

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Virtual ● November 10, 2021 ● 10 a.m-11 a.m. MST

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- ✓ Lance Cherry (NM, President)
- ✓ Sara DiRienzo (WY, Vice President, Scholarships)
- ✓ Jenifer Wisniewski (TN, Immediate Past President, ACI Grants, Auction)
- ✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, Secretary)
- ✓ Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- ✓ Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- ✓ Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- ✓ Jason Harmon (TN, Board)
- ✓ Aaron Meier (NV, Awards)
- ✓ Darrin Hill (OK, Board)
- ✓ Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)
- ✓ Craig Sanchez (NM, Board)
- ✓ Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)
- ✓ Joanne Martonik (RBFF, Board)

Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Linda DiPiano (NJ, Board)
- ✓ Fairly Mahlum (NC, Board)
- ✓ Tim Akimoff (OR, Board)
- ✓ Micah Holmes (OK, Ways & Means)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

- September 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

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

ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Lance Cherry, President.

- “I wish the entire ACI Board and ACI membership happy holidays!”

ITEM NO. 5: Treasurer’s Report.

Presented Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer.

- Report attached
- This is a quiet time of year and we have no unusual expenditures.
- I am in the process of reaching out to all the states who haven’t renewed. I may need some help contacting a few people at these states.
- We are in great shape and ready to move into 2022.

ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair.

- Report attached
- The ACI website was down for about a week in late September and early October. Thanks to Lance Cherry for sorting this out.

ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report continued...

- Lance Cherry added, "WordPress went through an update and left plug-ins in the dirt. We weren't hacked or breeched, so there are no worries."
- The next issue of the Balance Wheel comes out Monday, November 15.

ITEM NO. 7: ACI Grants Committee update.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, ACI Grants Committee Chair and Immediate Past President.

- We have five states working well with their grants and all of their campaigns will wrap-up in the next month. We will then have a new batch of states that are selected for the grants and will be ready for 2022.
- We will begin to get the social listening report every two weeks, starting in January.
- Jenifer Wisniewski mentioned that Darcy Bontempo (Texas Parks and Wildlife) is retiring. Darcy has asked if we can send out a survey about marketing budgets. In addition, Jenifer Wisniewski also proposes to send out a survey to the ACI membership if they plan to attend the 2022 conference.

ITEM NO. 8: 2021 ACI Conference Update.

Presented by Jason Harmon, 2022 Conference Coordinator, Tennessee.

- Jason Harmon thanked everyone for the feedback he previously requested in regard to the conference and hotel pricing and rates. It is hard to get a hotel rate lower than \$207 as Nashville is expensive. Jason asked the board if \$200 will be ok for the registration rate.
- The Double Tree in Nashville is an option to host the conference. They have a good, remodeled conference space and they are excited to have the ACI annual conference. With their room rate of \$207, and a registration rate of \$200, Jason believes ACI can come out on top based on his math.

ITEM NO. 9: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair.

- Not a lot of news to report as we are in good shape and our host states are scheduled through 2027.
- Aaron Meier announced that Nevada has chosen Harveys in Lake Tahoe as the 2023 conference site, July 24-27, 2023. The quoted hotel room rate is \$140 for each room.

ITEM NO. 10: Awards Report.

Presented by Aaron Meier, Awards Chair.

- We are getting ready for another fun year of awards!

ITEM NO. 11: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Sara DiRienzo, Scholarship Chair and Vice President.

- Sara DiRienzo stated that once we start advertising for the 2022 ACI Conference, we will start advertising for the scholarships.

ITEM NO. 12: Ways and Means Report.

Vote to approve, reject, or amend the recommendation to alter bylaws regarding committees appointed by the ACI president. Ways and Means committee recommend the following addition:

Amend the ACI Bylaws to add the following to Article 9:

9. Grants Committee: With input from the Board, the president may appoint a Grants Committee for the purpose of pursuing and administering grants that benefit ACI members. (Amended 2021)

- Lance Cherry spoke with the Ways and Means Chairperson Micah Holmes prior to the board meeting. Lance expressed to the board that the grants are a long-term priority for ACI. Amending the by-laws would be the right thing to do in his opinion.

ITEM NO. 12: Ways and Means Report continued...

- Sara DiRienzo believes that the grants have been really good for ACI and she believes that the ACI grants committee is very productive.
- Judy Stokes Weber stated that having a grants committee imposes no financial impact on the organization.

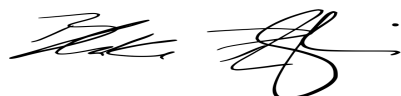
MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber moved to ammend the bylaws as presented. Craig Sanchez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 13: New Business.

- The board expressed that there is a vacancy on the board. The board needs to start looking for candidates to fill this vacancy.

ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment.

- With no further business on the agenda, the meeitng was adjourned at 10:35 pm MST.
- **MOTION:** Craig Sanchez moved to adjourn. Sara DiRienzo seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.



Submitted by Blake Podhajsky, Secretary



ASSOCIATION *for*
CONSERVATION
INFORMATION, INC.

Communications/Membership Report November 10, 2021

Membership

We are four months into the new membership year, renewals have picked up. Judy Stoke Weber plans to follow up with those who have not yet renewed.

- As of 10/31/2021, ACI has 34 Agency-level members, including:
 - 29 state agencies;
 - 1 federal agency;
 - 4 NGOs

Communications

- Next issue of *The Balance Wheel* will be published Nov. 15 and emailed to 579 subscribers (591 last report; -12). Total audience is 650, which includes contacts imported from conference attendee lists.
- Website was down for about a week in September-October. Even Lance was puzzled temporarily, but he ultimately sorted out the problem, caused by compatibility issues with some WordPress updates.
- The website problem, coupled with travel, delayed plans to work with Jenifer to build a section of the ACI website covering the ever-burgeoning Multi-state Grants program. I promise to get back on track with her.
- 656 Facebook likes (+14)
- 795 Facebook followers (+26)
- 9 Facebook posts (Sept.-Oct.)



ASSOCIATION *for*
CONSERVATION
INFORMATION, INC.

Treasurer's Report October 31, 2021

ACI checkbook register through August 31, 2021.

SEPT					
Check	9.1.21	Lower Loop NRD 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$88,475.24	ok
Check	9.6.21	CA 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$88,675.24	ok
PP Transfer	9.8.21	USFWS 2022 Dues and Awards	\$1,802.89	\$90,478.13	ok
PP Transfer	9.8.21	AFWA 2022 Dues	\$195.53	\$90,673.66	ok
Check	9.8.21	AL 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$90,873.66	ok
PP Transfer	9.8.21	CAHSS 2022 Dues	\$195.53	\$91,069.19	ok
Check	9.13.21	NH 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$91,269.19	ok
Check	9.13.21	UT 2022 Dues and Awards	\$840.00	\$92,109.19	ok
Check	9.16.21	OK 2022 Dues and Awards	\$1,880.00	\$93,989.19	ok
Check	9.20.21	TX 2022 Awards	\$1,440.00	\$95,429.19	ok
PP Transfer	9.20.21	PA Game 2022 Dues	\$195.53	\$95,624.72	ok
Check	9.22.21	RBFF 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$95,824.72	ok
10267	9.22.21	Hosting 4 Less secure certificate	\$25.00	\$95,799.72	okbalanced
Check	9.29.21	MI 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$95,999.72	ok
PP Transfer	9.30.21	MI 2022 Awards(Brad Parsons)	\$38.71	\$96,038.43	ok
PP Transfer	9.30.21	wy 2022 Dues and Awards	\$587.57	\$96,626.00	ok
OCT					
10268	10.1.21	WCP Q3 Stipend Treasurer	\$1,250.00	\$95,376.00	ok
10269	10.1.21	Scott Ball Q3 Stipend Comms/Member	\$1,250.00	\$94,126.00	ok
Check	10.1.21	CT 2022 Dues	\$200.00	\$94,326.00	ok
Check	10.4.21	NE 2022 Dues and Awards	\$1,560.00	\$95,886.00	ok
10270	10.11.21	CNA Surety Bond	\$320.00	\$95,566.00	ok
Check	10.14.21	NM 2022 Dues and Awards	\$1,480.00	\$97,046.00	ok
10271	10.14.21	VOID (used old name of company)			
10272	10.14.21	K2 Trophies and Awards LLC	\$4,022.43	\$93,023.57	ok balanced
Check	10.25.21	CA awards	\$640.00	\$93,663.57	ok balanced

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.