**SAVE Meeting Minutes reviewed Feb 4**

Sunday, January 31, 2016, 10am Pacific (1pm Eastern)

Location: Fiona's house, Oakland

Attending: Derek (scribe), Fiona, Tami; by phone Joleen Tseng, Marcia, Randy.

**1. approve meeting minutes from November 22**

All were in favor of approving the minutes.

**2. Joleen's trip to Taiwan**

Joleen was in Taiwan and met with Po-Hsiu and Kun-Hai.

Po-Hsiu met with her at the BFSA office, where Joleen helped with their annual bird count. There were some BFS at ponds 1, 2, 9, and 10. Marcia asked for a map of the ponds, to see how these relate to the airstrip. Volunteers at the BFSA office gave Joleen a tour; the place features not only BFS, but also community activities, a hostel, bike-share, and local crafts. Mr. Wu showed his new app for reporting and tracking BFS by their colored leg-bands.

Kun-Hai Lin showed Joleen around Jiading. There are fewer BFS at Jiading this year. They are more numerous at a different site [where?], despite more people being at that other site.

At our November meeting, she said she was planning to return in the spring, but now she doesn't think she will. She enjoyed the trip overall, but felt limited by her lack of proficiency with Taiwanese language. She thinks our allies there need political help (and nuanced/persuasive language) more than scientific.

Action item (Joleen?): Send Marcia a map of the ponds where she saw the spoonbills.

**3. research grant: Farrand fund**

Kushal and Randy got the Farrand grant, after all. We thought they didn't.

The grant will pay for 8 rangefinders. Who will buy them and how will they be reimbursed?

Now what? Marcia suggests preparing protocols for the local people to follow in Taiwan when measuring and mapping BFS geometries. Maybe Joleen could help draft or review the protocols, or ask her friends from International Crane Foundation to review. Tami suggested a system of keeping records in the field on a table -- location of observer, distance and direction to BFS, behavior observed -- which could then be mapped. We could ask the LA205 students to test and refine these protocols on a studio day. Could this happen before the BFS leave Taiwan to fly north? If not, we probably have to wait until the BFS return to Taiwan and Japan, since we don't have good enough contacts with locals in Korea to map the summer geometries.

Action item (Tami): Write a letter to Marcia explaining the need to buy equipment soon in order to draft and test the protocols while they are in Berkeley (March-April).

**4. Taiwan update**

Marcia has been following the political situation. Issues in Taiwan include the airstrip, elevating Jiading Wetland to "national importance", stopping Road 1-4 at Jiading, and stopping the inappropriate development at the National Scenic Area (NSA).

The lawsuit by Kun-Hai Lin's group (Kaohsiung Wild Bird Society) seems to have stopped Road 1-4, but the judge's decision is complicated and is only in Chinese so far. Marcia will ask Wenling to read and report in the decision. Randy said this is a rare time when judicial action in Taiwan has stopped a project on environmental grounds -- usually it happens through legislative action.

Marcia has a list of people to notify about the decision. We should also update the SAVE website and write a blurb for IslandWire.

We don't know the status of the "National Importance". Terrence Lee was our point-person but he is now in school in the Netherlands. We should email his replacement for the latest info.

At the NSA, the new "Glass Slipper" building is part of the development trend of marriage/romance. It seems cheesy to us and is probably of poor/non-durable construction. The "Diamond Church" is also proposed, possibly at the village of Haomeiliao.

Taiwan has a new president, and our sympathetic legislator has termed out. The DPP controls the presidency and legislature for the first time. We should write to the president and new legislator: hi, we're SAVE, this is what we do, we want to work with you.

Randy thinks the DPP supports "development" of any kind at the National Scenic Area, so we risk alienating them if we complain. We should pick our battles and not object to it, as long as it doesn't impair BFS habitat (roosting, foraging, and loafing, and even sites of potential habitat value).

Action item (Derek): Draft the letter to the president and legislator.

Action item (Marcia): Forward the judge's decision about Road 1-4 to Wenling. [Update as of Feb 5: Done.]

Action item (Marcia): Draft the IslandWire blurb.

Action item (Derek?): Update the website.

**5. research matrix**

Fiona has transferred the contents of the matrix from our Nov 22 meeting into a spreadsheet. It would be useful as a shared document, which we can fill in as we (SAVE, as well as LA205 students) learn more.

Randy suggests writing a report (8-12 pages) that summarizes what we found in the research, which we would send to our contacts and the researchers themselves, for review/additions/corrections. He could draft it but probably not until summer. Maybe Derek will have time to draft it before then. The earlier, the better.

Some of the research that Randy read was about the Eurasian spoonbill, and Marcia found a report from 1983 assessing habitat for the roseate spoonbill. Could we infer things about BFS based on the research on these other species? For example, Malcolm hypothesized a foraging distance of 30km for the BFS in the fight against Bin-nan; did he assume this distance from what was known about the other spoonbill species?

Marcia will ask Joelle Buffa, SAVE member and wildlife specialist at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge to ask whether we could apply data about the roseate spoonbill to BFS.

Action item (Fiona): Upload the matrix as a Google Doc or other shared file format.

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

Action item (Marcia): Contact Joelle.

**6. LA205 studio project**

The spoonbill module will be March 28 to April 27. Mid-review on April 18. We still don't know much about the site in China that will be the subject, but we hope John Radke and Yang Ju know more.

Marcia and Randy will be in Berkeley from March 28 to April 6. (They will return to North Carolina for a few weeks, and then go to Taiwan for the first two weeks of May. They might visit China before then, in late April. This will depend on whether Yang or the Chinese professor will be there at that time.)

Should Derek introduce himself and SAVE at the final review of the first project, on March 16, before the students go on spring break?

Action item (Marcia): Ask John/Matt whether Derek should speak on March 16. [Update as of Feb 5: Done. Yes.]

**7. budget update**

Marcia reported that SAVE had $5,843.91 in its account as of December 31. We received five donations of $500, and donations from some people who have been on the SAVE mailing list for a long time but had not donated before. Marcia credits the latest newsletter, with articles contributed from SAVE members and allies around the world, and edited/composed by Fiona.

We are well positioned to send SAVE members and students to the Democratic Design conference in Hong Kong in December. We will probably need to raise more funds, through IndieGoGo and/or a live event, as we did two years ago.

**8. Earth Island update**

Marcia went through the 3-hour "harassment training" session required of all Earth Island projects. We owe her a drink the next time we see her.

See above under "Taiwan update" for our plan to submit an IslandWire blurb about the judge's decision about Road 1-4 at Jiading.

**9. next meeting**

Sunday, February 28, at 10am Pacific (1pm Eastern).

Bay-Area location TBD.