

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO ● July 29, 2018 ● 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 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 (VT, Treasurer)
- Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- Sara DiRienzo (WY, Board, Scholarships)
- Mandy Futey (NJ, Board)
- Bonnie Holding (ME, Board, Scholarships)
- Micah Homes (OK, Past President, Ways & Means)
- Alix Pedraza (SC, Board)
- Blake Podhajsky (OK, Board, Awards)
- Heather Feeler (MO, Conference Chair)

Unable to Attend:

- Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber (VT), moved to approve the May 8, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes. Jenifer Wisniewski (GA), 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

With nothing to report, Kim Nix moved directly to Item No. 5.

ITEM NO. 5: Appointment of 2018 ACI Nominating Committee.

Presented by Kim Nix, President

President Kim Nix appointed Lance Cherry (NM), Sara DiRienzo (WY) and Dan Dennison (HI) to the nominating committee to select a slate of officers and board members for the ACI membership to vote on at the business meeting, 9 a.m. CDT, Aug. 1, 2018 at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, MO.

The following board members terms expire 2018:

- Blake Podhajsky (OK)
- Bonnie Holding (ME)

The following board members have resigned:

- Andrea Jones (MT)
- Joanie Straub (MO)

ITEM NO. 6: Appointment of 2018 ACI Auditing Committee.

Presented by Kim Nix, President

President Kim Nix appointed Bonnie Holding (ME) and Mandy Futey (NJ) to the auditing committee. The committee will provide a report to the membership at the business meeting, 9 a.m. CDT, Aug. 1, 2018 at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, MO.

ITEM NO. 7: 2018 ACI Annual Conference (Missouri).

Presented by Heather Feeler, 2018 Conference Chair

The 2018 ACI Annual Conference is underway, July 29 through August 2, 2018 at the University Plaza Hotel in downtown Springfield, MO. As of the board meeting there are 176 official conference attendees and an additional 7 guest speakers.

ITEM NO. 8: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

Scott Ball reported he has prepared a report for business meeting. Following the board meeting, he will be meeting with scholarship recipients at 5 p.m. to welcome the guests and discuss their writing commitment for the upcoming year.

Scott agreed to continue serving as Communication Chair.

ITEM NO. 9: Treasurer's Report.

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

Judy Stokes Weber (VT) reports ACI's finances are in order and strong for 2018. Judy recognized Blake Podhajsky, Scott Ball and past conference chairs for their efforts in generating revenue. Judy provided the review and report out on ACI's books.

ITEM NO. 10: Awards Report.

Presented by Blake Podhajsky, Awards Chair

Blake Podhajsky (OK) reports the plaques for the 2018 awards have arrived and will be reviewed prior to the banquet. The Awards Committee will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, July 30 to discuss ways to improve future contests. As a reminder, ACI is always in need of judges and it's never too early to start recruiting. Interested individuals may contact Blake Podhajsky by email at blake.podhajsky@odwc.ok.gov.

ITEM NO. 11: Auction Report.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Auction Chair

Jenifer Wisniewski (GA) reports that 2018 is going to be a great auction year. This year's items include; the New Mexico elk hunt, an Argentina dove hunt, an Oklahoma Paddlefish trip, a baseball package and plenty of agency SWAG and outdoor gear. Once again there will be raffles, a silent auction and a live auction. The best news of all, Steve "Wildman" Wilson has agreed to once again, serve as ACI's auctioneer.

ITEM NO. 12: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber (VT) on behalf of Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

Georgia/South Carolina will host the 2019 ACI Annual Conference, July 7-12 in Savannah, GA at the DeSoto, Savannah. Room rates will be \$117.

The following states are slated to host future ACI Annual Conferences: 2020 New Mexico, 2021 New Jersey, 2022 Maine (Tentative), 2023 Pennsylvania, 2024 Michigan. The futures list now includes; Iowa, Kansas, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming and Wisconsin have expressed interest.

ITEM NO. 13: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Co-Chairs, Bonnie Holding (ME) and Sara DiRienzo (WY)

Bonnie Holding (ME) reports the improvements to the scholarship application were beneficial this year. There were no issues to report and all scholarships have been awarded.

ITEM NO. 14: Ways and Means Report.

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

President Kim Nix opened board discussion on increasing the current cap of \$5,000 stipulated in Article 4 for conference host states.

MOTION: Micah Holmes (OK), moved to add the following language to Article 4 of the ACI bylaws, "Upon approval of the board of directors an additional advance payment of up to \$5,000 may be provided to the host state." Bonnie Holding (ME), seconded the motion.

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

President Kim Nix directed the secretary to update the bylaws to reflect the approved motion.

ITEM NO. 15: Discussion on ACI Tagline.

Presented by Kim Nix, President

President Kim Nix opened board discussion on the need for ACI to develop a tagline. The initial suggestion is:

Supporting Communication, Marketing, Education and Outreach Excellence.

Judy Stokes Weber (VT) recommended the board follow a participatory process and encouraged the tagline be eight or fewer words and not repeat any of the terms in the association's name.

The board concurred and determined a whiteboard would be set up in the hospitality suite to generate ideas from attending members. Additionally, membership will be solicited to vote for the top suggestions by electronic survey following the conference.

President Kim Nix appointed Mandy Futey (NJ) to chair the Tagline Committee.

ITEM NO. 16: New Business.

Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair, agreed to write the 2018 conference resolution on behalf of the ACI Board, which will be presented at the conclusion of the Awards Dinner.

ITEM NO. 17: Adjournment.

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

Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary