

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Brown County State Park, Nashville, IN ● July 9, 2017 ● 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- Kim Nix (AL, President)
- Jenifer Wisniewski (GA, Vice President)
- Judy Stokes Weber (NH, Treasurer)
- Lance Cherry (NM, Secretary)
- Micah Homes (OK, Past President, Ways & Means)
- Blake Podhajsky (OK, Board)
- Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)
- Bonnie Holding (ME, Board)
- Mandy Futey (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:

- Jane Gustafson (NE, Board)
- Aaron Meier (NV, Board)
- Randy Zellers (AR, Auction)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

Scott Ball corrected Item No. 15: New Business to clarify Board meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every other month.

MOTION: Jennifer Weinewski, Vice President moved to approve the May 9, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes. Bonnie Holding, ME 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

President Kim Nix expressed ACI's appreciation to Phil Bloom and the great state of Indiana for hosting this year's ACI Conference and thanked them for the warm welcome attendees have received.

ITEM NO. 5: Treasurer's Report.

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

Agency membership: Alabama, AREA, Arizona, Arkansas, American Sportfishing Association, Bill Creighton, Colorado, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nebraska Forest Service (waiver), Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina,

North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, PA Game, PA Fish and Boat, RBFF, S. Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, USFWS, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming, Vermont, Virginia. (45)

Individual Memberships: Ann Simonelli

Associate Membership: Powderhook

Sponsorships: Southwick Associates (\$250)

ACI is in excellent financial condition thanks to two successive years of strong conference returns to the treasury. And what about those Awards contest entries!

Account balances on hand as of 6/30/17:

Checking Account	\$ 59,607
Money Market	\$ 7,484
Total	\$ 67,091

The draft statement of revenue and expenses for Fiscal year 2017 was presented to the board. We will change accountants for this year's independent review. Due to that change we were unable to complete the review before this meeting. The board will receive the completed review before the September conference call and have the opportunity to review and approve it at that time.

President Kim Nix appointed Bonnie Holding (ME) and Joanie Straub (MO) to the auditing committee.

**Statement of Revenue, Expenses and changes in Net Assets – Cash Basis
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017**

Revenue	
Memberships, Awards and Other Fees	\$21,045
2016 Conference Returns	\$12,033
Interest	\$1
Total Revenue	\$33,079
Expenses	
2016 Conference Advance	\$5,000
2016 Conference fees/sponsor pass-through	\$500
Scholarships	\$23,008
Awards	\$1,953
New Award Platform	\$4,000
Website/Webhosting/Membership	\$5,549
Travel/Article 9 Reimbursements	\$4,550
Insurance Bond	\$257
Postage/Office Expenses	\$42
Professional Services	\$500
Total Expenses	\$45,359
Change in Net Assets	(\$12,280)

*Note: Scholarships is higher than what was actually spent for 2016. The expenses reported cover two years worth of invoices, 2015 and 2016.

The 2017-2018 ACI draft budget prepared for the President's review and was presented to the board.

ACI Draft Budget					
2017 - 2018					
Revenue					
	Dues		\$10,300	*	
	Awards		\$17,000	**	
	Conference Returns		\$5,000		
	Total Revenue		\$32,300		
Expenses					
	Conference Advance		\$5,000		
	Scholarships		\$10,000		
	Award Plaques		\$2,000		
	Awards platform annual fee		\$2,700		
	Treasurer Stipend		\$1,000	***	
	Membership Communication		\$5,000		
	Travel Reimbursements		\$5,000	****	
	Insurance Bond		\$257		
	Office/Postage		\$50		
	Professional Fees		\$500		
	Total Expense		\$31,507		
	BALANCE		\$793		
	* estimate of 50 agency memberships at \$200, plus sponsorships of \$300				
	** est of 425 entries at \$40; we had 412 this year				
	*** If earned				
	**** For awards chair, membership communication chair, treasurer, president's registration and one lifetime member registration				

ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

Membership

- Contacted 51 I&E chiefs and agency-level members, requesting assistance in updating online directory. Have received updates from 34 and entered on website accordingly. Sent second request to 17 non-responders. Third request forthcoming.

Communications

- Continued working with Phil Bloom and Marty Benson to update conference information on website and to promote via Facebook and The Balance Wheel.
- Next issue of The Balance Wheel to go out July 17. The distribution list now has 471 subscribers (+4 since last report).
- Seeking remainder (1) of TBW articles from last year's scholarship recipients.
- Posted to ACI Facebook page 16 times since May meeting. Topics focused on promoting conference, encouraging auction donations, job opportunities. Facebook page has 430 likes (+5).

ITEM NO. 7: 2017 ACI Annual Conference (Indiana) and Auction Report.

Presented by Phil Bloom, 2017 Conference Chair

Phil Bloom extended a formal welcome to the board to Indiana and announced that this year's conference successfully attracted more than 100 attendees. Rough estimates for revenue include \$15k in sponsorships combined with attendee registrations net an estimated \$50k.

Phil covered important logistics including; session needs, Tuesday night dinner-on-your-own options, wi-fi issues, contact information, registration, etc.

Note: Event locations will be marked with cutouts of Colonel Richard Lieber, an Indianapolis businessman, German immigrant and the founder of the Indiana State Parks System.

Phil recommended the ACI Conference Planning Guide be updated. One area that needs consideration is the Sponsorship levels and benefits. This year Indiana offered a package that included annual dues for sponsors. The board, at a future meeting will discuss this further.

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

Presented by Joanie Straub, Board Member and 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. The theme for the conference will be "Connecting The Dots". 2018 is ACI's 80th year anniversary.

For the conference, participants will have an opportunity to visit Bass Pro Shops new museum, which officially opens in November. Registration will be run through MO's foundation and many of the activities will be within walking distance of the hotel.

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 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, Wyoming, Virginia, California, Vermont, New Hampshire and Colorado.

The board discussed the reality of states' ability to attend a 2019 conference in Hawaii. The board will seek input during the conference, conduct a hand poll during the business meeting and send out a Survey Monkey poll to gauge the potential outcome. Contingency plans are underway to address the

potential need to select another location for 2019, which may include moving slated states forward in in the calendar.

ITEM NO. 10: Awards Committee.

Presented by Julie Hammonds, Awards Committee Chair

Following a successful transition to an online contest, the 2017 award contest was a record year with 412 entries, raising \$16k in revenue for ACI. Julie Hammonds expressed her appreciation for this year's group chairs and their efforts to make the transition running smooth.

For 2018, the Awards Committee will consider some category changes and the potential of adding Honorable Mention recognitions for close categories. Committee recommendations will be presented to the board at a later date.

ITEM NO. 11: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Michael Gray, Board Member and Scholarship Chair

This year was a challenge. 14 of 15 scholarships were awarded.

2017 ACI Travel Scholarship Applicant List:

App. Date	Name	Title/Position	Agency/Organization
5/15/17	Justin Joiner	Graphic Designer	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
5/15/17	Timothy Akimoff	Social Media Coordinator	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
5/15/17	Heidi Ferguson	Content Manager & Video	Georgia DNR – Wildlife Resources
5/12/17	Tom Cadden	Public Information Supervisor	Arizona Game and Fish Department
5/11/17	Kyale Martens	Communications Specialist	Nebraska Forest Service
5/11/17	Amanda Stroud	Assistant Director	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
5/9/17	Bonnie Holding	Director Information & Education	Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
5/4/17	Kathy Hertz	Outreach Program Biologist	Connecticut DEEP Wildlife Division
5/2/17	Robin Hill	Event Planner	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation
4/28/17	Samantha Pedder	Director, Business Development	Council to Advance Hunting & the Shooting Sports
4/27/17	Dan Dennison	Senior Communications Manager	Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
4/25/17	Ron Jolly	Executive Producer	Alabama Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
4/13/17	Jessica Sparger	Asst. Director of Communications	Indiana Department of Natural Resources
4/12/17	Phil Tuttle	Outreach Manager	Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

The board discussed past issues with recipients fulfilling obligation to write article for The Balance Wheel and potential repercussions for failing to meet submission deadlines. Michael Gray acknowledged that the 2016 recipients set a new standard for compliance with only one article still outstanding.

Joanie Straub (MO) agreed to chair the 2018 scholarships.

ITEM NO. 12: Ways and Means Report.

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

Micah will begin a review the current Bylaws, Policies and Procedures and the Articles of Incorporation posted on the ACI website to ensure they are up-to-date and current. He will consider potential changes and updates that may need to be made and approved at a future Business meeting.

ITEM NO. 13: Nominations for Vacant Committee Chairs.

Presented by Kim Nix, President

The Board may take action on appointing the positions based on the nominations presented. Aaron Meier and Jane Gustafson are under consideration for Awards Committee Chair. Julie Hammond will discuss the role of the chair with these individuals. Kim Nix, President will appoint the chair positions in the future. The Awards Committee and Auction Committee Chair positions are currently vacant.

ITEM NO. 14: New Business.

Kim Nix, President opened board discussions ACI paying tribute to Scott Pengelly, our friend and ACI colleague from Minnesota, who passed away unexpectedly Dec. 29 at age 69. A donation of \$100 will be made in Scott's name to a non-profit organization he supported. Scott Ball will research and identify the appropriate organization.

Consideration for student scholarships to ACI was mentioned and will be discussed at a future board meeting.

Board meetings will resume by conference call on the second Tuesday of every other month at 11 a.m. CST. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017.

ITEM NO. 15: Adjournment.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. EDT.



Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary