

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Executive Meeting

Conference Call ● June 3, 2020 ● 10 a.m-11 p.m. MST

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

- ✓ Jenifer Wisniewski (TN, President, Conference Co-Chair, Auction)
- ✓ Lance Cherry (NM, Vice President)
- ✓ Sara DiRienzo (WY, Secretary, Scholarships)
- ✓ Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- ✓ Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- ✓ Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- ✓ Kim Nix (AL, Immediate Past President)
- ✓ Tim Akimoff (OR, Board)
- ✓ Jason Harmon (TN, Board)
- ✓ Aaron Meier (NV, Awards)
- ✓ Ashley Sanchez (NV, Board)
- ✓ Kyle Martens (NE, Board)
- ✓ Alix Pedraza (SC, Board)
- ✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, Awards)
- ✓ Patricia Allen (AFWA, Board)

Unable to Attend:

- ✓ Darrin Hill (OK, Board)
- ✓ Micah Homes (OK, Ways & Means)
- ✓ Craig Sanchez (NM, Board)
- ✓ Nadia Reimer (KS, Board)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes.

MOTION: Lance Cherry moved to approve the May 2020 board meeting minutes, with amendments. Aaron Meier seconded the motion.

VOTE: Voice vote taken. All present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion carried unanimously.**

ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, President

Well-wishes to Scott who just had hip replacement surgery. We need to make decisions about the upcoming conference the fall due to COVID-19 impacts.

ITEM NO. 5: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

We have one new member, Lisa Thompson, individual member from VA.

ITEM NO. 6: Treasurer's Report.

Presented Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

The Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports just renewed their membership.

ITEM NO. 7: 2020 ACI Conference Update.

Presented by Lance Cherry, Vice President

The board was asked to consider how to proceed with the 2020 ACI conference. Due to impacts from COVID-19, the likelihood of hosting an in-person conference is slim. Lance expressed a desire to be responsible with ACI funds and make decisions about how to proceed – whether that be online, delayed or cancelled entirely.

Kyle Martens raised the concern of limited out-of-state travel. He supported online awards, but not trying to mimic a full conference online.

Kay Ellerhoff said that Delaney has recent experience helping to host an online conference and maybe could help if we went that direction. Kay also raised concerns about jostling the state conference host years, as some states are locked-in for certain years. TN volunteered to fill any vacancies, if needed.

Blake Podhajsky and Tim Akimoff both raised concerns about how to execute of a virtual conference effectively, and said it would be shame to skip the NM location and toss out the work of the NM staff.

The board discussed how to tackle the business meeting – including new members to the board and new officers. How to recruit new board members was also discussed. No one from NC, PA, MI, NJ, don't have anyone on the board so those states could be recruited. Jenifer will review the bylaws and report what guidance they provide for next steps, following recommendation from Kim Nix.

Blake is in favor of having the business meeting and going through the process as much as possible because that can happen virtually.

The ACI spirit award was discussed with the possibility of skipping a year.

Blake provided an overview of the awards and the board discussed the possibility of hosting a 2020 awards ceremony online rather than a hold-over until next year. Thus far, entries are down. We are going to make some money, but not as much as usual. Judy said there wouldn't be a revenue issue related to moving awards online this year, as long as award revenue and dues remain relatively strong.

Lance will continue to seek sponsors and we can still conduct a raffle.

Lance – he proposed July 2021 for New Mexico, with hosting the virtual awards and a keynote.
Kay will work with upcoming states to rework conference years

MOTION: Jenifer Wisniewski moved to delay the conference in New Mexico until to 2021 and host the 2020 awards virtually. virtual awards. Jason Harmon seconded the motion.

VOTE: Voice vote taken. All present voted in the Affirmative. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Lance will work to finalize a 2021 conference date in New Mexico before notifying the ACI network.

ITEM NO. 8: Auction Report.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Auction Chair

Ideas about a virtual auction were discussed but no decisions were made.

ITEM NO. 9: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

Kay will work with the state futures list to adjust host years.

ITEM NO. 10: Scholarship Report.

Presented by Sara DiRienzo, Scholarship Chair
Four individuals have applied for scholarships.

ITEM NO. 11: Awards Report.

Presented by Blake Podhajsky and Aaron Meier, Awards Chairs
Blake and Aaron will confirm the online awards date and will have it for next week to notify the network.

Lance will work closely with Blake to get awards online.

ITEM NO. 12: Ways and Means Report.

Presented by Micah Holmes, Board Member and Ways and Means Chair
No report.

ITEM NO. 13: New Business.

- #Responsible recreation – Patricia Allen
 - Take the pledge for responsible recreation – social distancing best practices. NGO collaborations on this project. Digital assets available for agencies on AWFA. We just want to get the word out and get as much state support and use of this hashtag and get the word out. ACI is planning to share some of this content in the upcoming weeks to help promote.

ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment.

MOTION: Jennifer Wisniewski, moved to Adjourn. Sara DiRienzo seconded the motion.

VOTE: Voice vote taken. All present voted in the Affirmative. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. MST.

Submitted by Sara DiRienzo, Secretary