

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Harvey's Lake Tahoe ● July 24, 2023 ● 3:30 p.m. PDT

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

- By Lance Cherry at 3:32PM

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

Lance Cherry (NM, President)
Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)
Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)
Linda DiPiano (NJ, Board)
Joanne Martonik (RBFF, Board)
Dan Dennison HI, Board)
James Pitman (NM, Board)
Aaron Meier (NV, Conf. Host)
Scott Ball (FL, Communications and Membership)
Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
Beth Quillan (OR, Awards)
Chris Martin (WY, Awards)

Unable to Attend:

Blake Podhajsky (OK, Secretary)
Jenifer Wisniewski (TN, Immediate Past President, ACI Grants, Auction)
Micah Holmes (OK, Ways & Means)
Tim Akimoff (OR, Board, Auction)
Sarah Southerland (OK, Board)
Fairly Mahlum (NC, Board)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

- June 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Dan Dennison moved to approve the June 2023 ACI Board Meeting Minutes.
Joanne seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Lance Cherry, President.

- Lance Cherry said “thank you for the wonderful time I have had as president of ACI.”

ITEM NO. 5: Appointment of 2023 ACI Nominating Committee.

Presented by Lance Cherry, President.

- Vacant position discussion- Three vacant board member positions, president, vice-president, secretary.
- President Cherry appointed Blake Podhajsky, Joanne Martonik and Patricia Allen to the nominating committee.

ITEM NO. 6: Appointment of 2023 ACI Auditing Committee.

Presented by Lance Cherry, President.

- Ashley Sanchez and James Pittman nominated.
- Judy Stokes Weber will send the records to the committee after the conference to allow additional time to look them over and review.
- Auditing committee will review and report out on auditing at the next board meeting.

ITEM NO. 7: 2023 ACI Conference update.

Presented by Aaron Meier, Conference Chair.

- Aaron Meier said, "It's going to be great!"

ITEM NO. 8: ACI Auction Committee.

Presented by Aaron Meier, Conference Chair on behalf of Jenifer Wisniewski, Auction Committee Chair.

- Auction is tomorrow- lots of good items up for auction this year.

ITEM NO. 9: Awards Committee Report.

Presented by Beth Quillian and Chris Martin, Awards Committee Co-chairs.

- There was a discussion on the potential of livestreaming the awards banquet. It had been previously decided that the awards banquet would be in-person only.
- Beth Quillian said "everything is looking fine, the plaques made it here and ready to go."
- 598 award entries total this year.

ITEM NO. 10: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Joanne Martonik, Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

- 10 scholarship winners are attending the conference.
- Joanne Martonik said "I am meeting today with the scholarship winners and we are good to go."

ITEM NO. 11: ACI Grants Committee update.

Presented by Joanne Martonik on behalf of Jenifer Wisniewski, ACI Grants Committee Chair.

- Discussion on five grants submitted this year.
- Including: Five states \$50,000 marketing campaigns; air gun pathway; social listening 2.0
- Jenifer is willing to remain the grants chair.

ITEM NO. 12: Treasurer's Report.

Presented Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer.

- Judy led discussion on other 'non-states' joining- new organizations; bringing new members in; next conferences are in the east and can help get more NE folks there.
- Judy will send packet of bank statements and invoices and supporting documents to the audit committee.

ITEM NO. 13: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair.

- Highlights of the year- there are more members than any years prior that Scott has been tracking and involved.
- Balance Wheel has 31 fewer subscribers than this time last year. Four unsubscribed and the rest were scrubbed after so many bounces. Scott Ball said "we need to tell co-workers to sign up."
- Scott Ball is employed until the end of September. Scott said "It's a great pleasure working with everyone and I hold ACI dear to my heart."
- Lance Cherry mentioned that the R3 conference had more NGO's than state agencies attend. Cherry said "ACI will probably see this trend continue where NGO's are asking to join."
- Lance Cherry brought up two membership requests to vote on- Delta Waterfowl and South Carolina Waterowl Association.

Motion to approve memberships:

MOTION: Patricia Allen moved to approve the memberships of Delta Waterfowl and South Carolina Waterfowl Association. Linda DiPiano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 14: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair.

- Kay Ellerhoff said, "the good news is ACI 2024 will be in Virginia and the Virginia folks have been in contact with Delaney, and Don King and Jenifer Wisniewski." Virginia is new to the organization.
- 2025 conference will be hosted in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Linda DiPiano mentioned they are looking at three hotels and hope to make a decision by August for the hotel. Good to go for the government rate for the hotel rooms.
- Ellerhoff said "we are kind of scheduled out to 2028."

ITEM NO. 15: Ways and Means Report.

Presented by Lance Cherry on behalf of Micah Holmes, Ways and Means Chair.

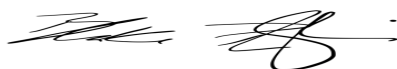
- Lance Cherry said "we did a lot of clean-up to the bylaws. They are posted as a heavy reminder to the board to get them off the website and look them over."
- Micah and Blake worked hard on it.
- Take a look and make sure we are not missing something.

ITEM NO. 16: New Business.

- No new business.

ITEM NO. 17: Adjournment.

MOTION: Dan Dennison moved to adjourn. Joanne Martonik seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.



Submitted by Blake Podhajsky, Secretary



FY 2024 DRAFT ACI Budget

Beginning Balance Checking Accounts		\$73,433
REVENUE		
Dues, Awards	\$30,000	
Interest	\$0	
Conf Returns	\$0	
Total Income	\$30,000	\$30,000
FY 2023 Assets Available		\$103,433
EXPENSES		
Conference Advance	\$5,000	
Scholarships	\$11,212	
Award Plaques	\$4,300	
Online Awards Platform	\$4,800	
Webhosting/Security certificate	\$325	
Web domain renewal	\$0	
Treasurer Stipend	\$5,000	
Surety Bond	\$325	
Communication Manager Stipend	\$5,000	
Conference Travel Reimbursements	\$7,500	
Professional Fees CPA Review	\$500	
Office Expenses	\$100	
Affiliate membership in AFWA	\$250	

FY 2023 Total Expense	\$44,312	\$44,312
Estimated Checking Account Balance June 30, 2024		\$59,121
TIAA CD		\$25,500
Resources available as of June 30, 2024		\$84,621

Draft Budget with revisions from meeting information accepted by board on June 14 , 2023

JSW

6.14.23

Judy

Judy Stokes Weber, APR
ACI Treasurer

Communications/Membership Report to ACI Members – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
Scott Ball – July 27, 2023

Membership

As of 06/30/23, ACI has its highest number of members in the 6 years I've been tracking.

- 51 Agency-level members (+2)*, including...
 - 45 state agencies (+2), representing 42 states
 - 1 federal agency
 - 5 NGOs (-1)
- 2 Sponsor-level members (-2)
- 3 Supporting-level members (+3)
- 2 Individual-level members

Communications

- 545 subscribers to *The Balance Wheel* newsletter (-31)**
- 779 Facebook likes (+90)
- 832 Facebook followers (+9)
- 72 Facebook posts (+9)

*Figures in parentheses reflect changes from the previous year.

**4 unsubscribes; the remainder were cleaned from the list after multiple bounces.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Ball, Membership and Communications Chair