MINUTES
Association for Conservation Information Board Meeting
Virtual Conference Call ● September 10, 2025 ● 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CDT

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m. CDT

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call

✓ Aaron Meier (NV, President)
✓ Linda DiPiano (NJ, Vice President)
✓ Lance Cherry (CAHSS, Secretary)
✓ Dan Dennison (HI, Treasurer)
✓ Blake Podhajsky (OK, Immediate Past President)
✓ Brent Drinkut (IN, Board- 26)
✓ Bobby Jones (NV, Board- 26)
✓ Beth Quillian (OR, Board-26)
☐ Jonathan Carlucci (NJ, Board- 27)
☐ Cory Chandler (TX, Board-27)
✓ Jane Gustafson (NE, Board- 27)
✓ Devon Lindley (Choctaw Nation Wildlife Conservation-28)
✓ Natalie Andes (GA Department of Natural Resources-28)
✓ Katie Paey (NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife-28)
☐ Jenifer Wisniewski (National Deer Association, Grants Committee Chair)
☐ Jason Harmon (TN, Fundraising/Auction Committee Chair)
☐ Micah Holmes (OK, Ways and Means Committee Chair)
☐ Chris Martin (WY, Awards Committee Co-chair)
✓ Patty Allen (AFWA, Communications Committee Chair)

ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes

- July 21, 2025 Board Meeting minutes
- July 24, 2025 Business Meeting minutes

Linda DiPiano made a Motion to approve the Minutes from the July 21 board meeting and July 24 business meeting to be approved without changes. Jane Gustafson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 4: Opening Remarks
Presented by Aaron Meier, President

Aaron expressed pride in Blake's two-year presidency and praised Linda and the New Jersey team for their successful conference performance.

ITEM NO. 5: Treasurer's Report
Presented by Dan Dennison, Treasurer

The board discussed the transition of financial responsibilities from Judy Stokes Weber to Dan Dennison, including the ongoing process of transferring funds from Judy's accounts to new accounts in Hawaii. They agreed to keep approximately $23,000 in the conference account for potential future expenses, rather than transferring it to the general account. The board also decided to keep the Whova conference management system expense in the conference account, as it is used exclusively for conferences and not against individual conference budgets. Additionally, they discussed the need to pay outstanding invoices for the 2026 conference and the potential addition of a sponsor package to the Whova system, which is estimated to cost an extra $200-500.

ITEM NO. 6: 2026 ACI Conference Update
Presented by Blake Podhajsky, 2026 Conference Coordinator

The 2026 ACI conference will be held in Oklahoma City from July 20-23 at the Fordson Hotel. Blake reported that the conference is progressing well, with committees meeting and auction items already being donated. He will begin sponsorship solicitations soon. The group agreed to increase registration fees to $445 for early birds and $490 for regular attendees, with Linda and Lance confirming these rates were appropriate given other industry conferences. The Board confirmed that any leftover conference funds would come from the ACI general account rather than the conference account.

Blake opened discussions on conference card management, expressing the need for a card on file for the conference account to handle expenses, such as auction items, and proposed having the conference chair's own card for convenience. Aaron shared his experience with a card for the 2016 conference, which helped streamline expenses. Dan suggested keeping a single debit card for accounting simplicity but proposed getting prior approval for expenditures from either Aaron or himself. The group debated the benefits of a conference chair card versus using personal funds and reimbursement, with Aaron emphasizing the need for a card for ease of transactions. Dan agreed to discuss the matter further with Judy to clarify the card situation.

The group discussed conference sponsorship levels, with Linda noting that while it was challenging to secure sponsors this year due to economic uncertainty, they could consider increasing the tiers for next year. Lance suggested reviewing the current package and exploring additional opportunities like meal sponsorships and coffee breaks to maximize revenue.

Blake announced plans to create save-the-date postcards featuring the new ACI logo, which will be sent to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Annual Conference, and mentioned that Micah Holmes will represent ACI at the event. Blake also discussed plans for a "Bids and Boots" themed auction night, which may be held off-site, and encouraged attendees to wear country Western attire.

ITEM NO. 7: Communications Report
Presented by Patty Allen, Communications Chair

Patty shared the timing of the next Balance Wheel newsletter, which will be moved from September to October to allow for sufficient preparation time. Patricia requested materials from Erin and Blake for inclusion in the report, including scholarship recipient updates and photos. The Board reviewed website updates, confirming Patricia's role as webmaster and discussing various committee positions and their current status. They also

addressed the need to update conference photos on the website and decided not to have an ACI booth at AFWA in Pennsylvania.

ITEM NO. 8: Awards Committee Report
Presented by Beth Quillian and Chris Martin, Awards Committee Co-Chairs

Beth's search for a new Awards Committee co-chair and the need for judges for the upcoming contest. Beth emphasized the importance of using ACI's email list for announcements and expressed interest in continuing to improve communication efficiency.

ITEM NO. 9: Auction and Fundraising Report
Presented by Jason Harmon, Auction and Fundraising Committee Chair

No report presented.

ITEM NO. 10: Scholarships Committee Report
Presented by Vacant

No report presented.

ITEM NO. 11: Grants Committee Report
Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Grants Committee Chair

No report presented. Blake noted that the grant money is secured for another year.

ITEM NO. 12: Ways and Means Report
Presented by Micah Holmes, Ways and Means Committee Chair

No report presented.

ITEM NO. 13: New Business
Presented by Aaron Meier, President

Lance reminded everyone to review the letterhead for accuracy.

ITEM NO. 14: Adjournment

Blake made a Motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Jane Gustafson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Lance Cherry, Secretary