

## **MINUTES**

### **Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting**

Virtual ● May 10, 2023 ● 11 a.m-12 a.m. CST

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

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

Lance Cherry (NM, President)  
Blake Podhajsky (OK, Secretary)  
Jenifer Wisniewski (TN, Immediate Past President, ACI Grants, Auction)  
Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)  
Scott Ball (FL, Communications and Membership)  
Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)  
Micah Holmes (OK, Ways & Means)  
Beth Quillan (OR, Awards)  
Tim Akimoff (OR, Board, Auction)  
Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)  
Linda DiPiano (NJ, Board)  
Joanne Martonik (RBFF, Board)  
Dan Dennison (HI, Board)  
Sarah Southerland (OK, Board)  
Aaron Meier (NV, Conf. Host)  
Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)  
James Pitman (NM, Board)

#### **Unable to Attend:**

Fairly Mahlum (NC, Board)  
Chris Martin (WY, Awards)

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

- May 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** Jenifer Wisniewski moved to approve the March 2023 ACI Board Meeting Minutes.  
Joanne Martonik seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.**

Presented by Lance Cherry, President.

- Lance Cherry said "I am looking forward to the upcoming conference. Aaron Meier has promised a memorable conference and I hope everyone can make it!"

#### **ITEM NO. 5: Treasurer's Report.**

Presented Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer.

- Judy Stokes Weber said "we are in good financial shape. I will provide a proposed budget to the next meeting and have it ready for approval at the conference."

**ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report.**

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair.

- Scott Ball said “we have more members than we have ever had that I can recall.”
- “I had A.I. write something about the upcoming conference for the Balance Wheel, but then I decided to add the G.I. (genuine intelligence) version,” Scott jokingly added.
- Ball said, “I sent Lance (Cherry) my notice of intention to resign and finish at the end of September. I am ready to be full-time retired. It’s time for new blood and change is a good thing.” Jenifer Wisniewski replied “you will be missed Scott!” Lance Cherry responded “I do appreciate the timing, which will allow for a smooth transition with the new leadership.”

**ITEM NO. 7: ACI Grants Committee update.**

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, ACI Grants Committee Chair.

- Upcoming grants are 1) Student air rifle program, 2) Social listening reports, and 3) Photo and video asset part 2. The photo/video grant will provide photo assets and video Broll footage from five different regions of the country. Phase two will be to categorize these assets into different categories such as social media, Broll, etc.

**ITEM NO. 8: Auction Committee update.**

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

- “I have been working with local manufacturers in Oregon, looking for donations,” Tim Akimoff said. “I have also reached out to local photographers about donating prints etc.”

**ITEM NO. 9: 2023 ACI Conference update.**

Presented by Aaron Meier, 2023 Conference Coordinator.

- Aaron Meier said “I have two conferences going on right now and I will be focusing 100% on ACI after next week.” “I feel like Delaney isn’t getting the sponsors yet,” Meier added.

**ITEM NO. 10: Futures Conference Report.**

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair.

- Kay Ellerhoff said “We have a little problem as our meeting in 2025 is with New Jersey. Linda (DiPiano) is finding out that beach front hotels are out of budget.”
- Linda DiPiano responded “the best place (for the conference) would be Atlantic City as it’s the cheapest and has the most hotels. July in New Jersey is the most expensive.” DiPiano added, “the Resorts Casino and Hotel is a good prospect. The federal rate is \$98, but the cheapest I have found is \$158, so finding hotels is impossible. There is nothing inland in New Jersey that will do something under \$300 a night.”
- Lance Cherry responded, “for most of the state agencies, we have cushion to pay more than the federal rate and scholarships can also help the federal folks who are attending.”
- “If we are under \$150, I think that is doable” said Jenifer Wisniewski.

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

Presented by Beth Quillan, Awards Co-Chair.

- There were 598 entries this year.
- Beth Quillan said “we are well into the judging round and that closes on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many judges have started, but there are still a lot that haven’t.”

**ITEM NO. 12: Scholarship Report.**

Presented by Joanne Martonik, Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

- Joanne Martonik said “the scholarship application has been out for about five weeks now and we have 14 people who have applied.”

**ITEM NO. 13: Ways and Means Report.**

Presented by Micah Holmes, Ways and Means committee chair.

- Micah Holmes said, “we have talked about this over the past year. We have a few minor changes and some cleaning up to do (bylaws).”
- Main proposed change: Change the treasurers stipend amount from \$1,000, to \$5,000. (Article 7, F).
- Judy Stokes Weber abstained from voting .

**MOTION:** Jenifer Wisniewski moved to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws ‘as presented’. James Pittman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

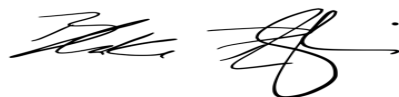
**ITEM NO. 14: New Business.**

- No new business.

**ITEM NO. 15: Adjournment.**

**MOTION:** Dan Dennison moved to adjourn. Linda DiPiano seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm CDT.



---

*Submitted by Blake Podhajsky, Secretary*



ASSOCIATION *for*  
CONSERVATION  
INFORMATION, INC.

## Treasurer's Report April, 2023

All income and expenses are in the normal range. We show a balance of \$78,116.32 at the end of April. You will recall we have a \$25,000 CD on deposit with TIAA.

We are in good financial shape, thanks to your hard work in reaching out to states and organizations. I expect our strong financial position to continue into the next year as we had strong participation in the awards program this year. Scott can fill you in with his report as to those states that are still not seeing the value of ACI, if you want to know more about that. If you have thoughts about how we can reach out effectively, I am all ears.

At our next meeting prior to the Conference, I will prepare and present a budget for your review which the membership approves at the annual conference business meeting. Time to think about our plans for next fiscal year. Shortly after the conference invoices will go out for 2024 dues and awards payments. Here is a copy of the ACI check register for the months since our last meeting. Happy to answer any questions about the numbers.

MAR							
Check	3.2.23	TX2023 dues	\$200.00	\$80,006.62	ok		
PP Transfer	3.3.23	WV 2023 and 2024 dues	\$195.53	\$80,202.15	ok		
Check	3.9.23	TN StateParks/Conservationist 2023 dues	\$200.00	\$80,402.15	ok		
PP Transfer	3.14.23	ThrilloftheOutdoors sponsor member	\$489.56	\$80,891.71	ok		
PP transfer	3.15.23	Gina Jackson personal membership	\$24.01	\$80,915.72	ok		
APR							
	4.4.23	Comms /Memb Stipend Scott C. Ball	\$1,250.00	\$79,665.72	ok		
	4.4.23	Treasurer Stipend JS Weber	\$1,250.00	\$78,415.72	ok		
	4.4.23	Hosting 4 Less	\$299.40	\$78,116.32	ok balanced		

Sincerely,

*Judy*

Judy Stokes Weber, APR  
ACI Treasurer  
5.5.23

Communications/Membership Report to ACI Board of Directors  
Scott Ball – May 10, 2023

### **Membership**

As of 04/30/23, ACI has

- 51 Agency-level members, including...
  - 45 state agencies
  - 1 Federal agency
  - 5 NGOs
- 2 Sponsor-level members
- 3 Supporting-level members
- 2 Individual-level members

### **Communications**

- Next issue of *The Balance Wheel* is scheduled for publishing Monday, May 15 and emailed to 540 subscribers (-9).
- 769 Facebook likes (+4)
- 827 Facebook followers (+4)
- 12 Facebook posts (March-April)
- The ACI Group Facebook page allows members to post messages and ask/answer questions. We also re-post items from the main FB page there. It currently has 94 members (-1).