

Association for Conservation Information

BUSINESS MEETING

July 10, 2014

Nebraska City, Nebraska

1. ACI President Don King called the meeting to order at 8:46 am
2. President King recognized ACI officers and board members present: Vice-President Micah Holmes, Kathy Garza-Behr, Phil Bloom, Tom Cadden, Regina Knauer.
3. V-P Holmes conducted membership roll call: members present were Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation, and Marianne Burke.
4. Treasurer Judy Stokes-Weber provided an abbreviated report, stating that the full report would be posted online. She noted that the organization is strong financially, citing fiscal responsibility over the past few years that left ACI with \$75,500 in its treasury. She thank past treasurers for doing a great job stewarding ACI's fiscal resources. She noted that dues bills and any awards payments will be sent and asked members to process payment promptly. She added that with the conservative approach in recent years, ACI is looking to invest more in the organization by investing more in its members. She mentioned the current Travel Scholarship program and noted that V-P Holmes would address a new initiative.

V-P Holmes outlined the work of a committee appointed to explore options for using proceeds from a Certificate of Deposit that had matured in the past year. The committee's proposal to the board was to use a portion of those funds to get more people to conference. The Travel Scholarship would remain as is, but ACI would reach out to states that had not attended conference in awhile and offer stipends to underwrite attendance at the 2015 conference in Flagstaff, Ariz. He asked for questions and there were none.

Treasurer Stokes-Weber distributed copies of the proposed budget and asked for questions.

Audit Committee members Kathy Garza-Behr and Marianne Burke reported that the ACI financial books are in order and the organization's finances are healthy.

President King asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lance Cherry (New Mexico) moved, Regina Knauer (Missouri) second. Motion passed.

5. Nominating Committee: Chair Scott Ball announced that the committee (himself, Rachel Bradley and Kathy Garza-Behr) recruited five candidates to fill three board of director vacancies -- Michael Gray (Kentucky), Jane Gustafson (Nebraska), Aaron Meier (Nevada), Blake Podhajsky (Oklahoma) and Amanda Stroud (South Carolina) – and a slate of three officer candidates – Micah Holmes, president; Robin Cahoon, vice-president; and Kim Nix, secretary. He noted that each agency has one vote. Ballots were distributed.

6. Committee Reports:
 - a. Auction Committee: Randy Zellers thanked the Nebraska organizing committee for assistance in selling auction tickets, Stephen “Wildman” Wilson for being auctioneer, and Amanda Stroud for assisting with setup. He reported the auction grossed \$4,022; higher than last year but short of the high mark (\$7,000 in Nashville). He urged members to contact one vendor in their state for donations to next year’s auction.
 - b. Balance Wheel: Randy Zellers reported that initial efforts to produce a monthly publication morphed into a bimonthly product due to lack of information. He reported 256 current subscribers. He instructed anyone not receiving Balance Wheel to contact him so names can be added to the email list. He also asked members to check the directory on the website to see if information is current. If not, contact Jeff Eschler with updates.
 - c. Awards Report: Kim Nix reported the ACI Contest had a record 393 entries. She noted the awards committee met Tuesday and plans to look at all category descriptions to ensure they are understandable. Also, the committee will look into online entry submissions for some categories. She said it’s not too early to think about volunteering to be a category chair for next year’s contest. She introduced Julie Hammonds (Arizona) as the contest chair for next year.

President King thank Kim Nix for her years of service as contest chair and expressed appreciation to Julie Hammonds for stepping up as Kim’s successor.

- d. Future Conference Sites: Kay Ellerhoff reported that the list of future conference site possibilities includes Alabama, Grant Ranch (Jackson Hole, Wyo.), Indiana, Iowa, Oregon, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. She noted a lineup of Missouri (2016), Nevada (2017) and New Hampshire (2018) as tentative destinations.

Regina Knauer reported that the proposed site for 2016 is Springfield, Mo. Tom Cadden provided details of the 2015 conference, scheduled for July 13-17 at the High Country Conference Center/Drury Inn & Suites in Flagstaff, Ariz. He envisions the conference agenda being Tuesday and Thursday in Flagstaff, with

attendees traveling to the Grand Canyon for programming on Wednesday. He noted that survey forms for conference content were distributed.

President King asked that the formal letter from Arizona be entered into the record. He asked for a motion to accept Arizona's offer. Stephen "Wildman" Wilson moved, Kim Nix second. Motion passed.

7. Liaison Reports:

- a. West: Judith Hosafros, nothing to report
- b. Association for Fish & Wildlife Agencies: Laura Maclean reported the annual AFWA meeting is Sept. 21-25 in St. Louis. In other news, AFWA is working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and national flyway councils on rollout of the national cooperative mourning dove hunter survey. The report was released July 21 and through a press release July 22. Plans are to do social media at #lovehuntedove. She discussed some aspects of the report, including lead ammunition, gas prices, and how they impact hunter participation. She also noted formation of a blue ribbon panel on sustaining diverse fish and wildlife resources that will include representatives from sportsmen groups, agriculture, recreational communities, and the industry sector. The 20-member committee co-chaired by Johnny Morris (Bass Pro Shops) and Dave Fruedenthal (former Wyoming governor) will develop recommendations for greater funding support. She closed by noting online leadership courses and the new management learning system that takes a new approach to teaching leadership concepts.
- c. Outdoor Writers Association of America: Phil Bloom reported on the OWAA conference in McAllen, Texas in May, noting the election of new officers (Mark Freeman, president; Lisa Densmore Ballard, first vice-president; Brett Prettyman, second vice-president; and Ty Stockton, treasurer) and installation of new board members (Phil Bloom, Sam Caldwell and Kris Millgate).

President King asked if there was any miscellaneous business. None was offered.

He called for the election results. Scott Ball reported a favorable vote for the officer slate of President (Micah Holmes), Vice-President (Robin Cahoon) and Secretary (Kim Nix). He reported that the newly elected board members are Michael Gray, Jane Gustafson and Aaron Meier.

President King called for a motion to adjourn. Scott Ball moved, Stephanie Hussey second. Motion passed.

Association for Conservation Information

7/10/2014 DRAFT

	<u>2014 Actual</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>
<u>OPERATING INCOME</u>		
Memberships	\$ 9,550.00	\$ 10,000.00
Award Program Fees	\$ 8,760.00	\$ 10,110.00
Interest		\$ -
Conference Proceeds returned	\$ 2,214.30	\$ 5,000.00
Misc.		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 20,524.30	\$ 25,110.00
<u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u>		
Conference Advance	\$ 8,800.00	\$ 5,000.00
Insurance Bond	\$ 257.00	\$ 300.00
Postage/Office Expenses	\$ 203.00	\$ 100.00
Marketing Support		
Awards	\$ 1,479.48	\$ 1,500.00
Web hosting	\$ 299.40	\$ 300.00
Professional Services		
Website	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Balance Wheel	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Accountant		\$ 500.00
Scholarships	\$ 4,880.70	\$ 5,200.00
Conference Investment		\$ 15,000.00
Conference reimbursements		
President	\$ -	\$ -
Web master	\$ -	\$ -
BW Editor	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Treasurer	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Awards Chair		\$ 300.00
Taxes	\$ 39.99	\$ 65.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 25,459.57	\$ 39,265.00
NET INCOME/EXPENSES	\$ (4,935.27)	\$ (14,155.00)



THE STATE OF ARIZONA
GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNOR
JANICE K. BREWER

COMMISSIONERS
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ROBERT E. MANSELL, WINSLOW
KURT R. DAVIS, PHOENIX
EDWARD "PAT" MADDEN, FLAGSTAFF
JAMES R. AMMONS, YUMA

DIRECTOR
LARRY D. VOYLES

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TY E. GRAY



June 26, 2014

Mr. Don King
President, Association for Conservation Information
c/o Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Ellington Agricultural Center
P.O. Box 40747
Nashville, TN 37204

Dear Mr. King:

Please consider this letter an official invitation from the Arizona Game and Fish Department to host the 2015 Association for Conservation Information Annual Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona, the week of July 13-17, 2015.

We are making arrangements to hold the conference at the High Country Conference Center located at the north boundary of Northern Arizona University. Hotel accommodations will be at the adjacent Drury Inn & Suites Flagstaff.

Flagstaff is about a two-hour drive north of Phoenix. Conference attendees can either fly into Flagstaff via U.S. Airways (most flights connect through Phoenix), or they can fly into Phoenix on any major air carrier and either take a commercial van shuttle or rent a car for the drive north.

Our Department is excited to host this group of talented wildlife/natural resources information and education professionals.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Voyles
Director