BFS who use it during migration. There is a government-approved plan for "Fuzhou New Area" which calls for intensive urban and industrial development in and around a reserve where spoonbills gather.

Derek and Barbara Butler attended the final review on April 27, representing SAVE. Derek was impressed with the scope of analysis and the quality of the graphics, but was concerned that there wasn't a strong enough conclusion (recommendations for land-use policy). John Radke and Matt Kondolf have authorized one of the students to compile the work and write a summary report. Derek offered to review the draft report and offer suggestions on strengthening the recommendations.

Marcia reminded us that this is a good opportunity for SAVE to get a foot in the door in another part of China. (See the good work from Shanghai/Chongming, with Shan and his team.) We shouldn't let the students' work languish.

Marcia also mentioned that she and Randy haven’t seen the final student work (they couldn’t participate in the review), could not download what John Radke sent, and is confused about where the work is being archived.

Action item (Randy): Ask John/Matt for an update on the report [Update: Randy did so. John says Cristina Bejarano is working on the report and plans to submit a draft in early July.]

Action item (Derek): Review the draft report and hone the argument.

Action item (Derek): Finish downloading student work into SAVE’s Box.

Action item not discussed at the time (Marcia): Contact Professor Xiang Zhang, who participated in the studio, to see if there is any news.

**2. Taiwan report**

Marcia sent a report to the SAVE email list about the trip.

Pin-Han is "embedded" at Budai, along with Fuchang and Hsiao-Wen of course. They are working to expand the designation of the Budai Salt Pan Wetland.

Director Cheng Rong-fong at the National Scenic area is still a bad influence. He is spreading false rumors that the proposed wetland-management plans (mandated by the National Wetlands Act) will kill local jobs. He is still pushing for construction of the "Diamond Church" tourist attraction. Fuchang and John Liu are working on their contacts in the Ministry of Transportation (home to Tourism and National Scenic Areas) to address Cheng’s menace.

At Jiading, Kun-Hai and Jen are continuing to lead the effort to protect the wetland. Kaoshiung City has launched a new EIA for Road 1-4. The attorney who sued about the road now has a high-level appointment in the central government, and we hope he can be a resource. Further, former Legislator Tien now has a central government position. And Pin-Han has direct connections to Mayor Chen. SAVE needs to be prepared to act when the time is right.

Action item not discussed at the time (Marcia): Contact Pin-Han and Po-Hsiu to see if there is any news.

Hsiao-Wen has asked SAVE to write a letter to the president and legislators, urging more funding and support for the National Wetlands Act. This includes the importance of science-based planning (not just local economic development pressure), legal enforcement, and expansion/upgrading of designations from "local importance" to "national importance" where spoonbills or other endangered wildlife are present. Right now, the responsibility for managing wetlands has fallen to the county governments, but there is no funding, "no carrot and no stick" incentives for protection, and some counties oppose protecting wetlands (as at Jiading, with Kaohsiung County and Road 1-4). Our letter can point out the proven economic benefits of environmental protection over the last 20 years.

Action item (Randy, Derek, Hsiao-Wen): Write to the president and legislators. Randy to draft; Derek and Hsiao-Wen to review.

**3. newsletter**

Wait until we have more news to include. We can also include an executive summary or excerpt of the new report on the LA205 work, a summary of the updated geometries research, and a new pin. (The last 2 pins have been very popular.)

**4. research grant: Farrand fund**

Tami bought 2 sets of equipment (rangefinders etc.) and gave them to Marcia in April along with the protocols for working with the equipment in 2-person teams, right before she had her baby. The idea was that Marcia and Randy, and maybe some NCKU students, would test the protocols in Taiwan. But there were no spoonbills and no time during the NCKU short course.

Tadao and Pin-Han will be in the US for a year starting late summer – Tadao in Berkeley, Pin-Han in Virginia. It is our idea to test the protocols in Berkeley with Tadao and in Virginia with Pin-Han to see if they could then take the method back to their groups and collect data. Marcia will send one set of equipment to Fiona.

Action item (Marcia): Send one set of equipment to Fiona.

Action item (Fiona, Tadao, and others in Berkeley): Work with the equipment in Berkeley. Test Tami's draft protocols and make changes as needed.

**5. budget**

Marcia reported that SAVE had $5,300 in its account. If we get a typical level of contributions from members during the year, this should be enough to send 2 SAVE members to the Democratic Design Conference in Hong Kong (December), as well as to produce new SAVE pins, mail newsletters and pins to our members, and produce a new wetland report. We should not need to conduct another intensive fundraising campaign on IndieGoGo or with a live event.

Action item (Marcia): Draft a budget for Earth Island by July 1. [Update: Done.]

Action item (Derek or other?): Ask Jeff Hou to allow us to submit an abstract for the conference, even though the deadlines have passed.

Action item (Derek and Fiona): Determine if they can go to the Pacific Rim conference in Hong Kong.

**6. future roles**

SAVE's main active members in the US are Marcia & Randy, Fiona, and Derek. Tami's new baby takes priority but she will help SAVE when she can. Kushal has also offered to help.

Yekang is about to move from Texas to Oregon, with a new faculty position at the University of Oregon. This will bring her back to the Pacific Rim and into an environment more supportive of ecological issues. (The U. of Oregon is one of 5 or 6 universities that got a federal grant for environmental studies, which Yekang will lead.) She hopes to attract support for SAVE among students or faculty at the university.

Pin-Han and Fuchang are active on wetland/spoonbill issues in Taiwan, and Matsumoto, Masato, Tadao, and Team SPOON are active in Japan. If/when SAVE sees opportunities, they are all ready to help.

**7. geometries research matrix**

Randy cannot work on the summary until the fall but is still committed to doing it. (See minutes from January meeting -- Fiona's matrix from our Nov 22 working session, Derek's offer to write a report, with help/review from Randy.)

Action item (Derek?????): Draft the report.

**8. New York Times article**

Action item (Fiona, Derek, Marcia). Fiona will draft a letter to the author of the recent article about the crane in Taiwan which mentioned the BFS. Derek and Marcia will send Fiona sample ‘outreach’ letters to reporters.

**9. next meeting**

Thursday, August 11, at noon Pacific (3pm Eastern).

Bay-Area location TBD. Be sure to include Yekang, Tami, Tadao, Pin-Han, and Kushal.