

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Annual Conference Meeting • July 7, 2019 • 4 p.m.-5 p.m. EDT

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)
- ✓ Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- ✓ Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- ✓ Sara DiRienzo (WY, Secretary, Scholarships)
- ✓ Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- ✓ Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- ✓ Jason Harmon (TN, Board)
- ✓ Darrin Hill (OK, Board)
- ✓ Micah Homes (OK, Ways & Means)
- ✓ Kyle Martens (NE, Board)
- ✓ Alix Pedraza (SC, Board)
- ✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, Awards)
- ✓ Nadia Reimer (KS, Board)
- ✓ Craig Sanchez (NM, Board)
- ✓ Amanda Stroud (SC, Conference Co-Chair)

Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Mandy Futey (NJ, Board)
- ✓ Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)
- ✓ Kim Nix (AL, Past President)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber moved to approve the June 12, 2019 board meeting minutes. Craig Sanchez 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

IT'S HOT! Thank you to Georgia and South Carolina for hosting the conference!

Sara DiRienzo and Lance Cherry are on the nominating committee. They will be looking for three additional people for board membership. New members should reflect balance representation of regions and agency affiliations.

ITEM NO. 6: Treasurer's Report.

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

Judy shared and discussed the Annual Performance Review prepared by our CPA. Nadia Reimer and Kyle Martens volunteered to the audit committee and will present at the business meeting.

MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber moved to authorize the ACI President to be added to the ACI bank account at Community Bank in Vergennes, VT. Dan Dennison seconded the motion.

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

MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber moved to approve the draft budget, with a correction that conference hosts will return \$5,000. Dan Dennison seconded the motion.

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

ITEM NO. 5: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

Scott will be meeting today with the scholarship recipients. The Balance Wheel is set to go out on the 15th, a short issue. The Membership directory needs updating, so Scott will continue to work with states. We are live-streaming several sessions and the Awards Ceremony this year on Facebook!

ITEM NO. 7: 2019 ACI Annual Conference (Georgia/South Carolina).

Presented by Amanda Stroud, Conference Co-Chair

Welcome to Savannah! You can buy raffle tickets early this year and with credit cards! Stay safe in the haunted city! There are 138 attendees.

ITEM NO. 8: Auction and Sponsorship Report.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, President and Auction Chair

The auction is in good shape. Auction and raffle items came in and we are working on a couple of trips. Encourage people to buy raffle tickets.

ITEM NO. 10: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

2020: New Mexico

2021: Tennessee Wildlife Resources!

2022: North Carolina

2023: Pennsylvania

2024: Michigan

2025: New Jersey

2026: Oklahoma

New to the futures list, Nevada

ITEM NO. 11: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Sara DiRienzo, Secretary and Scholarship Chair

We awarded 12 scholarships. Two awardees were unable to attend, though, due to travel issues within their own state processes. ACI will extend the scholarship offer for the 2020 conference, and move up the scholarship window to help with getting travel approval.

ITEM NO. 9: Awards Report.

Presented by Blake Podhajsky, Awards Chair

We received 547 entries in 31 categories.

For the new awards platform, Blake recommends moving to Awards Force. The costs are \$5,650 for the first year, including the set-up fee. Following years will be \$4,180. It is an Australian company with a local representative in Dallas. We have to renew annually.

We must notify Omni mid-August that we are not continuing.

The award contest is making good money and is able to support these cost.

MOTION: Jenifer Wisniewski moved to approve the new awards platform as Awards Force. Alix Pedraza seconded the motion.

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

MOTION: Jenifer Wisniewski moved to approve the addition of an awards co-chair. Jason Harmon seconded the motion.

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

Aaron Meier, Nevada, volunteered as was appointed as co-chair. Compensation for both positions will include conference registration fees and hotel rooms. The bylaws need to be amended to reflect this change.

Aaron and Blake will implement new contest platform and work on the formation of sub-committees evaluate all the subcategories of submissions. Recommendations from the committees will be presented to the board.

ITEM NO. 12: Ways and Means Report.

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

Nothing to report.

ITEM NO. 13: New Business.

The board discussed positions designated for the four AFWA regions. We haven't been using the positions for the past few years but they would be useful to communicate between the groups. Serving as regional association liaison could be the way that people could serve on the board.

The board finalized the ACI Tagline as *Where outdoor communicators connect*. We will work on a logo that incorporates the tagline.

ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment.

MOTION: Lance Cherry moved to adjourn. Craig Sanchez 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 5:30 p.m. EDT.

Submitted by Sara DiRienzo, Secretary