

## MINUTES

### Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Virtual Conference Call ● September 20, 2023 ● 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CDT

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

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

- ✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, President)
- ✓ Aaron Meier (NV, Vice President)
- ✓ Joanne Martonik (RBF, Secretary)
- ✓ Lance Cherry (CAHSS, Immediate Past President)
- ✓ Linda DiPiano (NJ, Board-24)
- ✓ Fairley Mahlum (NC, Board- 24)
- ✓ Paige Pearson (VA, Board- 24)
- ✓ Dan Dennison (HI, Board- 25)
- ✓ James Pitman (NM, Board- 25)
- ✓ Sarah Southerland (OK, Board- 25)
- ✓ Brent Drinkut (IN, Board- 26)
- ✓ Bobby Jones (NV, Board- 26)
- ✓ Scott Ball (Membership and Communications Chair)
- ✓ Kay Ellerhoff (Future Conference Chair)
- ✓ Jason Harmon (TN, Fundraising/Auction Committee Chair)
- ✓ Chris Martin (WY, Awards Committee Co-chair)
- ✓ Tim Akimoff (OR)

#### Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- ✓ Beth Quillian (OR, Board)
- ✓ Micah Holmes (OK, Ways and Means Committee Chair)
- ✓ Jenifer Wisniewski (National Deer Association, Grants Committee Chair)

#### ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.

- July 2023 board meeting minutes attached.

**MOTION:** Chris Martin moved to approve the July 2023 ACI Board meeting minutes as presented. Fairley Mahlum seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### ITEM NO. 4: Approval of Business Meeting Minutes.

- July 2023 business meeting minutes attached.
- Scott Ball mentioned the date on the Business Meeting notes should be July 27, 2023, not June 27, 2023.

**MOTION:** James Pitman moved to approve the July 2023 ACI Business meeting minutes as presented with the date correction. Linda DiPiano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### ITEM NO. 5: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Blake Podhajsky, President.

- Blake Podhajsky welcomed everyone to the board meeting and congratulated the new board members and new board officers.
- He said he thinks ACI is going in a really good direction and is excited about the future of ACI.

**ITEM NO. 6: Treasurer's Report.**

Presented Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer.

- Treasurer's report attached.
- No discussion was held; Judy Stokes Weber was not in attendance.

**ITEM NO. 7: Communications Report.**

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair.

- Communications report attached.
- Judy Stokes Weber has sent out invoices to members and 14 have responded so far.
- The Balance Wheel went out last Friday. Not all Board Members are subscribed to the Balance Wheel, so everyone needs to make sure they're signed up.
- Info was sent out to update the membership directory- several Board Member groups have not responded.
- Facebook followers have increased.
- Blake Podhajsky said that Scott is stepping down as membership communications chair. He said, "Thank you to Scott for all you've done for ACI."

**ITEM NO. 8: 2023 ACI Conference Recap.**

Presented by Aaron Meier, 2023 Conference Coordinator

- There were 120 attendees.
- Still some housekeeping items to finalize with the hotel.
- Auction raised \$5,932; came out with a bit over \$9,000 which helps offset the next conference.

**ITEM NO. 9: Fundraising and Auction Committee Update.**

Presented by Jason Harmon, Auction Committee Chair.

- The auction in 2023 went well.
- Thinking of ideas for 2024 and asked for Board Members to send any suggestions his way.
- Blake Podhajsky mentioned the original name of the "Auction Committee" was "Fundraising and Auction Committee" so that full committee name will be used now.

**ITEM NO. 10: Awards Committee Report.**

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

- Chris Martin thanked the Board for their help with the awards.
- He and Beth Quillan have notes for changes in 2024.
- There was some confusion about the costs associated with submitting for an award and that will be more clearly communicated next year.
- Blake Podhajsky mentioned one of the hardest tasks of the awards is to find judges and any help is appreciated.

**ITEM NO. 11: ACI Grants Committee Report.**

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Grants Committee Chair.

- No discussion was held as Jenifer Wisniewski was not in attendance.

**ITEM NO. 12: Scholarships Report.**

Presented by Joanne Martonik, Scholarship Committee Chairperson.

- Not much new to report at this time. Joanne Martonik has a few ideas to streamline the process for next year.
- Scott Ball will provide Joanne Martonik with the name of the one scholarship recipient still to submit an article.

**ITEM NO. 13: Futures Conference Report.**

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

- There are 2-3 people she's asking to do the conference in the future.
- The current plans for future locations are:
  - 2024- VA
  - 2025- NJ
  - 2026- OK
  - 2027- NC

**ITEM NO. 14: 2024 Conference Report.**

Presented by Paige Pearson, 2024 Conference Coordinator.

- Contract finalized and signed with Delaney.
- RFP for a hotel went out; looking at locations in Northern Virginia (Arlington/Alexandria) and hope to have something in the next week.
- Draft agenda is in the works.

**ITEM NO. 15: Ways and Means Report.**

Presented by Micah Holmes, Ways and Means Committee Chairperson.

- No discussion was held as Micah Holmes was not in attendance.

**ITEM NO. 16: ACI Podcast Proposal**

Presented by Tim Akimoff

- Podcast is a great way to bridge the gap between conferences- can use it to have presenters provide more information after the conference.
- Can be used to share with colleagues who don't get to go to the conference.
- Details still need to be worked out, but Tim Akimoff and Ashley Sanchez can host for now but can have other state agencies host down the road.
- Potential for one a month
- Blake Podhajsky said he had spoken with Treasurer Judy Stokes Weber and the cost of purchasing a subscription to a podcast platform is doable within the current budget.
- Board can provide podcast topic ideas if they'd like.
- Podcast can be used as a potential tool to recruit new members and sponsors.

**MOTION:** Dan Dennison moved to approve moving forward with creating an ACI podcast as presented. Paige Pearson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM NO. 17: New Business.**

Presented by Blake Podhajsky, President.

- Kay Ellerhoff asked for an update on the 2025 conference in NJ. Linda DiPiano said the hotel is booked- dates and government rate confirmed for Atlantic City

**ITEM NO. 18: Adjournment.**

- With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 CDT.

**MOTION:** Paige Pearson moved to adjourn. Linda DiPiano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

  

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*Submitted by Joanne Martonik, Secretary*



ASSOCIATION *for*  
CONSERVATION  
INFORMATION, INC.

### **Treasurer's Report August 31, 2023**

The invoicing process is underway for FY 2024, with most of the Agency member invoices on their way. A few perpetually unresponsive states need to be on our radar screen moving forward this year. These include PA Fish and Boat Commission, Delaware, Maryland, Alaska (we have a new lead here – thanks, Blake) and Illinois. We will be exploring some new ideas as to how we may reach these members of our community at the next Board meeting September 20.

On the next page you will see a copy of the checkbook register (excel spreadsheet) through today, September 15. Note that dues and awards payments are rolling in quickly from those who can use a credit card to pay the PayPal invoice. We also have a few states who paid dues earlier this year and the Fish and Wildlife Service pays for 2 years at a time. Please feel free to ask questions if you want to know more about what you see in the register.

Sincerely,

*Judy*

Judy Stokes Weber, APR

Treasurer

Association for Conservation Information, Inc.

### FY 2024 ACI Check Register

Transaction	Date	Description	Amount	Balance	Balanced
	7.1.23	Beginning Balance		<b>\$74,973.32</b>	
<b>JUL</b>					
10311	7.4.23	Scott Ball Memb & Comms Stipend	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	\$73,723.32	ok
10312	7.4.23	JS Weber Treasurer Stipend	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	\$72,473.32	ok
Check	7.5.23	SC Waterfowl Association 2024 dues	<b>\$200.00</b>	\$72,673.32	ok
wiretransfer	7.6.23	Remainder to Awards Force	<b>\$242.00</b>	\$72,431.32	ok
	7.6.23	Awards Force wire transfer fee	<b>\$25.00</b>	\$72,406.32	ok
10313	7.18.23	Blake Podhajsky Prez gift reimb	<b>\$113.82</b>	\$72,292.50	ok
10314	7.18.23	JS Weber Reimb cc Pymnt to K2 Awards	<b>\$3,782.65</b>	\$68,509.85	okbalance
10315	7.22.23	Lance Cherry Reimb for Ellerhoff Spirit Plaque	<b>\$107.19</b>	\$68,402.66	ok
10316	7.31.23	JS Weber Reimb Conference Travel	<b>\$1,861.11</b>	\$66,541.55	ok
10317	7.31.23	Scott Ball Registration reimb.	<b>\$350.00</b>	\$66,191.55	ok
<b>AUG</b>					
Check	8.1.23	FL 2024 Dues	\$200.00	\$66,391.55	ok
10318	8.8.23	Scott Ball Conf Travel reimbursement	<b>\$2,000.00</b>	\$64,391.55	okbalance
10319		VOID- error made			
<b>SEPT</b>					
10320	9.8.23	ACI (conf acct w/Delaney, Scholar. Regs)	<b>\$3,750.00</b>	\$60,641.55	
10321	9.8.23	Caesars Entertainment (Harveys rooms Scholar.)	<b>\$7,294.48</b>	\$53,347.07	
PP Transfer	9.8.23	NJ 2024 Dues and Awards	\$626.77	\$53,973.84	
PP Transfer	9.8.23	CO 2024 Dues and Awards	\$1,254.04	\$55,227.88	
PP Transfer	9.8.23	KS 2024 Dues and Awards	\$901.20	\$56,129.08	
PP Transfer	9.11.23	LA and PA Game Dues and Awards	\$665.49	\$56,794.57	
PP Transfer	9.12.23	OH 2024 Dues and awards	\$744.39	\$57,538.96	
PP Transfer	9.13.23	AFWA 2024 Dues	\$195.53	\$57,734.49	
PP Transfer	9.14.23	NV 2024 Dues and Awards	\$901.20	\$58,635.69	
PP Transfer	9.15.23	FL Awards	\$234.73	\$58,870.42	
10322	9.15.23	Reimburse JSW personal cc use - K2 awards	<b>\$44.98</b>	\$58,825.44	
10323	9.15.23	Reimburse JSW personal cc use - K2 awards	<b>\$46.98</b>	\$58,778.46	

## Communications/Membership Report to ACI Board of Directors

Sept. 20, 2023

Scott Ball

### Membership

As of 09/15/23, ACI has

- 14 Agency-level members, including...
  - 12 state agencies
  - 1 Federal agency
  - 1 NGO

### Communications

- The latest issue of *The Balance Wheel* was published Friday, Sept. 15 and emailed to 545 subscribers.
  - 4 members of the Board are currently **NOT** subscribers.
  - 9 of 10 scholarship recipients have submitted their required TBW articles. The 10<sup>th</sup> has apologized profusely and promised to submit this week.
- 794 Facebook likes (+15)
- 852 Facebook followers (+23)
- 27 Facebook posts (June-August)
- 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 98 members (+4).
- 19 Agency-level members have responded to the request for updated directory information. The following agencies/organizations represented on this Board have not:
  - Council to Advance Hunting & the Shooting Sports
  - Hawaii Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
  - Oklahoma DWC
  - RBFF
  - Virginia DWR