

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Virtual ● January 12, 2022 ● 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)
- ✓ Tim Akimoff (OR, Board)
- ✓ Micah Holmes (OK, Ways & Means)
- ✓ Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)
- ✓ Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)
- ✓ Linda DiPiano (NJ, Board)
- ✓ Joanne Martonik (RBFF, Board)

Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Darrin Hill (OK, Board)
- ✓ Fairly Mahlum (NC, Board)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

- November 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Jenifer Wisniewski moved to approve the November 2021 ACI Board Meeting Minutes.
Sara DiRienzo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Lance Cherry, President.

- Lance Cherry provided an update on the ACI website and why it was offline. Lance assured the board that he is working on it and he expected the site to be back online very soon.

ITEM NO. 5: Treasurer's Report.

Presented Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer.

- Report attached.
- We are in good financial standing.
- Our balance is hovering around \$90,000 in the checking account and \$25,000 is in a CD drawing interest.

ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair.

- Report attached.
- Thank you to Judy Stokes Weber and Blake Podhajsky for contacting states about membership invoices.
- Once we receive payments from those outstanding invoices, we will update the membership list.

ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report continued...

- The next issue of the Balance Wheel is scheduled for release on Tuesday, January 18. An alternate version of the newsletter will be sent via email in case the website is down.

ITEM NO. 7: ACI Grants Committee update.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, ACI Grants Committee Chair, Immediate Past President and Auction Committee. With special guest Matt Harlow, DJ Case and Associates.

- Matt Harlow of DJ Case and Associates updated the board on the social listening grant.
- The social listening grant will result in a report to each state every two weeks (25 reports in 2022). This grant should be up and running by March.
- The social listening grant will give each state a glimpse of what people are saying about their agency based on 50 various filters.
- After a year, we will code all the information and see what comments and data we get on a broader scale.
- Jenifer Wisniewski said the next \$50,000 grant will begin in March and will be awarded to five states. It is time to come up with new multi-state grant ideas.

ITEM NO. 8: Auction Committee Update.

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

- We will have a live auction this year at the conference, so be thinking of items to be offered for the auction.

ITEM NO. 9: 2022 ACI Conference Update.

Presented by Jason Harmon, 2022 Conference Coordinator, Tennessee.

- The contract with the Drury Plaza Hotel in Nashville, TN, is nearly finalized.
- We couldn't commit to a larger place, so the conference will be limited to 70 attendees.
- Work on the conference agenda and sponsor package details have started.
- Jenifer Wisniewski added that only 11 survey respondents stated that they planned to be at the conference. It will be first come, first serve to reserve the 70 available spots.
- Kay Ellerhoff mentioned that ACI officers and board members have to be at the conference. She was concerned whether there were, or were not, provisions to allow them to definitely be there. This concern was noted by the board.

ITEM NO. 10: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair.

- This is the time of year we start contacting future hosts.
- Linda DiPiano spoke about New Jersey hosting in 2025. "Summer on the Jersey shore is expensive and busy. We are going to start talking to hotels this summer to see if we can block some rooms. We are hosting AFWA in April and the hotel we are hosting at is a great one. So we will start conversations with them."
- Aaron Meier (2023 host) confirmed that Nevada has signed the contract with Harvey's (Tahoe, NV) and Cindy Delaney this week.

ITEM NO. 11: Awards Committee Report.

Presented by Aaron Meier, Awards Chair.

- The contest opened on Monday, January 10. The deadline is set for March 25.

ITEM NO. 12: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Sara DiRienzo, Scholarship Chair and Vice President.

- Sara DiRienzo stated she would like to have several people volunteer to be on the scholarship committee. Linda DiPiano volunteered to be on the scholarship committee.

ITEM NO. 13: Ways and Means Report.

Presented by Micah Holmes, Ways and Means Chair.

- Nothing to report at this time.


ITEM NO. 14: New Business.

- With the retirement of board member Craig Sanchez (NM), there are now two vacancies on the board. The board needs to continue looking for candidates to fill this vacancy.
- Judy Stokes Weber mentioned that ACI life member Judith Hosafrass passed away. Judy recommended that ACI make a donation in her name. Similar gifts in the past have been \$100 and we could do the same.
- Kay Ellerhoff said there is a memorial service for Judith in February, so it would be appropriate to make the donation soon.
- **MOTION:** Judy Stokes Weber moved for ACI to make a donation of \$100. Linda DiPiano seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM NO. 15: Adjournment.

- With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm MST.

MOTION: Jenifer Wisniewski moved to adjourn. Linda DiPiano seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.



Submitted by Blake Podhajsky, Secretary



Communications/Membership Report **January 12, 2022**

Membership

- As of 01/06/2022, ACI has 40 Agency-level members, including:
 - 34 state agencies;
 - 1 federal agency;
 - 5 NGOs
- In addition, Judy Stokes Weber is confident that payment is forthcoming from five other states to join the list shortly.

Communications

- Next issue of *The Balance Wheel* will be published Tuesday, Jan. 18 and emailed to 578 subscribers (579 last report; -1). Total audience is 651, which includes contacts imported from conference attendee lists.
- Website has been down again, this time since late December. According to Lance Cherry, who knows far more about what's under the hood, it's a messy situation. He is working diligently to get it back up and running. We want to be as visible as possible with Awards season about to kick off.
- 660 Facebook likes (+4)
- 802 Facebook followers (+7)
- 10 Facebook posts (Nov.-Dec.)
- The ACI Group Facebook page is one that allows members to post messages and ask/answer questions. We also re-post items from the main FB page there. It currently has 77 members.



Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2021

Here is a copy of our check register through December 31. No unusual expenses in the last couple of months.

Working to get in the last memberships and getting great assists from Blake and Scott.

NOV				
PP Transfer	11.5.21	VA Dues and Awards (2 invoices)	\$587.08	\$94,250.65
DEC				
PP Transfer	12.1.21	MO 2022 Dues and awards	\$1,802.89	\$96,053.54
Check	12.21.21	IA 2022 dues and awards	\$240.00	\$96,293.54
Check	12.21.21	SC 2022 Dues and awards	\$600.00	\$96,893.54
10273	12.29.212	ACI 2023 Conference seed money	\$5,000.00	\$91,893.54

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.

Sincerely,

Judy Stokes Weber, APR
Treasurer ACI