

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Conference Call ● March 6, 2019 ● 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. MST

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- ✓ Jenifer Wisniewski (TN, President, Conference Co-Chair, Auction)
- ✓ Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- ✓ Lance Cherry (NM, Vice President)
- ✓ Sara DiRienzo (WY, Secretary, Scholarships)
- ✓ Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- ✓ Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- ✓ Mandy Futey (NJ, Board)
- ✓ Jason Harmon (TN, Board)
- ✓ Darrin Hill (OK, Board)
- ✓ Micah Homes (OK, Ways & Means)
- ✓ Kim Nix (AL, Past President)
- ✓ Alix Pedraza (SC, Board)
- ✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, Awards)
- ✓ Nadia Reimer (KS, Board)
- ✓ Craig Sanchez (NM, Board)
- ✓ Amanda Stroud (SC, Conference Co-Chair)

Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)
- ✓ Kyle Martens (NE, Board)
- ✓ Dan Dennison (HI, Board)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

MOTION: Kim Nix moved to approve the Jan. 2, 2019 board meeting minutes, with an amendment. Lance Cherry seconded the motion.

VOTE: Voice vote taken. All present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, President
Submit your ACI awards!

ITEM NO. 5: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

Membership: Recruitment slows after the beginning of the year. Received an application from Louisiana for a dues waiver. The next issue of Balance Wheel will send on March 15. Facebook is promoting for the contest, next will be for judge recruitment and the conference itself. Subscribers have dropped a little to listserv due to changing positions; only a handful unsubscribed.

MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber moved to accept the waiver request from Louisiana. Craig Sanchez seconded the motion.

VOTE: Voice vote taken. All present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM NO. 6: Treasurer's Report.

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

Judy is working on routine paperwork for tax purposes. ACI provided Scott Ball a 1099 for tax purposes in accordance with required deadlines and we filed our corporate annual report with the state of Wyoming. ACI was incorporated in Wyoming in April of 1984. These expenses will be reimbursed to the Treasurer in the near future. Federal Tax form (990 postcard) is filed in July.

We are still waiting for one membership payment from Washington. With Louisiana approved, ACI now has 49 members for the year. After years of trying to recruit, Delaware is interested in becoming a new member! We are working to get in the last dues and awards payments, and expect to send out the FY 19-20 memberships and awards invoices in June. Membership year is July 1 to June 30. Scott Ball purchased an individual membership for Bonnie Holding. Our current assets total \$113,578.06.

- ACI made the first quarterly payment for services to the Treasurer (10218). Check is made payable to Judy's LLC, *Wildlife Conservation Partners*.
- We zeroed out the balance we had been carrying in the PayPal account. Since we do not pay bills from that account we don't need a balance (PP Transfer). This will give a more accurate picture of ACI finances and represents proper financial transactions and tracking of what goes into and out of PayPal.

ITEM NO. 7: 2019 ACI Annual Conference (Georgia/South Carolina).

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski and Amanda Stroud, Conference Co-Chair

Georgia, South Carolina and Jenifer are working to finalize the agenda. They added a ghost tour-\$25 for optional add-on for Tuesday night, for about 60 folks. The majority of speakers are in place. The auction theme is *Did you know?* Still looking for auctioneer, presenter for "How to be a better PIO" session and a presenter for "Crisis communications" session. Send any ideas to Amanda. Breakout sessions will be facilitated by ACI board members—thanks for volunteering to Sara, Darrin and Lance! Excursions are finalized. Awards ceremony is back to dressy this year. Wednesday is planned for group photo. Auction items will be posted on website again this year. There will also be the option to buy raffle tickets before the conference.

Send auction items to:

Sarah Hanson
2067 US Highway 278 SE
Social Circle, GA 30025

ITEM NO. 8: Auction and Sponsorship Report.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, President and Auction Chair

At this time, there is \$16,000 from sponsors so far and auction items coming in. South Carolina will cover full cost of the registration gift for \$2,400.

ITEM NO. 9: Awards Report.

Presented by Blake Podhajsky, Awards Chair

Awards submission is in week 5. Deadline to enter is March 15. There are 54 submitted to date and hoping for 400 more! Group chairs are ACI members. Sixty-one judges volunteered thus but more needed. Some volunteers are not able to judge because of the categories their state entered. Send ideas for judges to Blake. Blake will send a list out of currently judges list. This is the last year using this

contest provider because of huge increase in costs. Judging will begin the first week in April with about seven weeks to complete the task.

There are three new categories this year. Photography category was broken into sections that are more manageable. Blake asked for board approval for these changes.

MOTION: Jenifer Wisniewski moved to approve the new four photography categories for the ACI awards. Darrin Hill seconded the motion.

VOTE: Voice vote taken. All present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM NO. 10: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

Kay is reviewing the entire futures list (and the maybe list!) and following up with committed hosts.

Futures list:

- 2020 New Mexico
- 2021 New Jersey
- 2022 North Carolina Resources Commission
- 2023 Pennsylvania Game Commission
- 2024 Michigan.

ITEM NO. 11: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Sara DiRienzo, Secretary and Scholarship Chair

The scholarship application is being updated. Kim Nix volunteered to help as new co-chair to review applications. The priority for awarding scholarships will be to new states and first-time attendees.

Last year we awarded 15 conference and 1 lifetime member scholarships. The number this year could vary, but we can determine after seeing the breadth of applications. This year, the cost is \$552/room and registration is \$350. Last year, ACI paid \$11,446 in scholarships.

ITEM NO. 12: Ways and Means Report.

Presented by Micah Holmes, Board Member and Ways and Means Chair

Nothing to report.

ITEM NO. 13: New Business.

Jenifer reported on the position structure survey facilitated last year. Results of the survey are coming soon to distribute via Balance Wheel. Matt Harlow could present on it at the conference.

The next board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 10-11 a.m. MDT.**

ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment.

MOTION: Sara DiRienzo moved to adjourn. Darrin Hill seconded the motion.

VOTE: Voice vote taken. All present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion carried unanimously.**

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at **10:27 a.m. MST.**

Submitted by Sara DiRienzo, Secretary