

## MINUTES

### Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Conference Call ● March 13, 2018 ● 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT

#### ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

#### ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- Kim Nix (AL, President)
- Jenifer Wisniewski (GA, Vice President & Auction)
- Lance Cherry (NM, Secretary)
- Judy Stokes Weber (NH, Treasurer)
- Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- Sara DiRienzo (WY, Board, Scholarships)
- Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- Mandy Futey (NJ, Board)
- Bonnie Holding (ME, Board, Scholarships)
- Micah Homes (OK, Past President, Ways & Means)
- Andrea Jones (MT, Board)
- Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)
- Blake Podhajsky (OK, Board, Awards)
- Alix Pedraza (SC, Board)

#### Unable to Attend:

- Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- Heather Feeler (MO, Conference Chair)

#### ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

**MOTION:** Blake Podhajsky moved to approve the January 9, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes. Sara DiRienzo seconded the motion.

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

#### ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Kim Nix, President

Nothing to report. Kim Nix moved directly to Item No. 5.

#### ITEM NO. 5: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

##### Membership

- New Agency-level member: California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Currently, all but seven states are agency members.
- California, North Carolina providing directory updates.

### **Communications**

- Next issue of The Balance Wheel to go out March 15 to 526 subscribers.
- As of March 9, posted to ACI Facebook page 14 times since January report. Expect an uptick with approach of the Awards Contest. Currently 478 likes (+16 from last report).
- Updating website with conference information from Heather Feeler as it develops.
- Added Futures to conference page.

### **ITEM NO. 6: 2018 ACI Annual Conference (Missouri).**

Presented by Kim Nix, President on behalf of Heather Feeler, 2018 Conference Chair

The 2018 ACI Annual Conference will be July 29 through August 2, 2018 at the University Plaza Hotel in downtown Springfield, MO. The room rate will be \$89 per night and includes breakfast for two. The theme for the conference will be “Connecting The Dots”. The \$89 room rate has been extended for Thur., July 26 – Sat., Aug. 4. Conference registration is \$325.

Scott Ball shared with the board he discovered Saturday airfare rates to be less expensive than Sunday morning flights.

The Sponsorship Packet was emailed to the board and they are encouraged to pass it on to anyone that may be interested in being a sponsor.

### **ITEM NO. 7: Auction Report.**

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Auction Chair

Nothing to report at this time.

### **ITEM NO. 8: Awards Report.**

Presented by Blake Podhajsky, Awards Chair

The online contest officially opened Feb. 9., the deadline to enter is April 2. To date 29 entries have been submitted and 27 are pending submission. Last year, at the five-week mark we had 47 entries and finished with a record 412 entries. Based on last year’s trend of 365 entries in the last three weeks with 89 of those being submitted on the final day, we are expecting a busy close to this year’s contest.

We currently have 51 Judges secured with 84 judge slots to fill. Our greatest need is in the magazine, magazine articles, calendar and regulations categories. The board is encouraged to assist in finding qualified judges. Interested individuals should be directed to contact Blake Podhajsky by email at [blake.podhajsky@odwc.ok.gov](mailto:blake.podhajsky@odwc.ok.gov).

The six category chairs this year is as follows:

- **Audio/Video Categories Chair:** Darrin Hill, Oklahoma
- **Communication/Education Categories Chair:** Sara DiRienzo, Wyoming
- **Graphic Design/Photo Categories Chair:** Lance Cherry, New Mexico
- **Magazine Categories Chair:** Amanda Stroud, South Carolina
- **New Media Categories Chair:** Bonnie Holding, Maine
- **Other Printed Products Categories Chair:** Andrea Jones, Montana

States are encouraged to enter early. We may consider incentives to encourage early submissions in the future such as an Early-Bird deadline at reduced rate.

### **ITEM NO. 9: 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 Georgia/South Carolina, 2020 New Mexico, 2021 New Jersey, 2022 Open, 2023 Open, 2024 Michigan. Washington continues to express interest and is considering hiring intern to coordinate their conference. California has travel ban but is exploring the ability to utilize the ACI Travel Scholarship.

**ITEM NO. 10: Scholarship Report.**

Presented by Co-Chairs, Bonnie Holding and Sara DiRienzo

- Scholarship form will be modified for this year.
- Deadline will be determined in time for the publication of the Balance Wheel.
- 15 scholarships will be awarded.
- 5 will be offered to those who have not been to a conference before.
- Scott Ball will send to the Chairs, a list of individuals who are not eligible based on failing to meet article commitment.

**ITEM NO. 11: Ways and Means Report.**

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

Nothing to report at this time.

**ITEM NO. 12: Treasurer's Report.**

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

**Agency membership:** Alabama, Aquatic Resources Education Association, American Sportfishing Association, Arizona, Arkansas, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, California, Colorado, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Connecticut, Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports (new), Florida, Fresh Air Educators (conf sponsor), Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho (new), Indiana, Iowa, Kalkomey Enterprises (conf. sponsor), Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, National Shooting Sports Council (conf. sponsors), Nebraska, Nebraska Forest Service, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York (new), North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, PA Fish and Boat, PA Game, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (conf sponsor), South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin (by waiver), Wyoming. (52)

Membership payments expected shortly include: Kentucky.

**Sponsorships:** Southwick Associates (Supporting Sponsor - \$250)

**Associate Membership:** Dinger Associates

**Individual memberships:** Emily-Jo Wiggins, Mississippi (new)

**FY 2019 memberships** paid ahead: US Fish and Wildlife Service, RBFF (overpaid in 2017 due to conference sponsorship inclusion)

| <b>DEC</b>    |              |                             |             |             |   |          |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|----------|
| PP transfer   | 12.6.17      | AFWA dues                   | \$195.30    | \$68,028.91 | x |          |
| PP transfer   | 12.6.17      | Oregon Dues                 | \$195.30    | \$68,224.21 | x |          |
| PP transfer   | 12.8.17      | Washington dues & awards    | \$664.74    | \$68,888.95 | x |          |
| PP transfer   | 12.12.17     | Council to Advance HSS due  | \$195.30    | \$69,084.25 | x |          |
| Deposit       | 12.12.17     | S. Carolina dues & awards   | \$600.00    | \$69,684.25 | x |          |
| Deposit       | 12.12.17     | Emily Jo Wiggins Indiv mem  | \$25.00     | \$69,709.25 | x |          |
|               |              | Visitor Ed. Center Dir      |             |             |   |          |
|               |              | Fish Hatchery - PO Box 100  |             |             |   |          |
|               |              | Enid, Mississippi 38927     |             |             |   |          |
| PP transfer   | 12.13.17     | Dinger Assoc., Assoc. memb  | \$48.60     | \$69,757.85 | x |          |
| Deposit       | 12.18.17     | Florida Dues                | \$200.00    | \$69,957.85 | x |          |
| PP transfer   | 12.18.17     | S. Dakota dues              | \$195.30    | \$70,153.15 | x |          |
| Deposit       | 12.19.17     | Michigan Dues               | \$200.00    | \$70,353.15 | x |          |
| Deposit       | 12.19.17     | N. Carolina dues and awards | \$400.00    | \$70,753.15 | x | balanced |
| Deposit       | 12.29.17     | Iowa Dues and Awards        | \$320.00    | \$71,073.15 | x |          |
| <b>JAN</b>    |              |                             |             |             |   |          |
|               | 10173 1.3.18 | Scott C Ball                | \$1,250.00  | \$69,823.15 | x |          |
| Direct Deposi | 1.10.18      | IN Dues and Awards          | \$680.00    | \$70,503.15 | x |          |
| Deposit       | 1.22.18      | NE Forest Service           | \$200.00    | \$70,703.15 | x |          |
| Deposit       | 1.23.18      | IN NR Found.Conf Proceeds   | \$14,313.89 | \$85,017.04 | x |          |
| <b>FEB</b>    |              |                             |             |             |   |          |
| Deposit       | 2.5.18       | NM awards and dues          | \$1,160.00  | \$86,177.04 | x | balanced |
| <b>MAR</b>    |              |                             |             |             |   |          |
| Deposit       | 3.2.18       | CA Dues                     | \$200.00    | \$86,377.04 |   |          |

**ITEM NO. 13: Discussion on Bank and ACI Business Address Changes Needed.**

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

Judy Stokes Weber will be moving to Vermont therefore changes are needed to the business address and bank.

**MOTION:** Bonnie Holding moved to authorize the Treasurer, Judy Stokes Weber, to open a checking account in Vergennes, Vermont and to comply with any additional legal requirements as required to continue the conduct of ACI business in Vermont. Kim Nix seconded the motion.

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

**ITEM NO. 15: New Business.**

**National Outreach Plan Update**

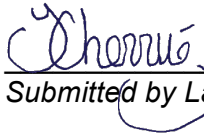
Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

Six companies responded to the Request for Proposal and the selection committee has reviewed those responses. The selection has been made and the announcement made once the contract is finalized. Draft strategies should be available and presented at the ACI Conference. There will be a meeting on March 27 at the North American to discuss the multi-state project.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 10 a.m. MDT.

**ITEM NO. 16: Adjournment.**

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. MDT.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lance Cherry". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

*Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary*