

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Virtual ● Sept 08, 2021 ● 10 a.m-11 a.m. MDT

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- ✓ Lance Cherry (NM, President)
- ✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, Secretary)
- ✓ Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- ✓ Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- ✓ Jenifer Wisniewski (TN, President, Conference Co-Chair, Auction)
- ✓ Jason Harmon (TN, Board)
- ✓ Aaron Meier (NV, Awards)
- ✓ Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)
- ✓ Craig Sanchez (NM, Board)
- ✓ Linda DiPiano (NJ, Board)
- ✓ Fairly Mahlum (NC, Board)
- ✓ Joanne Martonik (NBFF, Board)

Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Sara DiRienzo (WY, Vice President, Scholarships)
- ✓ Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- ✓ Darrin Hill (OK, Board)
- ✓ Tim Akimoff (OR, Board)
- ✓ Kyle Martens (NE, Board)
- ✓ Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)
- ✓ Micah Holmes (OK, Ways & Means)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

- July 2021 Board Meeting Minutes Attached
- Scott Ball identified a missing zero on Item #5. Should be \$50,000 (not \$50,00). Blake P. updated minutes document.

MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber moved to approve the July 2021 ACI Board Meeting Minutes with one correction. Craig Sanchez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Lance Cherry, President

- Thank you for electing me as president. Hope I do well and meet your expectations.
- Encourage members to have your voice be heard! Remember, you are amongst friends.

ITEM NO. 5: ACI multistate grant update.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Immediate Past President

- Excited to announce we have two more grants for 2022.
- Grant One: Social Listening- DJ Case and Associates will provide a report every two weeks to each ACI member agency/organization. If we want to include additional 'hashtags', we can give DJ Case that information to receive specific information on the reports.
- Grant Two: Round three of the \$50,000 state grant for R3 marketing- In 2021, Jenifer Wisniewski stated the grants committee reviewed 22 of "the best grant applications I have ever read". Five states were selected from those applications for the second round. For round three, the next five "best" grant applications from those 22 were selected: Kansas, Florida, Alabama, Michigan and Kentucky.

ITEM NO. 5: ACI multistate grant update *continued*.

- Lance Cherry emphasized as communicators, it's important to understand what we are facing (i.e., anti-hunting groups), expressing excitement about the social listening grant. He stated Jenifer Wisniewski created a legacy for ACI and hopes we continue the grants program for years to come.
- Craig Sanchez added Jenifer's work has propelled ACI into a new realm.
- Jenifer Wisniewski reiterated that in three years, we have facilitated \$2 million in grants.

ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

- Report attached
- Wants to gather the grants information and organize that content on the website.
- Per Lance Cherry and Judy Stokes Weber, we have a new member request from Westervelt Ecological Services. They have already submitted their \$200 member fee.

MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber moved to approve Westervelt as a new ACI member. Craig Sanchez seconded. Motion unanimously passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 7: Treasurer's Report.

Presented Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

- Report attached
- We are in good financial shape. Please reference the attached report.
- Majority of invoices have been sent out. 25 agency members have already responded.

ITEM NO. 8: 2021 ACI Conference Update.

Presented by Jason Harmon, 2022 Conference Coordinator, Tennessee

- Working with Delaney Meeting and Event Management.
- 2022 conference will be in Nashville July 25-27. Potential meeting locations are being considered.
- It was recommended by several board members we consider a hybrid conference using Whova or similar platform. Regarding the pandemic, the future is unknown so it would be wise to consider this option.

ITEM NO. 9: Futures Conference Report.

- Aaron Meier expressed relief that Tahoe (ACI 2023) was not affected by wildfires. He is considering Harrah's (previous conference site) and Harvey's as current options.

ITEM NO. 10: Awards Report.

Presented by Aaron Meier, Awards Co-Chair

- Awards are in the process of being shipped out. Still working with K2 awards and getting invoicing squared away.
- Expressed concern about simultaneously managing the awards program and organizing/hosting the 2023 conference. May consider recruiting a new awards chair for 2023.

ITEM NO. 11: Scholarship Report.

- ACI did not provide scholarships this past year because the conference was virtual and free.
- Scholarship recipients are required to provide content for the Balance Wheel, so we are seeking content for the newsletter.

ITEM NO. 12: Ways and Means Report.

No update

ITEM NO. 13: New Business.

Two new business items discussed. 1) formation of an official grants committee and 2) focus on utilizing our vacant regional liaison positions.

ITEM ONE:

- Jenifer recommended that she chair the newly formed grants committee moving forward.
- It was suggested that we simply change the name from multi-state grants to grants committee.
- Joanne M. volunteered to help assist Jenifer with this committee moving forward.

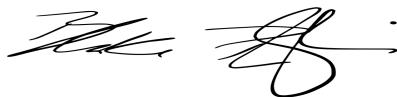
MOTION: Craig Sanchez moved to approve Jenifer Wisniewski as the official chairperson of the grants committee. Judy Stokes Weber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM Two:

- Judy Stokes Weber reminded the board we used to have four regional liaison positions in ACI. These positions were created to help keep an eye on what is happening in each Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) region and/or other organizations. Liaison would then report back to the board periodically.
- Providing ACI members an opportunity to serve in this capacity would help them serve the organization and help work their way into board and officer positions in the future if desired.
- Recommended we start thinking of people who would be candidates for these positions.

ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment.

- With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm MDT.
- **MOTION:** Jenifer Wisniewski moved to adjourn. Craig Sanchez seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.



Submitted by Blake Podhajsky, Secretary



ASSOCIATION *for*
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Communications/Membership Report **September 8, 2021**

Membership

A new membership year began July 1, and Judy has begun sending dues notices. Naturally, figures are low at this early stage.

- As of 08/31/2021, ACI has 17 Agency-level members, all of which are state agencies, plus one surprise application/dues payment awaiting BOD approval
- Will continue to include a request for directory updates in *The Balance Wheel*.

Communications

- Thank you, Lance, for updating the website with new officers, BOD members, Spirit award winner and other information following the conference.
- Next issue of *The Balance Wheel* will be published Sept. 15 and emailed to 591 subscribers (583 last report; +8). Total audience is 656, which includes contacts imported from conference attendee lists.
- Working to build a section of the ACI website covering the ever-burgeoning Multi-state Grants program.
- 642 Facebook likes (+6)
- 769 Facebook followers (-2)
- 15 Facebook posts (July-August)



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Treasurer's Report August 31, 2021

We are off to a good start with invoicing and returns as you will see in the Register below and hear in Scott's membership report. I have filed the ACI Form 990 for last fiscal year.

Here is the checkbook register through August 31, 2021.

FY 2022 ACI Check Register					
Transaction ID	Date	Description	Amount	Balance	
Beginning Balance	7.1.21			\$86,144.53	
JULY					
10264	7.5.21	SC Ball Comm/Mem Stipend	\$1,250.00	\$84,894.53	ok
10265	7.5.21	WCP JSW Treas. Stipend	\$1,250.00	\$83,644.53	ok
Check	7.7.21	TX Parks and Wildlife 2022 dues	\$200.00	\$83,844.53	ok
10266	7.28.21	WCP Awards Force C.C. reimb	\$4,608.00	\$79,236.53	ok balanced
AUG					
Check	8.19.21	FL FWC 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$79,436.53	ok
PP Transfer	8.20.21	Westervelt Forestry donation	\$195.53	\$79,632.06	ok
PP Transfer	8.20.21	NJ F&W 2022 Dues and Awards	\$273.94	\$79,906.00	ok
PP Transfer	8.20.21	LA W & F 2022 dues and awards	\$391.55	\$80,297.55	ok
PP Transfer	8.22.21	NC Wildlife 2022 dues & awards	\$469.96	\$80,767.51	ok
PP Transfer	8.22.21	OR 2022 Dues and Awards	\$587.57	\$81,355.08	ok - 2 deposits
PP Transfer	8.22.21	NV Div Wildlife 2022 Dues and awards	\$1,175.63	\$82,530.71	ok
PP Transfer	8.28.21	GA DNR 2022 Dues & Awards	\$430.75	\$82,961.46	ok
PP Transfer	8.28.21	WA FishWildlife 2022 Dues & Awards	\$469.96	\$83,431.42	ok
PP Transfer	8.28.21	ME Inland Fish. & Wildlife 2022 Dues	\$195.53	\$83,626.95	ok
PP Transfer	8.28.21	HI 2022 Dues	\$195.53	\$83,822.48	ok
PP Transfer	8.28.21	KS 2022 Dues & Awards	\$626.77	\$84,449.25	ok
PP Transfer	8.28.21	TN Wildlife Res. 2022 Dues & Awards	\$1,606.87	\$86,056.12	ok
PP Transfer	8.28.21	OH DNR 2022 Dues & Awards	\$587.57	\$86,643.69	ok balanced
Check	8.31.21	MT 2022 Dues and Awards	\$1,040.00	\$87,683.69	
Check	8.31.21	ID 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$87,883.69	
PP Transfer	8.31.21	NY DEC 2022 Dues and Awards	\$391.55	\$88,275.24	

In addition to the funds in the checking account, we have a CD in the amount of \$25,000 earning a small amount of interest. If you have any questions, please let me know.