

Minutes - OFFICIAL
Association for Conservation Information
Annual General Business Meeting
Thursday, July 17, 2008
Nashville, TN

8:04 a.m. CDT Marianne Burke called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL- Lydia Saldaña conducted roll call.

In attendance:

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Missouri Department of Conservation
New York Department of Environmental Conservation
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
Ohio Division of Wildlife
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wyoming Game and Fish Department

TREASURER'S REPORT – Bob Wines (WV)

Bob Wines reviewed the 2008-09 budget and provided a financial report which contained a transaction ledger of all financial activity for ACI over the last year. Bob commented that obviously we're in very good financial shape. He handed out a yellow sheet with the proposed budget approved by the board. He also provided copies of the audit done by an outside CPA firm. The audit was completed July 7 and did not show any problems.

Judith Hosafra (WY) made a motion to approve the financial report and budget.

Scott Ball (FL) seconded.

ACTION: Motion approved

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT- Judith Hosafros (WY)

Judith Hosafros, Micah Holmes and Craig Rieben served on the audit committee. They reported that they went through the report and all records and found everything to be in good order.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES-Nels Rodefeld (OK)

Membership dues waiver

Nels reported on a new policy approved by the Board to assist states who need relief on membership dues. Any member agency or potential member agency is eligible. If for some reason your state has financial difficulties that hinder the ability to pay for membership dues, there is now a process for requesting those fees be waived. The process is simple. The Division Chief of Information and Education (or its equivalency) must submit a letter to ACI requesting relief for a year. The request is for one year, but it can be requested in subsequent years if needed. Until such time as the board takes action on the request, the requesting agency will remain a member in good standing. We are on very solid financial ground and we need to do everything we can to retain members and recruit new members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP – Jon Charpentier (NH)

Marianne Burke commended Jon Charpentier for the diligent efforts this year to recruit new members. Jon reported that we launched a membership drive in April 2008 with the help of 10 volunteer ambassadors. We were able to reach out to individuals and new members and lapsed members...to stimulate new blood into our organization. It's been very gratifying to see a positive response. This year we had some members not renew because of funding issues and the membership dues waiver will help us there. We have picked up five new members, which is good.

NOMINATION- Scott Ball (FL)

Election of new board members and officers

Scott passed out ballots for the slate of officers. He explained that three new members of the board of directors will serve for three years. For the slate of officers, members can approve or disapprove. There are two options for the office of Secretary. There are five nominees listed for the three available board slots. Confer with other folks from your state and submit one vote per agency or member organization. Individual members get one collective vote.

Result of voting:

Officers approved-

President – Nels Rodefeld (OK)

Vice-President – Lydia Saldaña (TX)

Secretary – Scott Ball (FL)

Treasurer – Bob Wines (WV)

Three new board members elected:

Michael Gray (KY)
Micah Holmes (OK)
Monica Linnenbrink (SC)

FUTURE CONFERENCES – Judy Stokes

2009- Baton Rouge July 12-15

2010 – Colorado division of wildlife had expressed interest at one time...we're checking to see if that's confirmed.

2011 National Conservation Training Center – VA, WV and USFWS would co-host

2012 Ohio and Kentucky may partner, possibly in Kentucky

Iowa, South Dakota, NH, Minnesota and Granite Ranch in Wyoming have all expressed interest in possibly hosting upcoming conferences after that.

Judy said that Kay Ellerhoff sends her regards. She will be here next year!

THE BALANCE WHEEL - Dottie Head

Dottie briefed the membership on *Balance Wheel* production this year. There were four issues produced, including the proceedings of the 2007 Conference in Lenox. The BW subcommittee generates a lot of ideas for articles, but we are always open to new ideas and subcommittee members. It's a great way to "get your feet wet" with ACI. This year we created two new sections including a "news of the weird" section and "on the horizon" to keep readers abreast of issues, both serious and zany. The Fall issue of the BW will once again be dedicated to the proceedings of the 2008 conference in Nashville.

GEOFFREY SCHNEIDER TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP –Micah Holmes (OK)

Micah reported that we finally got the "i"s dotted and the "t"s crossed to begin providing these scholarships this year. We received a total of seven applications for the scholarship by the June 13 deadline. Next year we'll promote it to the membership earlier. Micah and Jim Sciasia recommended approval of six applicants for lodging and registration. (Nancy Herron from TX asked that her application be withdrawn because agency funds had been identified for her trip.) For two of the six applicants, this will be their first conference. Special thanks to this year's scholarship sponsors: XONTV and DJ Case and Associates.

AUCTION- Steve "Wildman" Wilson

We had a great auction this year...the committee made it work. Thanks to Micah Holmes, Jim Stewart, and Randy and Jeff in Arkansas. Tennessee folks were great. We've got a tough act to follow next year. The first time we broke \$5,000 was in Arkansas a few years back...well, this year we are happy to report we raised \$6,999! In order to make it at least \$7,000, we're passing around this jar for you to drop your change in as a final donation...we'll report back at the end of the meeting what the final tally is. Marianne thanked Steve for all his hard work to make the auction such a success over the years.

LIAISON REPORTS-reports will be in BW

In the interest of time, the liaison reports will appear in the BW instead of being reported at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS- none

OLD BUSINESS- None

Incoming president Nels Rodefild commended Marianne Burke for her service to ACI and noted that she has been an active and long term member of ACI. He said he looked forward to serving as president: "I have a passion for communication and education. What we do is very important and is a real critical cog in the conservation machine. I feel that ACI has a huge role to play. We have connections with each other and that makes us better at what we do. We're financially healthy and I will be working with the board to spend that money on our annual conference and on membership benefits."

Marianne closed the meeting by encouraging members to get more involved, to volunteer to help with the various committees. There are many benefits, both personal and professional, to ACI membership.

Wildman piped up at the end of the meeting to announce the final auction total was \$7,107.62. (Top that, Louisiana!!!)

ADJOURN

Marianne Burke adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m. CDT