

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Conference Call ● September 13, 2016 ● 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. CST by President Kim Nix.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- Kim Nix (AL, President)
- Jenifer Wisniewski (GA, Vice President, Membership)
- Lance Cherry (NM, Secretary)
- Judy Stokes Weber (NH, Treasurer)
- Micah Homes (OK, Past President, Ways & Means)
- Michael Gray (KY, Board, Scholarships)
- Jane Gustafson (NE, Board)
- Aaron Meier (NV, Board)
- Blake Podhajsky (OK, Board)
- Mandy DiMartino (NJ, Board)
- Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)
- Joanie Straub (MO, Board)
- Bonnie Holding (ME, Board)
- Julie Hammonds (AZ, Awards)
- Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- Phil Bloom (IN, Conference)

Unable to Attend:

- Randy Zellers (AR, Auction)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

Minutes from the July 11, 2016 Board Meeting and July 14, 2016 Business Meeting where changed to reflect corrections requested by Kay Ellerhoff.

MOTION: Bonnie Holding moved to approve the July 11, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes and the July 14, 2016 Business Meeting Minutes from Lake Tahoe, NV. Jane Gustafson seconded the motion.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Discussion on Selecting New Membership Communications Chair.

Presented by Kim Nix, President:

Kim Nix welcomed Scott Ball as ACI's new Membership Communications Chair. Scott has begun working on the new issue of the Balance Wheel. At this time he has received 10 stories and plans to spread them out over two or three issues. Michael Gray indicated that he has a few more and will forward them.

NEW ITEM: 2017 ACI Annual Conference (Nevada).

Update requested by Kim Nix, President:

Aaron Meier reported this year's conference expenses included approximately \$57.6 to Harrah's, \$4k to MS Dixie, \$700 for auction items, \$3k for speaker fees, \$850 for hospitality beverages. Sponsorships brought in \$31.4k and \$32k for the auction. After the conference bills are settled, an estimated \$6k will be returned to ACI. Final reports are due 90 days after the conference.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: 2017 ACI Annual Conference (Indiana).

Presented by Phil Bloom, 2017 Conference Chair:

The 2017 ACI Annual Conference will be July 9-13, 2017, at Abe Martin Lodge at Brown County State Park in Indiana. The State Park is approximately a one-hour drive from Indianapolis. The theme will be storytelling and will cover a variety of topics including magazine writing, photography and social media.

A hotel on the premises has a restaurant that will cater all the meals. The board meeting will be held on Sunday. Monday will be the ACI Auction Banquet, Tuesday will be the field trip day with dinner on your own and Wednesday will be the Annual ACI Awards Banquet.

Phil Bloom also indicated that they plan to continue use of Cindy Delaney for conference registration. Indiana is still looking into a shuttle solution for conference attendees, from the airport to the state park.

Indiana was this year's host state for the 2016 National Association of State Park Directors (NASPD) conference, which was held in French Lick, IN. Phil Bloom participated in the conference and learned some valuable tips on picking up sponsors.

At this time Indiana is requesting the \$5,000 seed funds for the 2017 ACI Conference. The check should be made out to the Indiana Natural Resources Foundation, who will serve as the fiscal agent for the conference.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair:

The following states are slated to host future ACI Annual Conferences: 2018 Missouri, 2019 Hawaii, 2020 New Mexico, 2021 New Jersey, 2022, Georgia/South Carolina, 2023 Oklahoma.

The following states have expressed interest in hosting the ACI Annual Conference in the future: Pennsylvania, Iowa, Washington, Oregon and Michigan.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: 2018 ACI Annual Conference (Missouri).

Presented by Joanie Straub, Board Member and 2018 Conference Chair:

Joanie Straub reported that Missouri is excited to host the 2018 1ACI and looking forward to showcasing Missouri. Missouri's conference committee has met and is working to determine the location. St. Louis and Springfield top the list as potential locations. One advantage to Springfield is Bass Pro will be opening their new museum and have offered to host some of the ACI events.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Awards Committee.

Presented by Julie Hammonds, Awards Committee Chair:

Julie Hammonds provided the Board with a report to review prior to the meeting on taking ACI's annual awards contest online using a vendor developed, custom software platform. The report provided a cost and services comparison between Omnicontests and OpenWater.

Based on lower cost and ability to meet the criteria, Julie Hammonds recommended the ACI Board select Omnicontests as the vendor. Omnicontests offers a 30-day trial and will refund the money if the ACI Board is not satisfied.

MOTION: Jenifer Wisniewski moved to approve Omnicontests as the vendor for the online contest. Jane Gustafson seconded the motion.

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

President Kim Nix requested Julie Hammonds reach out to the list of members who indicated an interested in participating in the online contest, obtained from the 2016 Annual ACI Conference in Lake Tahoe, to establish a formal committee to assist with tasks to run the contest and provide support for category chairs.

Additionally, it was requested that the proposed changes to categories be discussed with the new online contest committee and be reported back to the ACI Board at a meeting on a later date.

Julie Hammonds requested Board members send any additional concerns, thoughts or ideas to her by email, jhammonds@azgfd.gov.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Membership Recruitment Report.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Vice President and Membership Chair:

Jenifer Wisniewski is beginning work on updating the membership directory.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Treasurer's Report.

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer:

Membership renewals have been paid by: Alabama, AREA, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Nebraska Forest Service (waiver), New Jersey, Texas, and Utah. At this time most of the billing has been sent to the current membership. Checks have been written for expenses including; Scholarship room payments, reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses, CPA review costs and Article 9 services. Judy Stokes Weber completed the required paperwork for PayPal to reduce transaction fees.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Michael Gray, Board Member and Scholarship Chair:

Michael Gray is currently working on an outline for the scholarship process to assist others in the future. Michael Gray agreed to continue serving as the Scholarship Chair. There were no additional items to report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Auction Report.

Presented by Randy Zellers, Auction Chair:

Randy Zellers emailed there are no items to report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Ways and Means Report.

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

Micah Holmes is currently attending the 106th Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA and gave a brief overview of ACI to the Education, Outreach and Diversity (EOD) Committee. The presentation was well received and discussions are on going on how the EOD Committee can collaborate with ACI. Also, a campaign manager has been named for The National Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources Blue Ribbon Panel. Watch for the announcement in the future.

ITEM NO. 15: Update on the ACI Website Migration to from static HTML to WordPress.

Presented by Lance Cherry, Secretary

Access to the ACI host account and domain account has been successfully obtained. The host, hosting4less, will complete the WordPress install sometime today, Sept. 13, 2016. Once completed Lance Cherry will begin migrating the existing static html site into the new format. The existing site has been backed-up to provide access if needed in the future.

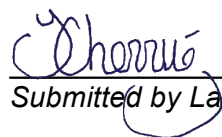
ITEM NO. 16: New Business.

The Board entertained a request by Dan Dennison, to adjust the future meeting times to avoid an ongoing scheduling conflict and time zone issue. The board agreed unanimously to make the adjustment and moved all future meeting two hours earlier.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. MST, Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Adjournment.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. MDT.



Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary