

Association for Conservation Information
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – **OFFICIAL**
Via Conference Call

March 2, 2011

Officers Present: Scott Ball (FL), president; Don King (TN), vice-president; Judith Hosafros (WY), secretary; Chuck Schlueter (SD), treasurer.

Board Members Present: Michael Gray (KY), Don Cash (TX), Lindsay Deering (OH), Jeff Williams (AR), David Lane (OR), Amanda Stroud (SC), Laura MacLean (DC)

Others in Attendance: Dottie Head, *TBW* editor; Jeff Eschler, Webmaster; Kay Ellerhoff, conference futures

Unable to Attend: Micah Holmes (OK), board member; Nels Rodefeld (OK), Immediate Past President; Kristina Summers (GA). Technically, Kristina is no longer a board member, because she no longer works for a member agency. President Ball invited her to the March 2 call, but she cannot vote and will not count toward a quorum.

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes: President Ball called the teleconference to order. A motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2010, was made by Lindsay Deering. Don Cash seconded the motion. Motion passed with a rousing “YO!”

Treasurer’s Report, Chuck Schlueter: All bills are paid and up to date. Bob Wines, former treasurer, transferred \$10,000 from the West Virginia bank account. Current balance in the South Dakota bank account is \$8,557. Everything was transferred to Treasurer Schlueter. IRS paperwork has changed, and other paperwork changes will take place in June 2011.

Old Business:

ACI’s Website: Lindsay Deering made an offer for Ohio to host ACI’s website. It would be added to Ohio’s server. Currently, we pay Jeff Eschler \$4,000/year to maintain and monitor the website. This transition may save costs and would mean terminating Jeff’s services. President Ball opened for discussion: Consensus was to save where we can and review this topic again at the board’s meeting at the conference in Cincinnati, OH, in July 2011.

Amendment to Policies and Procedures—filling mid-term vacancies of officers, board members: Kay Ellerhoff asked if there is a standing nominating committee. President Ball said there is no standing committee; the president appoints such a committee. He also said we should avoid vacancies. Ms. Ellerhoff suggested appointing an ad hoc committee in advance of a conference

to carry through to the next conference. Don Cash made a motion to accept Ms. Ellerhoff's suggestion and appoint an ad hoc committee. Laura MacLean seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President Ball will locate the most recent version of the bylaws (contact Micah Holmes, Nels Rodefeld).

Amendment to Bylaws—Awards Contest (entry fees, other rules): President Ball discussed proposed fee increases from \$20 to \$30 per entry and rule changes submitted to the board by Kim Nix, via email. Language must be changed to say (something to this effect) "...shall provide the numbers one through three winners in each awards category with a plaque or certificate..." Following further discussion, Laura MacLean moved to update awards contest language and increase fees from \$20 to \$30. Chuck Schlueter seconded the motion. Motion passed. (Revised Bylaw [Article 10. Committees (b)(3)(c)] is attached.)

New Business:

Update on ACI Awards Contest—Kim Nix: Ms. Nix inquired about adequate funding for first- through third- place awards. Lindsay Deering found a source to produce awards a lot cheaper than in the past. Discussion continued with consensus to keep costs down.

Chuck Schlueter checked budget for funds for awards. President Ball will research past budgets to check costs for awards. It was agreed to keep costs reasonable. Lindsay Deering estimates \$1,000 (2010-2011) under a budget line item. She will get more information from the vendors.

The board agreed to table discussion until more information is available.

Update on 2011 Conference, Cincinnati, OH—Lindsay Deering: Lindsay says things are rolling along; the agenda is filling in quickly. The 2011 conference theme is "Conservation Information in 3D, Diversity—Dimension—Development" over three days. Lodging rates are \$79+tax/night. Monday evening event at the Cincinnati Zoo. Sponsors have signed on. Auction will have a tailgate theme of some kind; still working on banquet details. Ms. Deering needs volunteers for the auction (Steve WILD MAN Wilson? Micah Holmes?)

Registration fees will be flexible. And scholarships will be available. Agenda and other items will be on website by mid- to late March. President Ball encourages getting the word out.

Discussion ensued regarding agency budget cuts.

President Ball (on behalf of Robin Thomas who was not in attendance) reviewed "scenarios" for scholarship allocation (see attachment). Ball asked Lindsay and

Robin to form a committee to discuss scholarships. Don King, Michael Gray were appointed.

2012 Conference and Conference Futures—Kay Ellerhoff: National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) is the proposed site for the July 2012 conference (Selma Flynn, NCTC contact). Kay has serious reservations that we can pull off a conference at NCTC. There is a lengthy application to complete. Craig Rieben is retiring; Steve Hildebrand has retired and others are no longer there. We may have to find another venue.

Kay will check with Doug/Jake in Nevada; maybe Texas? South Dakota? Nebraska? New Hampshire? Granite Ranch? AZ? She encourages board members to consider other sources.

Membership Committee, brochure: Tabled.

FTP site for housing large files (e.g., materials related to Awards Contest winners): Tabled.

Final comments: Lindsay Deering: OH wants to have awards submissions displayed. Don King: Don commended President Ball's meeting organization.

With no further business to discuss, Chuck Schlueter moved to adjourn teleconference; Michael Gray seconded the motion. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Judith Hosafros, Secretary