

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Virtual ● Nov. 9, 2022 ● 11 a.m-12 a.m. CST

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- ✓ Lance Cherry (NM, President)
- ✓ 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)
- ✓ Tim Akimoff (OR, Board)
- ✓ Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)
- ✓ Joanne Martonik (RBFF, Board)
- ✓ Micah Holmes (OK, Ways & Means)
- ✓ Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- ✓ Sarah Southerland (OK, Board)

Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Aaron Meier (NV, Awards)
- ✓ Linda DiPiano (NJ, Board)
- ✓ Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)
- ✓ Fairly Mahlum (NC, Board)
- ✓ James Pitman (NM, Board)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

- September 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Judy Stokes Weber moved to approve the September 2022 ACI Board Meeting Minutes. Jenifer Wisniewski seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Lance Cherry, President.

- Lance Cherry said “I want to acknowledge the hard work that Sara did as vice president. Most of us saw it and she was a rock and I want to put on record that I greatly appreciated what she did.”

ITEM NO. 5: Treasurer’s Report.

Presented Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer.

- Things are going along well with membership and seeking additional members.
- Expenses are normal. Present balance is \$76,250.67.
- Judy Stokes Weber said “I will miss Sara as well and I had so much confidence in her. She was also our second contact with our designated representation.”
- With Sara gone, we will need someone else on the board to step in as our second representative. President Lance Cherry said “I am willing to be the second contact.”

ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair.

- Currently ACI has 34 agency level members.
- Scott Ball said “we are now sending follow up messages to states we haven’t heard from. We are also following up with sponsor level members.”

ITEM NO. 7: ACI Grants Committee update.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, ACI Grants Committee Chair

- Jenifer Wisniewski said “anyone on the board who wants to help manage the four grants, please let me know. This is a great way to learn about the grant system and work with the states.”
- Joanne Martonik volunteered to manage the \$50,000 R3 grant.
- NGO’s are now eligible to apply for the social listening grant.
- HuntStand wants to partner with the states. Wisniewski asked, “how should we get the word out?” Lance Cherry replied, “I think we would have greater impact if we not just put it in the Balance Wheel, rather we could send out an announcement or email as these types of offers come in.”
- There will be a grants meeting soon to work on the grants.

ITEM NO. 8: Auction Committee update.

Presented by Tim Akimoff, ACI Auction Committee Co-chair.

- Nothing to report at this time.

ITEM NO. 9: 2023 ACI Conference update.

- Nothing to report at this time. Conference coordinator Aaron Meier was not in attendance.

ITEM NO. 10: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair.

- South Carolina is interested in hosting soon.

ITEM NO. 11: Awards Report.

- Nothing to report at this time. Awards committee representatives were not in attendance.

ITEM NO. 12: Scholarship Report.

- Previous scholarship chair Sara DiRienzo is no longer with ACI. We will need to find a new chair.
- Joanne Martonik volunteered to be the new scholarship chairperson.

ITEM NO. 13: Ways and Means Report.

Presented by Micah Holmes, Ways and Means committee chair.

- Micah Holmes said “we made good progress in the summer with the bylaws, but we need to revisit this.”
- President Lance Cherry announced, “GO POKES”, in response to Micah Holmes wearing a Oklahoma State University shirt on the Zoom stream. “Make sure that makes it into the meeting minutes” Cherry jokingly stated.
- Jenifer Wisniewski mentioned she wants to be involved with the Ways and Means committee.

ITEM NO. 14: New Business.

Vacant Vice President position

- President Lance Cherry commented, “with Sara’s departure as vice president, do we want to appoint an interim vice president or shuffle? How do we handle this?”
- Micah Holmes responded, “the articles say there is an option to appoint a vice president. But I think we can leave it vacant for six months.”
- Jenifer Wisniewski volunteered to be the interim vice president if need be.

ACI Podcast

- Tim Akimoff presented the idea of creating an ACI podcast. Tim said “I recently podcasted together with Ashley Sanchez at the bear conference and it worked well. I wanted to throw this idea out there to the board.”
- Judy Stokes Weber replied “it’s an interesting idea to have a podcast and the budget could absorb the approximate \$500/year cost.”

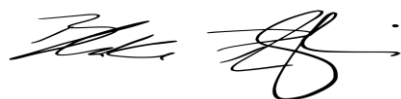
Sponsoring other conferences

- Jenifer Wisniewski said “if we sponsor more conferences, we need to have a plan of what we want to do, and be better organized.”

ITEM NO. 15: Adjournment.

- With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am CST.

MOTION: Jenifer Wisniewski moved to adjourn. Tim Akimoff seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.



Submitted by Blake Podhajsky, Secretary



ASSOCIATION *for*
CONSERVATION
INFORMATION, INC.

Treasurer's Report
November 9, 2022

Renewals are coming in nicely as you will read in Scot Ball's report. We always have a few states where it is hard to raise anyone. We are getting down to crunch time for membership. Technically, to be eligible for the awards program states need to renew or join up by the end of December. Scott and I may call you into service if we are having trouble with any states that are nearby yours.

All income and expenses are in the normal range. We did choose to support the Southeast Fish and Wildlife Association Conference for \$5,000. Please ask any questions about anything in the checkbook. The Check Register shows a balance of \$76,250.67 at the end of October.

Sincerely,

Judy

Judy Stokes Weber, APR
ACI Treasurer

11.7.22

SEPT					
PayPal Transfer	9.1.22	WY 2023 dues/AW	\$901.20	\$80,164.20	
PayPal Transfer	9.1.22	CO 2023 dues/AW	\$744.39	\$80,908.59	
PayPal Transfer	9.2.22	KS 2023 dues/AW	\$234.73	\$81,143.32	
PayPal Transfer	9.2.22	NV 2023 dues/AW	\$783.59	\$81,926.91	
PayPal Transfer	9.2.22	OR 2023 dues/AW	\$313.14	\$82,240.05	
10293	9.6.22	K2Awards replacement plaque	\$33.30	\$82,206.75	
PayPal Transfer	9.7.22	LA 2023 dues	\$195.53	\$82,402.28	
PayPal Transfer	9.7.22	Chuck Yoest indiv member dues	\$24.01	\$82,426.29	
PayPal Transfer	9.9.22	USFWS 2023/24 dues	\$391.55	\$82,817.84	
PayPal Transfer	9.13.22	VA 2023 dues	\$195.53	\$83,013.37	
Check	9.13.22	FL 2023 dues	\$200.00	\$83,213.37	
PayPal Transfer	9.14.22	NJ 2023 dues	\$195.53	\$83,408.90	
PayPal Transfer	9.14.22	CAHSS 2023 dues	\$195.53	\$83,604.43	
PayPal Transfer	9.14.22	NC 2023 dues/AW	\$979.61	\$84,584.04	
PayPal Transfer	9.15.22	VA AW	\$234.73	\$84,818.77	
PayPal Transfer	9.17.22	GA 2023 dues/AW	\$313.14	\$85,131.91	
Check	9.18.22	CA 2023 dues	\$200.00	\$85,331.91	
Check	9.20.22	MT 2023 dues/AW	\$920.00	\$86,251.91	
Check	9.20.22	NE 2023 dues/AW	\$2,160.00	\$88,411.91	
PayPal Transfer	9.20.22	ID 2023 dues	\$195.53	\$88,607.44	
PayPal Transfer	9.22.22	OH 2023 dues/AW	\$705.18	\$89,312.62	
Check	9.23.22	Maine 2023 dues	\$200.00	\$89,512.62	
PayPal Transfer	9.23.22	WI 2023 dues/AW	\$430.75	\$89,943.37	
PayPal Transfer	9.30.22	NY DEC 2023 dues/AW	\$509.16	\$90,452.53	
Check	9.30.22	TN 2023 dues/AW	\$1,240.00	\$91,692.53	
10294	9.30.22	TN Wildlife Res. Foundation conference			
		Scholarships and seed money	\$13,470.10	\$78,222.43	
10295	9.30.22	Star Gonzales - Pres, gift reimbursement	\$100.00	\$78,122.43	
OCT					
10296	10.1.22	Comms /Memb Stipend Scott C. Ball	\$1,250.00	\$76,872.43	
10297	10.1.22	Treasurer Stipend WCP LLC	\$1,250.00	\$75,622.43	
Check	10.2.22	VT 2023 Dues	\$200.00	\$75,822.43	
Check	10.4.22	OK 2023 dues/AW	\$1,800.00	\$77,622.43	
Check	10.4.22	TX awards	\$1,360.00	\$78,982.43	
PayPal Transfer	10.8.22	PA Game 2023 dues	\$195.53	\$79,177.96	
10298	10.10.22	CNA Surety (Treasurer Bond)	\$320.00	\$78,857.96	
10299	10.11.22	SEAFWA Sponsorship	\$5,000.00	\$73,857.96	
PayPal Transfer	10.12.22	AFWA 2023 dues	\$195.53	\$74,053.49	
Check	10.12.22	Utah 2023 Dues/AW	\$640.00	\$74,693.49	
10300	10.18.22	Hosting 4 Less	\$25.00	\$74,668.49	
Check	10.21.22	RI2023 RI dues	\$200.00	\$74,868.49	
PayPal Transfer	10.27.22	USFW Awards	\$702.18	\$75,570.67	
Check	10.27.22	IN 2023 dues/AW	\$680.00	\$76,250.67	

Communications/Membership Report to ACI Board of Directors
Scott Ball – Nov. 9, 2022

Membership

Judy and I continue to work well together in coordinating the mechanics of the Membership Recruitment/Renewal process.

- Judy has sent invoices to all renewing and lapsed members. She is also adapting to the various processes that different agencies have in paying for memberships.
- She is alerting me to those members who haven't responded, and I am sending gentle reminders.
- Judy notifies me as renewals come in. I respond with a thank-you email that includes the new "Did You Know?" one-pager. We also use that opportunity to request directory updates and urge them to ask coworkers to subscribe to *The Balance Wheel*.
- I use the renewal information Judy provides to keep a spreadsheet of current members and their invoice contacts. I share that back with Judy weekly to ensure accuracy.

As of 10/31/22, ACI has

- 34 Agency-level members, including...
 - 29 state agencies
 - 1 Federal agency
 - 4 NGOs
- 1 Individual-level member

Communications

- I was blocked from accessing our own website (both admin side and public) for a week or so. Finally resolved via a service call from Comcast and a new modem.
- Next issue of *The Balance Wheel* will be published Tuesday, Nov. 15 and emailed to 568 subscribers. Articles will include, among other topics, Dan Dennison's video piece on Tennessee Wildcast, a recap of Sarah Southerland's Social Media session at the conference and a summary of how Nebraska used its R3 grant. Sadly, my request of members to share their most helpful feedback/critiques from contest judges received an underwhelming response (1).
- We had 9 scholarship recipients at this year's conference. All but one have submitted their articles.
- 749 732 Facebook likes (+17)
- 902 Facebook followers (+32)
- 6 Facebook posts (September-October.)
- 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 95 members (+2).