

## MINUTES

### Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Conference Call ● September 2, 2020 ● 10 a.m-11 p.m. MST

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

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

- ✓ Jenifer Wisniewski (TN, President, Conference Co-Chair, Auction)
- ✓ Sara DiRienzo (WY, Secretary, Scholarships)
- ✓ Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- ✓ Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- ✓ Tim Akimoff (OR, Board)
- ✓ Jason Harmon (TN, Board)
- ✓ Micah Homes (OK, Ways & Means)
- ✓ Aaron Meier (NV, Awards)
- ✓ Alix Pedraza (SC, Board)
- ✓ Nadia Reimer (KS, Board)
- ✓ Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)
- ✓ Craig Sanchez (NM, Board)

#### Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)
- ✓ Lance Cherry (NM, Vice President)
- ✓ Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- ✓ Darrin Hill (OK, Board)
- ✓ Kyle Martens (NE, Board)
- ✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, Awards)
- ✓ Kim Nix (AL, Immediate Past President)

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

**MOTION:** Sara DiRienzo moved to approve the July 2020 board meeting minutes, with amendments. Jenifer Wisniewski 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

Congratulations to all the ACI award winners. Thanks to all who entered. You can now look at your feedback. Jennifer said she loves to read feedback because you get good advice. A job well-done to Blake and Aaron, category chairs, and all who contributed to the ACI awards video. To watch a recording, tune in on the ACI YouTube page.

#### ITEM NO. 5: ACI multistate grant update.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, President

The ACI multistate grant steering committee team met for an initial meeting. Jennifer invited others to join the steering committee.

The three grants include: locovore workshops, R3 email and R3 marketing. The board can expect updates on each call.

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

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

Scott agreed the ceremony was impressive and put together well. Today is Kim's birthday, so happy birthday!!

#### **Membership**

- As of 08/31/2020, ACI has
  - 30 Agency-level members, including...
    - 24 state agencies, representing 23 states
    - 1 federal agency
    - 5 NGOs
  - 1 Sponsor-level member
- As Judy receives dues payments from members, she forwards the info to me for posting on the [ACI website](#).
- Will soon solicit updates to online membership directory.

#### **Communications**

- Next issue of The Balance Wheel will be published Sept. 15 and emailed to 589 subscribers (592 last report; -7)
  - Major Challenge – No conference means no sessions to recap, which = serious shortage of available newsletter content. Per BOD suggestions, I will be augmenting content with occasional “greatest hits” (republishing of previous articles) and “how-we-did-it” articles from award-winners.
- 620 Facebook likes (616; +4)
- 737 Facebook followers (733; +4)
- 25 Facebook posts July-Aug.

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

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, President on behalf of Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

The Treasurer began invoicing “agency” members and sponsors for FY 2021 on June 12 and July 14, 2020 to meet the needs of Texas and Florida's fiscal year requirements and began the rest of the invoicing on July 24, 2020 as per the Board's direction. One state and one NGO commented that they have to closely examine each expenditure in these times. Another NGO, the NSSF has rejoined after an absence of short duration. See the Communication and Membership Report for membership numbers.

Our expenses were less than normal at this time due to the rescheduled conference. No scholarships were funded and no travel reimbursements were requested. We paid a modest amount for a voiceover of the awards program broadcast.

We are in excellent financial condition as we move into this fiscal year.

FY2021 ACI Checkbook Register

Transaction ID	Date	Description	Amount	Balance	
Balance 6.30.20				\$84,777.20	
<b>JULY</b>					
10244	7.1.20	Scott C. Ball Membership Stipend	\$1,250.00	\$83,527.20	x
10245	7.2.20	WCP Treasurer Stipend	\$1,250.00	\$82,277.20	x
Deposit	7.16.20	TX 2021 Dues	\$200.00	\$82,477.20	x
Wire Transfer	7.23.20	Award Force Annual Subscription	\$4,389.00	\$78,088.20	x
W.T. Bank Fee	7.23.20	Fee for Wire Transfer	\$20.00	\$78,068.20	x
PP Transfer	7.27.20	NV 2021 Dues and Awards	\$625.62	\$78,693.82	x
PP Transfer	7.27.20	OR 2021 Dues and Awards	\$234.42	\$78,928.24	x
PP Transfer	7.27.20	CO 2021 Dues and Awards	\$508.26	\$79,436.50	x
PP Transfer	7.28.20	OK 2021 Dues and Awards	\$1,525.38	\$80,961.88	x
PP Transfer	7.28.20	OH 2021 Dues and Awards	\$351.78	\$81,313.66	x
PP Transfer	7.28.20	TN Dues and Awards	\$1,681.86	\$82,995.52	x
PP Transfer	7.28.20	VA 2021 Dues	\$195.30	\$83,190.82	x
PP Transfer	7.30.20	VA Awards	\$351.78	\$83,542.60	x
PP Transfer	7.31.20	WA 2021 Dues	\$195.30	\$83,737.90	xbalanced
10246	7.31.20	VOID - to GA for Direct Deposit			
<b>AUG</b>					
PP Transfer	8.3.20	LA 2021 Dues	\$195.30	\$83,933.20	
PP Transfer	8.4.20	HI 2021 Dues	\$195.30	\$84,128.50	
PP Transfer	8.4.20	ME 2021 Dues	\$195.30	\$84,323.80	
PP Transfer	8.4.20	PAFB 2021 Dues	\$195.30	\$84,519.10	
PP Transfer	8.5.20	Southwick Sponsorship	\$244.20	\$84,763.30	
PP Transfer	8.5.20	KS 2021 Dues	\$195.30	\$84,958.60	
PP Transfer	8.7.20	MO 2021 Dues and Awards	\$1,564.50	\$86,523.10	
Deposit	8.7.20	AREA 2021 Dues	\$200.00	\$86,723.10	
Deposit	8.11.20	AL 2021 DUES	\$200.00	\$86,923.10	
PP Transfer	8.12.20	NJ 2021 Dues	\$195.30	\$87,118.40	
Deposit	8.12.20	NM 2021 Dues and Awards	\$2,120.00	\$89,238.40	
Deposit	8.14.20	RBFF 2021 Dues	\$200.00	\$89,438.40	
Deposit	8.14.20	FL 2021 Dues	\$200.00	\$89,638.40	
Deposit	8.14.20	ID 2021 Dues	\$200.00	\$89,838.40	
Deposit	8.20.20	NSSF 2021 Dues	\$200.00	\$90,038.40	
Deposit	8.20.20	NE 2021 Dues and Awards	\$440.00	\$90,478.40	
10247	8.20.20	Reim Blake Podhajsky voiceover	\$240.00	\$90,238.40	
PP Transfer	8.29.20	CAHSS 2021 Dues and Awards	\$234.42	\$90,472.82	
Deposit	8.31.20	NH 2021 Dues and Awards	\$320.00	\$90,792.82	
		VT Bank	\$90,792.82		
		NH Bank	\$2,084.80		
		TIAA CD	\$25,000.00		
		<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$117,877.62</b>		

**ITEM NO. 7: 2020 ACI Conference Update.**

Presented by Craig Sanchez behalf of Lance Cherry, Vice President

Hopeful for 2021!

**ITEM NO. 8: Auction Report.**

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Auction Chair

Nothing to report.

**ITEM NO. 9: Futures Conference Report.**

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

The ACI grants are a huge incentive to get folks to join ACI, making membership of high-value.

**ITEM NO. 10: Scholarship Report.**

Presented by Sara DiRienzo, Scholarship Chair

Nothing to report.

**ITEM NO. 11: Awards Report.**

Presented by Aaron Meier and Blake Podhajsky, Awards Chairs

We need to start hunting for another co-chair. The best person to fill the roll is someone who wants to work hard and also has a good sense of humor. Assured, it is not the scariest job you'll take on.

The ACI Awards ceremony was broadcast live on ACI's new YouTube channel on Sunday, August 30th. We had about 72 'live' viewers watch the ceremony. We received very favorable feedback and overall the presentation went on without any issues. As of Tuesday, we have over 300 views.

The recording of the ACI Awards can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/QV2afp8G-qA>

ACI's YouTube channel can be found here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBZyZTzoLQ1JcNwtG\\_0-LA/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBZyZTzoLQ1JcNwtG_0-LA/featured)

Thank you to Lance Cherry for setting the YouTube channel up, as well as hosting the post ceremony zoom call. Thank you to Scott Ball for assisting with our communication efforts and promoting the awards ceremony throughout the weeks to our ACI members. Thank you to Aaron Meier managing the judges and for your brilliant comic relief- you set the tone for the awards show.

An awards gallery has been set up on our ACI awards platform. Anyone who has this URL can view our winners. That means that this gallery is public and sharable. Also, entrants and judges can log back in to the awards platform using their login credentials to view the winners gallery when they return to the site at <https://aci.awardsplatform.com/>.

Awards Gallery URL: <https://aci.awardsplatform.com/gallery/yxzmRBWr>

Judges scores and comments are now available to all entrants. When an entrant logs back in, they will see their entries. They can then select the “View Feedback” button to see their scores and comments. Blake has notified all entrants via email.

At some point over the next two weeks, Blake will compile the official ACI Awards results into a pdf. Once that document is ready, he will provide to Scott and Lance to include on the website, as well as promote on social media.

### **BY THE NUMBERS**

We had 361 entries. We waived entry fee for 10 entries, resulting in 351 entries x \$40/entry = \$14,040.

There were 33 categories and all but one category awarded the top three. There were several ties. In total, we will be ordering 104 plaques. Over the next several days, Blake will compile the winners, create proofs and order plaques from our usual vendor, K2 awards. Cost of plaques will approximately be around \$3,000. Since we will not have all the plaques shipped to the conference site, K2 will ship plaques to each winning state/organization. For each shipment, they charge a flat rate of approximately \$11 (no matter if they ship one plaque or 20). In total, we had 20 winning entities so K2 will ship 20 separate shipments. The shipping cost will be added to the total invoice amount (20 x \$11=\$220). Most states/organizations had multiple entrants. So Blake will need to coordinate with Scott on the proper addresses and contacts to ship the awards to.

The awards platform was renewed and paid for in July at a cost of \$4,389. Blake spent \$240 on voice over talent for the ceremony and was reimbursed by ACI.

In conclusion, the ACI awards will net approximately \$6,200 +/-: \$14,040 (entries earned) - \$4,389 (platform cost) - \$3,000 (plaques) – 220 (shipping) – 240 (voice over) = \$6,191.

### **WINNING AGENCIES / ORGANIZATIONS**

Texas 17  
Missouri 17  
Tennessee 9  
Wyoming 6  
Colorado 6  
Oklahoma 5  
Nevada 5  
Utah 4  
South Carolina 4  
Florida 4  
Georgia 4  
New Mexico 3  
Nebraska 3  
Arizona 3  
USFWS 3  
Montana 3  
Ohio 3  
Indiana 3  
New Hampshire 1  
Louisiana 1

**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.**

None

**ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Jennifer Wisniewski moved to Adjourn. Sara DiRienzo 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 11 a.m. MST. The next meeting will be Nov. 4 2020.

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Submitted by Sara DiRienzo, Secretary