

## MINUTES

### Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Conference Call ● November 6, 2019 ● 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. MST

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

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

- ✓ Jenifer Wisniewski (TN, President, Conference Co-Chair, Auction)
- ✓ Lance Cherry (NM, Vice President)
- ✓ Sara DiRienzo (WY, Secretary, Scholarships)
- ✓ Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- ✓ Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- ✓ Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- ✓ Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)
- ✓ Jason Harmon (TN, Board)
- ✓ Darrin Hill (OK, Board)
- ✓ Micah Homes (OK, Ways & Means)
- ✓ Kyle Martens (NE, Board)
- ✓ Aaron Meier (NV, Awards)
- ✓ Alix Pedraza (SC, Board)
- ✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, Awards)
- ✓ Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)
- ✓ Craig Sanchez (NM, Board)

#### Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Tim Akimoff (OR, Board)
- ✓ Nadia Reimer (KS, Board)

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

**MOTION:** Kyle moved to approve the Sept, 4, 2019 board meeting minutes, with amendments. Craig seconded the motion.

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

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

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski (President)

No one has taken Jenifer up on her offer to go hunting—but it still stands! Jenifer attended went to SEAWFA and AFWA to represent ACI, especially at the R3 tracks to promote the theme for ACI. Expecting some new attendees at the conference as a result!

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

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

Scott has contacted all agency-level members, and non-member states for Online Directory updates (some more than once). All but 14 have responded. He is still working to get Alaska back.

The Next issue of The Balance Wheel will be published Nov. 15 and emailed to 610 subscribers (618 last report). We have received all TBW articles but 1 from scholarship authors.

- 600 Facebook likes (592 last report)
- 708 Facebook followers (699 last report)
- 7 Facebook posts since Sept. 4

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

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

ACI has 38 "agency members" as of the end of October. Would expect to have 50 or so by the end of December when membership payments are due in order to be eligible to participate in the Awards Program. I will work with Scott to get some notice about this in The Balance Wheel.

The Treasurer has filed ACI's 2018 Form 990-N tax return with the IRS.

We have obtained the increased coverage provided by ACI's dishonesty bond as voted on by the Board in September. The increase in coverage is in effect now.

We have not yet invested the designated portion of our cash on hand in a CD as voted on by the Board in September. The product we had in mind can only be used by individuals and trusts, not open to nonprofit organizations such as ACI. There are other products available elsewhere and we will make a choice soon and conclude the necessary arrangements.

Checking Account Register

<b>SEPT</b>				
Deposit	9.5.19	AR dues and awards	\$600.00	\$112,928.68
	10229	9.26.19 Denoncourt&Waldron PA (CPA)	<b>\$500.00</b>	\$112,428.68
	10230	VOID		
<b>OCT</b>				
	10231	10.2.19 Wildlife Conserv. T Stipend	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	\$111,178.68
	10232	10.2.19 Scott C. Ball Comm Stipend	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	\$109,928.68
PP Transfer	10.8.19	Rob Simbeck Indiv membersh.	\$24.15	\$109,952.83
	10233	10.14.19 CNA Surety (increase in coverage per board)	<b>\$15.53</b>	\$109,937.30
	10234	10.14.19 CNA Surety renewal	<b>\$320.00</b>	\$109,617.30
PP Transfer	10.15.19	Oregon dues and awards	\$625.62	\$110,242.92
PP Transfer	10.22.19	NE Forest Service Dues	\$195.30	\$110,438.22
	10.31.19	NH Acct	\$1,400.00	
	10.31.19	VT Acct	\$110,438.22	
		Total Assets	\$111,838.22	

**ITEM NO. 7: 2019 ACI Conference Report.**

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

The report is done. Delaney managed the conference; everything was recorded. SC/GA returned a little more than \$5,000

**ITEM NO. 8: 2020 ACI Annual Conference (New Mexico)**

Presented by Lance Cherry, Vice President

Lance requested seed money for the conference. He will e-mail Jenifer an official request.

The 2020 Association for Conservation Information Annual Conference will be held July 19-22, 2020 at the Drury Plaza Hotel at 828 Paseo De Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

The theme this year is R3 Revolution!

Registration will open March 1 with an early-bird rate of \$325 by May 1, Regular rate of \$350 by July 1 and late rate of \$375 after July 1 up to the date of the conference. The agenda will post as soon as more of the details are worked out which includes some of the educational activities we have learned to love at these conferences.

The Drury is providing us a special rate of \$179 per night plus applicable taxes for attendees, which includes a hot breakfast and their 5:30 Kickback® with a rotating menu of free hot food and cold beverages. Reservations can be made online at <http://www.druryhotels.com/Reservations.aspx?groupno=2345405> or by phone at **1-800-378-7946**.

Reference the Group number of **2345405**, to receive the special rate.

NM is working on securing special overflow rates at a select group of recommended alternate hotels for when the block at the Drury Plaza fills up. Those hotels include: La Fonda on the Plaza, Inn and Spa at Loretto, Eldorado Hotel and Spa and Garrett's Desert Inn Motel.

Conference attendees may fly into either the Albuquerque International Sunport (ABQ) or the Santa Fe Regional Airport (SFA). United Airlines through Denver (DEN) and American Airlines through Dallas/Ft. Worth (DFW) and Phoenix (PHX) service SFA.

Shuttle service fares estimated from \$35-\$40 one-way from both airports. Uber and Lyft ranging from \$75 to \$160 from ABQ and \$25 to \$45 from SFA based on the size of your desired vehicle. Transportation by taxi, rental car or for the adventurous types, the Rail Runner Express, is also available.

Sponsorships or exhibitor inquiries should be directed to Star Gonzales, Marketing Manager for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish at 505-476-8142 or by email at [estelle.gonzales@state.nm.us](mailto:estelle.gonzales@state.nm.us).

Finally, It's never too early to start gathering auction items. As you begin gathering items, please send them to Star at:

C/O Star Gonzales  
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
One Wildlife Way  
Santa Fe, NM 87507

All of these details and more will be posted on Friday on the ACI website.

**ITEM NO. 9: Auction and Sponsorship Report.**

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, President and Auction Chair  
Craig Sanchez will help with the auction as auction co-chair. Items should still be sent to Star in Santa Fe.

**ITEM NO. 10: Futures Conference Report.**

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

Working on a way to get OR and WA together for a jointly hosted conference.

Future list:

2021 host: TN Wildlife Resources!

2022: North Carolina

2023: Pennsylvania

2024: Michigan

2025: New Jersey

2026: Oklahoma

2027: Nevada

**ITEM NO. 11: Scholarship Report.**

Presented by Sara DiRienzo, Secretary and Scholarship Chair

Kyle and Alix volunteered to help Sara with scholarships and reviewing applications this year.

**ITEM NO. 12: Awards Report.**

Presented by Blake Podhajsky and Aaron Meir, Awards Co-Chairs

Blake reviewed the sub-committee's evaluations of 31 categories. Sub-committees reviewed and made recommendations regarding categories, scoring, wording, etc. From the recommendations, Blake and Aaron presented proposed additions:

Graphics: Logo/Illustration

Best Social Media Campaign

Video Feature: Hunting and Fishing

Video Feature: Natural Resource Conservation

Video Feature: Outdoor Recreation

Video Feature: How To / Instructional

Best Use of Humor in Communication

Proposed to change:

Change Photography: Other to Photography: Studio/ Enhanced **CHANGED**

Change TV Series to Video Program Recurring **CHANGED**

Change Online Community Engagement to Best Social Media Presence **CHANGED**

Proposed dropping:

DROPPED Video Long

DROPPED Video Short

The board made recommendations of other categories to cut: Success on a Shoe String, Regulations, and New Release.

Scott wondered about recruiting judges and the difficulty with too many categories.

Alix suggested the book/report category combined into one-time publication.

Jenifer thanked Blake and Aaron for their work. New Categories will encourage more entries and fairer judging. Jenifer directed awards committee to proceed with revising categories based on their well-documented research and input from the ACI membership. Blake and Aaron will proceed with setting up the new, online system. There is no need for a vote with category changes from the board.

**ITEM NO. 13: Ways and Means Report.**

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

Nothing to report.

**ITEM NO. 14: New Business.**

Jenifer reported there are no results from DJ Case mini survey yet. She hoping to do a couple of those each year, meant to help the ACI get to know other state's better. See results in ACI newsletter.

Jenifer proposed an ACI Facebook group where private conversations could happen to further the impact of ACI posts and broad issues. Scott and Jennifer will meet to discuss implementation.

Sara gave update on bylaws which adjusted the surety bond to \$50,000.

The next board meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020 at 10 a.m.**

**ITEM NO. 15: Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Jason Harmon moved to adjourn. Alix Pedraza seconded the motion.

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

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at **10:55 a.m. MST.**

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*Submitted by Sara DiRienzo, Secretary*