



AGENDA

Association for Conservation Information Business Meeting

Sheraton Atlantic City Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ – July 24, 2025 – 9 a.m.- 10 a.m. EDT

ITEM NO. 1: Meeting Called to Order

- Meeting called to order at 9:11am Eastern.

ITEM NO. 2: Roll Call

- See attached roll call list.

ITEM NO. 3: Opening Remarks. Presented by Blake Podhajsky, President

- Blake Podhajsky welcomed everyone to the meeting
- ACI is made up of volunteers and this meeting is meant for membership to discuss and weigh in

ITEM NO. 4: Treasurer's Report. Presented by Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer

- FY26 Budget- attached
- Judy Stokes Weber stated ACI is in incredibly good financial condition and went through the FY26 budget
- Most of the income is from dues and awards. We hope to get a return from the conference but that does not always happen
- Budget allows to have a bit of a cushion
- Membership is a good deal at \$200 and lets you apply for scholarships and enter for the awards
- It includes seed money to run conferences which has already been paid for the 2026 conference in OK.
- Judy Stokes Weber has decided to retire as Treasurer this year.
- **MOTION:** Corey Chandler moved to approve the FY26 Budget as presented. Jane Gustafson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 5: Auditing Committee Report.

- Each year the president compiles an Auditing Committee to review the financial statements. The committee consisted of Cory Chandler, Brent Drinkut, and Jane Gustafson
- Jane Gustafson stated that the Committee looked over all of the statements and everything and all seems to be in order.
- This is Judy Stokes Weber's last year as Treasurer and, with her financial guidance, she has left ACI in a good place

ITEM NO. 6: Membership Report. Presented by Aaron Meier, Vice President and Membership Committee Chair

- Aaron Meier stated that ACI membership is looking good
- Membership consists of:
 - 57 agency members (state agencies, tribal and federal agencies, NGOs)
 - Missing states are CA, IL, DE and PA Fish and Boat Commission.
 - One Sponsor member (National Bowhunter Education Foundation)
 - 4 individual members

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

- Patty Allen went through updates on ACI's communications
- Facebook saw growth in likes, views and reach

- Top performing Facebook posts were about the new logo, podcast, and conference opening ceremony
- The Balance Wheel has a new format. It has a 45% open rate while the industry average is 20%
- Most people access the Balance Wheel on desktop
- A new website with the new logo was just launched this week. It is mobile-friendly and 508 compliant.
- Visit the site at aci-net.org

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

- This was Beth Quillian and Chris Martin's third year co-chairing the awards
- There were 492 entries. Last year was a record year with 598 entries
- There were 78 judges and 34 agencies/organization entered
- Connect with either co-chair if you are interested in helping with the awards
- Blake Podhajsky reminded everyone that the opportunity to enter for the awards is one of the biggest benefits of membership and encouraged all members to enter next year.

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

- Jason Harmon said the auction went well and earned \$4,295 plus \$90 in cash
- This is down 12% from last year.
- He encouraged everyone to bring more items next year

ITEM NO. 10: Scholarships Committee Report. Presented by Joanne Martonik, Scholarships Committee Chair

- Joanne Martonik mentioned that budget is set aside every year to offer scholarships to attendees which covers the registration and hotel night costs.
- There were 16 applicants this year with only 10 slots
- Preference was given to those who have never attended the conference before
- Scholarship awardees are asked to write an article for the Balance Wheel about one of the conference presentations

ITEM NO. 11: ACI Multi-state Grants Committee Report. Presented by Jenifer Wisniewski, Grants Committee Chair

- The Multi-State Conservation Grants (MSCG) is a program through AFWA and is uncertain currently.
- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been put out for "RBFF's money." ACI is going to put in for some grant funds on the fishing side of things
- The minimum for a MSCG is \$100K
- ACI's average of funding has been about \$500K to \$1 million since 2018

ITEM NO. 12: Nominating Committee Report. Presented by Dan Dennison

- There are 3 vacant slots on the Board of Directors
- All 4 officer positions are also open (president, vice president, secretary and treasurer)
- Blake Podhajsky put together a Nominating Committee to fill the vacancies consisting of Jenifer Wisniewski, Dan Dennison, and Bobby Jones
- The nominating committee suggested the following people to fill the officer positions:
 - President- Aaron Meier
 - Vice President- Linda DiPiano
 - Treasurer- Dan Dennison

- Secretary- Lance Cherry
- **MOTION:** Jenifer Wisniewski moved to approve slate of officers as presented. Jane Gustafson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 13: Election of ACI Board Members. Presented by Blake Podhajsky, President

- The Nominating Committee suggested the three open Board of Directors slots be filled by:
 - Devon Lindley (Choctaw Nation Wildlife Conservation)
 - Natalie Andes (GA Department of Natural Resources)
 - Katie Paey (NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife)
- **MOTION:** Dan Dennison moved to approve the Board of Directors as presented. Judy Stokes Weber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 14: Invitation to Oklahoma, ACI Conference 2026. Presented by Blake Podhajsky, President

- Blake Podhajsky read a letter from the Director of OK Department of Wildlife Conservation inviting everyone to Oklahoma City for the next ACI conference 7/20/26-7/23/26
- Video showcasing Oklahoma City and inviting everyone to the conference was played

ITEM NO. 15: New Business. Presented by Blake Podhajsky, President

- No new business was brought forward

ITEM NO. 16: Adjournment

- **MOTION:** Judy Stokes Weber moved to adjourn the meeting. Jane Gustafson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Joanne Martonik

Submitted by Joanne Martonik, Secretary

ROLL CALL

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Board Members

- ☒ Blake Podhajsky, President (Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation)
- ☒ Aaron Meier, Vice President (Nevada Department of Wildlife)
- ☒ Joanne Martonik, Secretary (Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation)
- ☒ Lance Cherry, Immediate Past President (Council to Advance Hunting & the Shooting Sports)
- ☒ Judy Stokes Weber, Treasurer (Vermont)
- ☐ Faith Jolley, Board (Utah DNR Division of Wildlife Resources)
- ☒ Dan Dennison, Board (Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources)
- ☒ Brent Drinkut, Board (Indiana Department of Natural Resources)
- ☒ Bobby Jones, Board (Nevada Department of Wildlife)
- ☒ Beth Quillian, Board and Awards Co-Chair (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)
- ☒ Cory Chandler, Board (Texas Parks and Wildlife)
- ☒ Jane Gustafson, Board (Nebraska Game and Parks)
- ☐ Jonathan Carlucci, Board (New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife)
- ☒ Patricia Allen, Communications Chair (Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies)
- ☒ Linda DiPiano, Conference Chair (New Jersey DEP Fish and Wildlife)
- ☒ Jenifer Wisniewski, Multi-state Grants Chair (National Deer Association)
- ☒ Chris Martin, Awards Co-Chair (Wyoming Game & Fish Department)

Agency-level Members

- ☒ Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- ☐ Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- ☒ Arizona Game & Fish Department
- ☐ Arkansas Game & Fish Department
- ☒ Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- ☒ Choctaw Nation Wildlife Conservation
- ☐ Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- ☐ Connecticut DEEP Division of Wildlife
- ☒ Council to Advance Hunting & the Shooting Sports
- ☒ Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- ☒ Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- ☒ Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources
- ☐ Idaho Fish & Game
- ☒ Indiana Department of Natural Resources

- ☐ Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- ☐ Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks
- ☐ Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
- ☒ Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
- ☐ Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
- ☒ Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- ☐ Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- ☐ Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- ☐ Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- ☐ Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
- ☒ Missouri Department of Conservation
- ☐ Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- ☒ Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
- ☒ Nevada Department of Wildlife
- ☐ New Hampshire Fish & Game Department
- ☒ New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
- ☒ New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
- ☒ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- ☒ National Deer Association
- ☐ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- ☐ North Dakota Game & Fish Department
- ☒ Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife
- ☒ Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- ☒ Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- ☐ Outdoor Stewards of Conservation Foundation
- ☒ Pennsylvania Game Commission
- ☒ Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation
- ☒ Rhode Island Department Environmental Management, Div. of Fish & Wildlife
- ☐ South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- ☐ South Carolina Waterfowl Association
- ☐ South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks
- ☒ Tennessee State Parks & Tennessee Conservationist Magazine
- ☒ Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- ☒ Tennessee Wildlife Federation
- ☒ Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- ☒ US Fish & Wildlife Service
- ☒ Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- ☐ Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department
- ☒ Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- ☐ Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

- ☐ West Virginia Department of Natural Resources
- ☐ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- ☒ Wyoming Game & Fish Department

Supporting-level Members

- ☒ Do Case and Associates
- ☐ Southwick Associates

Sponsor-level Members

- ☐ National Bowhunter Education Foundation

Individual Members

- ☒ Gina Jackson (Management Assistance Team)
- ☐ Michael Reinemer
- ☐ Terri Edwards
- ☐ Kyla Hastie

Honorary Lifetime Members

- ☐ Scott Ball
- ☐ Marianne Burke
- ☐ Kay Ellerhoff
- ☐ Nancy Herron
- ☒ Judy Stokes Weber
- ☐ Steve "Wild Man" Wilson

FY 2026 ACI Budget 7.24.25

Beginning Balance Checking Account		\$77,038
ESTIMATED REVENUE		
Dues, Awards	\$31,500	includes sponsorship & individual category members
Conf Returns	\$5,000	Estimate of proceeds from NJ 2025 could be zero
Total Income	\$36,500	\$36,500
FY 2026 Assets Available		\$113,538
ESTIMATED EXPENSES		
Conference Advance	\$0	\$10,000 for NJ/\$10,000 for OK paid in FY2025
Scholarships	\$10,000	
Award Plaques	\$5,500	
Online Awards Platform	\$5,500	
Web domain renewal	\$0	not due this year
Treasurer Stipend	\$6,875	\$5,000/Dan; up to \$1,875 for Judy for pre- and post-conference work , pro-rated
*Surety Bond	\$235	Dan will need to acquire this insurance, ACI will pay for it
Conference Travel Reimbursements	\$6,558	\$1542.50 reimb Dan for conf. travel to NJ 6/25
Office Expenses	\$100	\$500 set-up for Dan paid in FY2025
Podcast	\$180	
Zoom	\$160	
New website additional payments	\$4,562	1 more payment to make, \$2,562. Additional page buildout, \$2,000
FY 2026 Total Expense		\$39,670
Estimated Checking Account Balance June 30, 2027		\$73,868
CD matured and proceeds wired to checking account in March 2025		\$0
Resources available as of June 30, 2026 to support FY 2027 Budget		\$73,868

*Surety Bond - currently set for \$50,000.