

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting

Please call toll free: **1-888-757-2790** and enter guest passcode: **775616** to participate in the meeting
Conference Call ● January 10, 2017 ● 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CST

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- Kim Nix (AL, President)
- Jenifer Wisniewski (GA, Vice President, Membership)
- Judy Stokes Weber (NH, Treasurer)
- Micah Homes (OK, Past President, Ways & Means)
- Jane Gustafson (NE, Board)
- Aaron Meier (NV, Board)
- Blake Podhajsky (OK, Board)
- Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- Bonnie Holding (ME, Board)
- Mandy DiMartino (NJ, Board)
- Joanie Straub (MO, Board)
- Julie Hammonds (AZ, Awards)
- Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- Phil Bloom (IN, Conference)

Unable to Attend:

- Lance Cherry (NM, Secretary)
- Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)
- Randy Zellers (AR, Auction)
- Michael Gray (KY, Board, Scholarships)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Agenda.

Agenda approved by everyone on call

ITEM NO. 4: Approval of Minutes.

Agenda approved by everyone on call

ITEM NO. 5: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Kim Nix, President

Comments on national championship football game; comments regarding the kickoff of the awards and encouraging people to get the word out; jump straight into the call.

ITEM NO. 6: Treasurer's Report.

We have 45 agencies in the membership category that have paid or promise to do so

Good for finances with total assets ~\$79,000

Provided complete report and worked out with Julie how states will know if they are members in good standing before they enter awards program

11 states we can't get much traction with and are planning a way to be in touch with those folks to sell them on ACI

ITEM NO. 7: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

The next issue of the newsletter out shortly

Working hand in hand with Julie about awards opening by promoting on website and email and social media

Added several sets of minutes to website; added agencies links to website; Nov. issue of balance wheel; next issue Jan. 17th; working to get some of the scholarship articles

Facebook- have posted 15 posts since November and most popular with job postings being most popular; over 400 page likes

Updated ACI letterhead

ITEM NO. 8: 2017 ACI Annual Conference (Indiana).

Presented by Phil Bloom, 2017 Conference Chair

The 2017 ACI Annual Conference will be July 9-13, 2017, at Abe Martin Lodge at Brown County State Park in Indiana.

Need to set up schedule with Scott on communications plan for conference; Scott and Phil will communicate to do this

Discussions about entertainment including possibly a live band Reverend Peyton and Breezy Payton local bluegrass band - Use Brown County Bound song for conference promotion

Will be making a website for conference – have payments developing through foundation; may work payments through the ACI website?

Will work out a new PayPal account that is affiliated with ACI's checking account to take registration and sponsorships

We have refined sponsorship levels and sending that out this week; gotten informal commitments from RBFF and Griffin;

Will solicit others including Adobe - We created a sponsorship for \$10,000 for title sponsorship and is trying to fit Adobe in there

Working closely with the lodge on a meal budget

Have committees set up to best plan the conference events

For the fun day in the middle day of conference maybe mountain biking, forestry project, horseback riding, zip-lining, state shooting range, and others

Providing transport from airport is a possibility; was host last year for national state park directors meeting and will take the notes from that well-oiled machine;

Marty Benson working on speaker panels for storytelling and reached out to some keynotes including digital storytelling, Sam Pedder story of hunters to age groups;

Have good ideas for speakers and have several things we are working on agenda wise but we are open to suggestions

Finalizing contract with Delany for the registration part with the goal of having draft agenda by the end of this month. Rundown of the schedule will be: Monday kickoff, Tuesday morning field trips,

Wednesday sessions and awards, will do the share the 10 minutes of fame part in the program; need to decide on number of scholarships for conference; all meals will be covered through registration fee except for Tuesday evening meal; may provide transport to Bloomington to experience the college town set up.

ITEM NO. 9: 2018 ACI Annual Conference (Missouri).

Presented by Joanie Straub, Board Member and 2018 Conference Chair

The 2017 ACI Annual Conference will be July 15-19, 2018, in Springfield, MO.

Will be Springfield, have site visit scheduled for plaza for the 4th week in July if everyone is ok with having it that late; best location makes it worth it if we can be a little flexible with dates; have a theme in mind and have put committee together; getting geared up and excited

ITEM NO. 10: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

The following states are slated to host future ACI Annual Conferences: 2018 Missouri, 2019 Hawaii, 2020 New Mexico, 2021 New Jersey, 2022, Georgia/South Carolina, 2023 Oklahoma. The following states have expressed interest in hosting the ACI Annual Conference in the future: Pennsylvania, Iowa, Washington, Oregon and Michigan.

Will firm up some informal contacts and talked to WA and MI; MI is very interested and so is WY, but maybe not Granite Ranch WY will speak to her director; need to have a deep bench on the futures list and am working on keeping that

ITEM NO. 11: Awards Committee.

Presented by Julie Hammonds, Awards Committee Chair

Contest is open!

We have a list of eligible entrants and will work to promote the contest everywhere we can so that we can get entries done.

This is not the year to wait until the last day!

I encourage people to start early

The second part of the platform is under development for judges;

We can start recruiting judges for working on these categories; We need all of ACI to help recruit judges; what you can't do is judge a category you are entering

Only 6 category chairs and need 84 of judges and super category chairs are not the only responsible ones to find judges so let's team up!

Deadline for judges is mid-March; best goal is to have all judges by March 1

Will make sure at the super category chair and Julie's level to make sure that all of them are complete then will start judging

Share this far and wide on social media to make sure that we can get enough judges

Do we have an opportunity to spend a bit more on plaques? Kim will look into it, maybe we will wait a year and maybe take the funds from the scholarships? Will look into it with Judy and the budget report. Maybe do a nice first place trophy and certificates for 2nd and 3rd place

ITEM NO. 12: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Michael Gray, Board Member and Scholarship Chair

No report

ITEM NO. 13: Auction Report.

Presented by Randy Zellers, Auction Chair

Needs someone from Indiana to help with this

ITEM NO. 14: Ways and Means Report.

Presented by Micah Holmes, Board Member and Ways and Means Chair

Nothing to report

ITEM NO. 15: New Business.

Scott brought up the passing away of former ACI member Scott, suggestion to name something for him? Maybe the spirit of ACI award after him? He didn't ever win the spirit of ACI award; Kay given background on spirit of ACI award; naming this maybe after KAY was her idea; could we put this to a

vote? A lot of people don't know Scott and we may want to think about this award and naming this so let's think about it before we vote;
Kim - Will vote on Scott naming for the next meeting and if you have another idea for honoring him please send it to Kim

Motion to adjourn: Jane and 2nd from everyone

The next board meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m. CST, Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

ITEM NO. 19: Adjournment.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. MST.

*Minutes recorded by Jenifer Wisniewski, Vice President on behalf of Lance Cherry, Secretary



Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary