

Association for Conservation Information

Board Meeting (conference call)

4/5/16

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

Roll Call (Kim Nix): Micah Holmes (President, OK), Kim Nix (Secretary, AL), Don King (Immediate Past President, TN), Phil Bloom (IN), Aaron Meier (NV), Jane Gustafson (NE), Jenifer Wisniewski (GA), Lance Cherry (NM), Michael Gray (KY), Kay Ellerhoff (Futures, MT), Randy Zellers (The Balance Wheel, AR)

Unable to attend: Kathy Garza-Behr (OH), Judy Stokes Weber (Treasurer, NH), Robin Cahoon (Vice President, UT), Regina Knauer (MO), Blake Podhajsky (OK), Julie Hammonds (Awards, AZ)

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Michael Gray to approve the February 3, 2016, minutes. Phil Bloom seconded. The motion was approved.

Webmaster (Micah Holmes): Micah said that Regina Knauer and Jenifer Wisniewski interviewed Andrea Farnsworth for the webmaster on behalf of ACI. Andrea will fulfill this role until the July conference, at which time further discussion will take place on this position.

2016 Conference (Aaron Meier): Aaron updated the board on the upcoming conference in Lake Tahoe. We don't have as many sponsors as he would like. Cindy Delany is also working to get sponsors, but so far she has not procured any. We are paying Cindy's company \$7,000 and obtaining additional sponsors is a big thing he is hoping she can do for us in addition to her other duties.

Micah emphasized that we need to concentrate on getting our attendance up. Aaron asked Jane Gustafson to send the list from the Nebraska conference so he can use it in addition to last year's attendee list. He will use them to send an email blast. Micah will be writing letters to agency directors to encourage attendance.

Michael Gray asked if the room rate could be extended to those who arrive a couple of days early. Aaron will check on this.

Future Conferences Report (Kay Ellerhoff): Kay reported that Steve Smith from Pennsylvania says that they will not be able to host in 2019 since they have a travel ban and cannot attend upcoming conferences. Regina Knauer will check with her agency to see if Missouri might want to host.

Micah reminded everyone that July 11-13 are the dates of the 2017 conference in Indiana.

Membership Recruitment Efforts: (Jenifer Wisniewski): Jenifer reported that we have made progress in reaching our goal of having all 50 states be members. Micah reported that Louisiana submitted a dues fee waiver for 2016 so they are back on board.

New members to vote on are as follows:

1. Council of Western State Foresters (Sara Goodwin)
2. Michigan DNR (Kristin Phillips)
3. USFWS (Terri Edwards)
4. California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (Kirsten Macintyre)
5. Bill Creighton (consultant)

A motion was made by Jenifer Wisniewski to accept the first four members on the list as agency members. The motion was seconded by Jane Gustafson. The motion was approved.

Micah explained that Bill Creighton is a consultant for fish and wildlife agencies. He recommends we accept him as a supporting member at the \$200 level since that is what he's already payed. We will waive \$50 of that fee for him this this year.

Jenifer made a motion to accept Bill Creighton as a supporting member and Don King seconded. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report (Judy Stokes Weber): Kim Nix gave the treasurer's report since Judy was unable to be on the call. No checks have been written since the last call. The current balance in checking is \$78,394.37 and we have \$7,504.32 in the money market account.

Judy would like to thank Julie Hammonds and the category chairs for their patience as we worked through awards program eligibility for non-member states. We were able to successfully resolve the three states in question. If the new agency members are approved, we will have 48 members in this category.

Scholarship (Michael Gray): All the needed documents are completed, but the Survey Monkey portion used to register has not been worked out. The room rate is actually \$145 instead of \$125 with the resort fee, plus taxes, so this will affect the amount we need for scholarships.

Balance Wheel (Randy Zellers): Randy said that some of his emails have been deleted due to a computer problem, so the Balance Wheel is a little late. He hopes to get it out within the next week.

Randy also submitted his resignation as editor of the Balance Wheel because he is unable to devote as much time as he would like to this job. He will be completing one more issue.

Micah asked the board to be thinking about the qualifications needed for this position and it will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Micah adjourned the meeting

Submitted by Kim Nix, Secretary