

## MINUTES

### Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Please call toll free: **1-888-757-2790** and enter guest passcode: **775616** to participate in the meeting  
Conference Call ● May 9, 2017 ● 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST

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

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

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

#### Unable to Attend:

- Kim Nix (AL, President)
- Judy Stokes Weber (NH, Treasurer)
- Randy Zellers (AR, Auction)

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

#### ITEM NO. 4: Approval of Minutes.

The minutes were approved without any changes.

**MOTION:** Blake Podhajsky moved to approve the March 17, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. Jane Gustafson seconded the motion.

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

#### ITEM NO. 5: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Vice President on behalf of Kim Nix, President  
We have big things to talk about today...

#### ITEM NO. 6: Treasurer's Report.

Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer was unable to attend. The report was tabled for discussion until the next Board Meeting scheduled for 3 p.m. EDT, Sunday, July 9, 2016 to kick off the 2017 ACI Conference at the Abe Martin Lodge at Brown County State Park in Indiana.

**ITEM NO. 7: Communications Report.**

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

**Membership**

- Sent follow-up e-mail to 10 state agencies who currently are not members. Message emphasized ability to seek one-year exemption from dues and use of conference scholarship to “check us out” before joining. Regrettably, no responses as yet.
- Contacting I&E chiefs, requesting assistance in updating online directory.

**Communications**

- Worked with Julie to recruit judges for the Awards Contest via website, Facebook, MailChimp and Yahoo listserv.
- Continued working with Phil Bloom and Marty Benson to update conference information on website and to promote via Facebook and The Balance Wheel.
- Worked with Michael Gray and Robin Cahoon to promote scholarship opportunities for this year’s conference.
- Next issue of The Balance Wheel to go out May 15. The distribution list now has 467 subscribers.
- Seeking remainder (2) of TBW articles from last year’s scholarship recipients.
- Posted to ACI Facebook page 15 times since Jan. meeting. Topics included recruitment of contest judges and job opportunities. Facebook page has 425 likes.

**ACI Prospective Agency Members 02/24/17**

California	Kirsten Macintyre	Supervising Information Officer	Kirsten.macintyre@wildlife.ca.gov
Idaho	Michael Keckler	Bureau Chief, Communications	Mike.keckler@idfg.idaho.gov
Illinois	Michelle Silver	Tourism Liaison	Michelle.Silver@Illinois.gov
Louisiana	Rene LeBreton	Public Information Director, Office of Fisheries	rlebreton@wlf.la.gov
Maryland	Stephen E. Schatz	Director of Communications	Stephen.Schatz@Maryland.gov
Minnesota	Chris Niskanen	Communications Director	Chris.niskanen@state.mn.us
Mississippi	Jim Walker	Communications Specialist	jimw@mdwfp.state.ms.us
New York	David Nelson	Editor, NYS Conservationist	magazine@dec.ny.gov
Rhode Island	Gail Mastrati	Assistant to the Director, Public Information	Gail.mastrati@dem.ri.gov
Wisconsin	James Dick	Communications Director	James.Dick@wisconsin.gov

**ITEM NO. 8: 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.**

To date 28 participants have registered and an e-blast is being sent to last year’s attendees. As a reminder, June 9 is the cut off date for the secured block. An adjustment was made to the block to include Saturday evening. In addition, cabin suites have been added to the choices at a rate of \$199 per night. If participants have issues booking rooms, please contact Kathy Kemlery, head of group

sales. The phone number is 877-563-4371 and Group code is 0710AC. Elizabeth Gamboa is the new contact for scheduling transportation.

The committee is now working on the program and speaker agenda. Confirmed sponsors include: RBFF, NSSF, Kalkomey, Brandt Info Systems, Responsive Management, Fresh Air Educators, DJ Case and J.F. Griffin. Granicus is still considering covering the GovDelivery sponsorship, since the Merger.

Randy Zellers has stepped down as the Auction Chair. Indiana has picked up the workload and has donation requests in for REI, Cabela's and Gander Mountain. Jenifer Wisniewski, Vice President will solicit states for donations.

**ITEM NO. 9: 2018 ACI Annual Conference (Missouri).**

Presented by Joanie Straub, Board Member and 2018 Conference Chair

Dates set for the conference have been set. 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. The theme for the conference will be "Connecting The Dots". The committee is now working on sponsors and the agenda items. Bass Pro Shop should have museum open.

**ITEM NO. 10: 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, 2024 Michigan.

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

**ITEM NO. 11: Awards Committee.**

Presented by Julie Hammonds, Awards Committee Chair

Jenifer Wisniewski, Vice President will lead a discussion on the Awards Chair Vacancy.

Judging for the 2017 contest closed Friday night. Two judges were unable to finish, but replacements have been found. With the contest going online this year, Julie kept a word document with lessons learned that will be available for the new chair.

Aaron Meier (NV) volunteered to accept the responsibilities and become the new Awards Committee Chair. Jenifer Wisniewski, Vice President will take it to Kim Nix, President to slate for Board action. Jane Gustafson offered to assist Aaron with the transition.

**ITEM NO. 12: Scholarship Report.**

Presented by Scott Ball on behalf of Michael Gray, Board Member and Scholarship Chair

ACI has received 6-7 applications and participants are encouraged to apply before the conference.

**ITEM NO. 13: Auction Report.**

Randy Zellers, Auction Chair stepped down and was unable to attend.

Nothing to report.

**ITEM NO. 14: Ways and Means Report.**

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

Nothing to report.

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

Board discussion on meeting schedule for 2017-2018 Board and Business Meetings.

Lance Cherry, Secretary recommended the Board continue holding conference calls on the second Tuesday of every other month at 11 a.m. CST. 2017-18. Dates include: Tue., Sept. 12, 2017; Tue., Nov. 14, 2017; Tue., Jan. 9, 2018; Tue., Mar. 13, 2018; Tue., May 8, 2018 and Sun., July 22, 2018.

The Board concurred with continuing with the recommendation.

The next board meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. EDT, Sunday, July 9, 2016 to kick off the 2017 ACI Conference at the Abe Martin Lodge at Brown County State Park in Indiana.

**ITEM NO. 19: Adjournment.**

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. MST.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cherry".

Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary