

Association for Conservation Information

Board Meeting (conference call)

12/2/15

Call to Order: President Micah Holmes called the meeting to order.

Roll Call (Kim Nix): Micah Holmes (President, OK), Kim Nix (Secretary, AL), Judy Stokes Weber (Treasurer, NH), Phil Bloom (IN), Kathy Garza-Behr (OH), Regina Knauer (MO), Aaron Meier (NV), Michael Gray (KY), Jane Gustafson (NE), Jenifer Wisniewski (GA), Blake Podhajsky (OK) Julie Hammonds (Awards, AZ), Kay Ellerhoff (Futures, MT) Lance Cherry (NM),

Unable to attend: Don King (Immediate Past President, TN), Robin Cahoon (Vice President, UT), Randy Zellers (AR)

Approval of Minutes: Judy Stokes Weber had one change to the October meeting minutes. With the change made, Michael Gray made a motion to approve both the October 7, 2015, and the October 23, 2015 (special called meeting), minutes. Regina Knauer seconded. Motion passed. Micah asked Kim to send the bylaw change made during the special called meeting to webmaster Jeff Eschler to post on the website.

2016 Conference (Aaron Meier): Aaron reported that he will make a site visit to three Lake Tahoe venues to evaluate them as conference meeting sites. If none of these is suitable, a site in Reno will be selected. The date will be determined by the venue selected.

The conference bank account is set up and he requested the \$5,000 seed money for Nevada. He will get with Judy with all the information so she can cut the check.

Cindy Delaney will be handling sponsors and hotel arrangements for the Nevada conference. The closest airport will be the Reno/Tahoe International Airport. Aaron will have a date within two weeks and will start working on agenda next. He requested assistance to help develop the agenda.

Future Conferences Report (Kay Ellerhoff): Kay said she had contacted all of the upcoming hosts to see if they wanted to move their date up to 2017, but received no interest from those states. Missouri still wants to host, but with so much going on in the department, they are being moved to the futures list and will step in if someone else can't fulfill their commitment. Regina Knauer expressed that Missouri is willing to host in 2017, but understands if the board wants to move in another direction.

Kay said that several factors have led Phil Bloom to volunteer Indiana as host for 2017. Indiana has several state parks that could host an ACI conference. Their state's foundation would serve as the entity to handle money for a conference. Kay said the conference has never been in Indiana. Phil plans to retire at the end of 2017, so he would welcome the honor of hosting the conference.

Phil expressed that he needs to know very soon if they are hosting because the state park inns are booked a year in advance. He said they could have it in Indianapolis or Fort Wayne if the state park option does not work out.

Kay said we need a board vote of support for the Indiana invitation. The official invitation from the director would not be needed until the Nevada conference.

Regina Knauer made a motion to move the conference to Indiana in 2017. Jane Gustafson seconded. Motion passed.

Awards Committee (Julie Hammonds): Julie reported that after multiple outreach efforts, only half of the categories have chairs. She asked that everyone encourage their coworkers serve.

July has been working with Alicia Wellman (FL) on a new category called Conservation Post of the Year. Alicia has volunteered to chair it. This category would allow one entry per state on a social media post. She asked board to discuss and vote on it.

There was some discussion on how this category would work and several suggestions were made. Julie said she would work with Alicia to tweak the category wording to include the suggestions.

Phil Bloom made a motion to accept the new category into the awards program. Jane Gustafson seconded. Motion passed.

The other change Julie recommended, which is based on a discussion at the 2015 conference video roundtable, is to modify the PSA and Video Other categories into Video Short (up to 5 minutes) and Video Long (longer than 5 minutes)

Judy made a motion to modify the video categories as Julie recommended. Jane Gustafson seconded. Motion passed.

Recruitment Efforts: (Jenifer Wisniewski) Jennifer reported that verbiage about ACI membership has been updated on the website. Blake Podhajsky will be working with her to talk about some type of introductory video that could be placed on the website. There is a “hit list” of agencies to call, and she asked for board members’ assistance to call nonmember states to ask them to join. There is also a list of non-government entities to contact.

She has made some assignments and will report back on the committee’s efforts at a future meeting. Calls will not be made until after a date for the conference has been set. That way an invitation can be extended during the contact.

Treasurer’s Report (Judy Stokes Weber): Judy reported that the checkbook balance on October 1, 2015, was \$ 68,883.08, and the balance at the end of November was \$81,913.25. We have a balance of \$ 7,503.06 in the Money Market Account.

From October 1 through the end of November, she has written checks for \$2,257. These were for the Balance Wheel editor (\$1,000), the webmaster (\$1,000) and CNA Surety Bond (\$257).

At this time, we have 36 agency memberships. Alaska just joined and has not been a member for a long time. States who have not yet paid their invoices include: WA, IA, IL, ID, CA, CO, MN, MI, LA, UT, NJ, NY, MA, FL and AZ. She understands that payments from NJ, MA, FL and AZ are in the pipeline.

Judy explained that sometimes we run the risk of a non-member entering the awards contest without realizing they are not a member. She asks for suggestions on how to alleviate this.

A membership list on website was discussed. Jenifer Wisniewski offered to create a graphic that would show membership we could put on the website.

Scholarship (Michael Gray): Michael said he has had some follow-up calls with Robin and now has all the documents he needs to administer the scholarship program. He will work with Phil Bloom when the conference gets closer on how to distribute the information.

New Business (Micah Holmes): Micah mentioned that we need to be thinking about auction items for next year's conference. Micah is posting on the FB page sporadically. Aaron Meier will also be posting about conference related items. If anyone has something to post on Facebook, please send it to Micah or Aaron.

Next Meeting Date (Micah Holmes): The next conference call meeting will be Feb. 3, 2016. Future dates are April 6 and June 1, 2016.

Adjournment

Kim Nix made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jane Gustafson seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Kim Nix, Secretary