

MINUTES

Association for Conservation Information Business Meeting

University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO ● August 1, 2018 ● 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. CDT

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call.

Board Members in Attendance:

- Kim Nix (AL, President)
- Jenifer Wisniewski (GA, Vice President & Auction)
- Lance Cherry (NM, Secretary)
- Judy Stokes Weber (VT, Treasurer)
- Scott Ball (FL, Communications)
- Dan Dennison (HI, Board)
- Sara DiRienzo (WY, Board, Scholarships)
- Heather Feeler (MO, Conference Chair)
- Mandy Futey (NJ, Board)
- Bonnie Holding (ME, Board, Scholarships)
- Micah Homes (OK, Past President, Ways & Means)
- Alix Pedraza (SC, Board)
- Blake Podhajsky (OK, Board, Awards)

Unable to attend:

- Kay Ellerhoff (MT, Futures)
- Jeff Kurrus (NE, Board)

Membership in Attendance:

- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
- Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- Council to Advance Hunting and Shooting Sports
- Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation

Unable to attend:

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Idaho Fish and Game
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- North Dakota Game and Fish Department
- Ohio Division of Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- American Sportfishing Association
- Aquatic Resources Education Association
- Fresh Air Educators
- Kalkomey Enterprises
- National Shooting Sports Foundation
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sponsors:

- None

Unable to attend:

- Southwick Associates

Associate Member:

- None

Unable to attend:

- Powderhook/Dinger Associates (non-voting)

Individual Members:

- None

Unable to attend:

- Emily Jo Wiggins

Honorary Lifetime Members:

- Scott Ball
- Judy Stokes Weber
- Steve Wilson

Unable to attend:

- Marianne Burke
- Kay Ellerhoff
- Nancy Herron

ITEM NO. 3: Opening Remarks.

Presented by Kim Nix, President

President Nix welcomed membership to the annual business meeting.

ITEM NO. 4: Treasurer's Report.

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

The association is in strong standing. Conferences and awards have provided strong financial contributions. New Hampshire auditing firm conducted the annual audit. A draft budget has been provided to the membership. Questions may be directed to Judy.

ITEM NO. 5: Auditing Committee Report.

Presented by the President appointed Committee

President Kim Nix appointed Bonnie Holding (ME) and Mandy Futey (NJ) to the auditing committee.

The committee reports everything is in order. No issues were found. President Nix thanked the committee and Treasurer Judy Stokes Weber for a job well done.

ITEM NO. 6: Communications Report.

Presented by Scott Ball, Membership Communications Chair

Membership (as of 6/30/18)

- Current membership includes:
 - 43 state agencies
 - 1 federal agency
 - 8 Non-governmental organizations
 - 1 Associate Member
 - 1 Sponsor-Level Member
 - 1 Individual Member
 - Numerous Honorary Lifetime Members
- New/returning members since last conference:
 - California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
 - New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
 - Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
 - Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
 - Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
 - Kalkomey Enterprises
 - National Shooting Sports Foundation

- All members are encouraged to review/update their listings in the ACI online directory (aci-net.org/about-aci/directory/). Please submit updates to Scott Ball, scottball@comcast.net.
- Currently, there are 9 state agencies that are not active members. We are reaching out to their I&E directors to bring (or return) them into the fold.

Communications

- We publish *The Balance Wheel* newsletter online on the 15th of each odd-numbered month (or soonest business day thereafter). Travel scholarship recipients provide much of the content, but we encourage and appreciate members who submit brief articles (300-500 words) about activities/initiatives in their states that are of interest to members.
- The Balance Wheel distribution list now has 503 subscribers via MailChimp (+32 since last year). We also communicate via the Yahoo listserv, with 335 members, and Facebook, with 508 followers (+75).
 - Each of these communications tools serves a different purpose. We strongly encourage members to subscribe to all 3 so you don't miss out on important news and information. Also, please encourage your co-workers to do likewise.

ITEM NO. 7: Auction Report.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Vice President and Auction Chair

Jenifer Wisniewski (GA) reports the 2018 auction set a new ACI record, raising \$10,600.

ITEM NO. 8: Awards Committee Report.

Presented by Blake Podhajsky, Awards Chair

ACI honors the top three submissions in 28 categories. In the second year online, a new record was set with 454 entrees. Blake Podhajsky (OK) made a call for participation on the Awards Committee. Members who are interested may contact Blake Podhajsky by email at blake.podhajsky@odwc.ok.gov.

ITEM NO. 9: Futures Conference Report.

Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer on behalf of Kay Ellerhoff, Future Conference Hosts Chair

Judy Stokes Weber (VT) offered thanks to Missouri and their staff for a great conference!

Georgia/South Carolina will host the 2019 ACI Annual Conference, July 7-12 in Savannah, GA at the DeSoto, Savannah.

The following states are slated to host future ACI Annual Conferences: 2020 New Mexico, 2021 New Jersey, 2022 North Carolina, 2023 Pennsylvania, 2024 Michigan. The futures list includes; Montana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming and Wisconsin have expressed interest.

ITEM NO. 10: Invitation to Georgia for 2019 ACI Conference.

Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Vice President

The following letter of invitation was presented to President Kim Nix, the board and membership:

August 2, 2018

Ms. Kim Nix, President
Association of Conservation Information
c/o Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
64 N. Union Street, Suite 106
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Ms. Nix,

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resource Division and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources are excited to host the 81st Annual Conference of the Association of Conservation Information. The joint conference will take place July 7-11, 2019 in historic Savannah, GA.

Located along the Georgia/South Carolina border, separated by the Savannah River, Savannah is known for its cobblestoned squares, manicured parks, Spanish moss and antebellum architecture. This charming Southern town, steep in American history and coastal beauty, promises to be the perfect backdrop to look into the future of communications.

We invite you to join us at The DeSoto Savannah, located at 15 East Liberty Street in downtown Historic Savannah where we will build on the theme of connecting the dots from the 2018 conference and discuss the best strategies to communicate with our customers in today's environment media and marketing.

We can't wait to greet you and your information and outreach staff in Savannah.

ITEM NO. 11: Nominations for Honorary Lifetime Membership

Presented by Kim Nix, President

There are no nominations for Honorary Lifetime Membership.

The Association for Conservation Information Articles of Incorporation, Article 7 – Membership and Classes of Members, sub-section b. Honorary Life membership.; states that; Honorary Life memberships may be conferred upon individuals by a simple majority vote of the member agencies at the annual conference. The purpose of Honorary Life membership is to honor individuals who have devoted their lives to the field of conservation information and education in accord with the declared purposes and objectives of the Association. Honorary Life memberships are available only to individuals who have been associated with active Association member agencies. Nominations for Honorary Life membership, including a list of qualifications, shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors prior to an annual business meeting.

President Kim Nix encourages states to consider nominations in future years.

ITEM NO. 12: Nominating Committee Report.

Presented by Sara DiRienzo (WY), Lance Cherry (NM), and Dan Dennison (HI)

The following board members terms expire 2018:

- Blake Podhajsky (OK)
- Bonnie Holding (ME)

The following board members have resigned:

- Andrea Jones (MT)
- Joanie Straub (MO)

ITEM NO. 13: Election of Officers and Board Members.

President Kim Nix appointed Lance Cherry (NM), Sara DiRienzo (WY) and Dan Dennison (HI) to the nominating committee to select a slate of officers and board members for the membership to vote on at the business meeting.

After due consideration the Nominating Committee offered the following nominations as officers:

Officers:

- President: Jenifer Wisniewski (GA)
- Vice President: Lance Cherry (NM)
- Secretary: Sara DiRienzo (WY)
- Treasurer: Judy Stokes Weber (NH)

The President asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Being none she asked for a motion to approve the slate of officers.

MOTION: Bonnie Holding (ME) moved to accept the slate of nominees as presented. Jane Gustafson (NE) seconded the motion.

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

After due consideration the Nominating Committee offered the following nominations as Board Members serving a 2-year term:

Board members – Term expires 2020:

- Jason Harmon (TN)
- Nadia Reimer (KS)

The President asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Being none she asked for a motion to approve the slate of board members serving a 2-year term, expiring in 2020.

MOTION: Jane Gustafson (NE) moved to accept the slate of nominees as presented. Jennifer Wisniewski (GA) seconded the motion.

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

After due consideration the Committee offered the following nominations as Board Members serving a 3-year term:

Board members – Term expires 2021:

- Darrin Hill (OK)
- Kyle Martens (NE)
- Craig Sanchez (NM)

The President asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Being none she asked for a motion to approve the slate board members serving a 3-year term, expiring in 2021.

MOTION: Blake Podhajsky (OK) moved to accept the slate of nominees as presented. Stephanie Hussey (RBF) seconded the motion.

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

ITEM NO. 14: New Business.

Nothing to report.

ITEM NO. 15: Adjournment.

MOTION: Micah Holmes (OK) moved to adjourn. Jennifer Wisniewski (GA) seconded the motion.

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

ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment.

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m. CDT.

Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary