

Agenda & Minutes (in text box)
Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
October 15, 2020 at 6 pm
Fort Myers Regional Library--Outdoors & Observing Physical Distancing Guidelines

Call to Order and Attendance

At 6 pm; Attendance (those attending in bold) -

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|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gerri Reaves (P) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brad Cornell | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan VanNorman (VP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtney Kern | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Daltry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Rodenfels (T) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sean McCabe | <input type="checkbox"/> Pete Quasius |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michele Bellinger (S) | <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Newcomb | <input type="checkbox"/> Carl Veaux |

Guests: _____

Approval of Minutes of September 17 meeting

Unanimous approval JR/BC

Treasurer's Report: Items for approval/discussion

- \$50--Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife membership

The following sponsorships appear to be either virtual or are being skipped this year:

- \$200--AWRA Florida co-sponsorship
- \$50--WOW Festival (Harns Marsh)
- \$250--Everglades Coalition sawgrass sponsorship; Pete request skipping

Report and all expenditures approved w/the following change & addition: Everglades Coalition \$100; EcoVoice \$100

Committee Reports

Membership

Two new members; increased website traffic

Conservation:

- RCC update; meetings
- EvCo update
- Estero Bay ABM update; representation
- CBD Horseshoe Crab citizen's petition; MCORES

- Legislative priorities update from Pete, see addendum*

RCC: Brad recapped RCC and resiliency compact news

Sign-on Letters: CBD on synthetic horseshoe crab blood; MCORES letter approved in August delivered

Education: Update on scholarship

Alison Ryun recipient

Field Trips:

- Completed/attendance--Daniels Preserve at Spanish Creek, 15; Hickey Creek Mitigation Park led by Jason Boeckman, ??
- Upcoming--October 18 Hawk Watch at the Sanibel Lighthouse led by Vince McGrath

Hickey Creek attendance=10; 20 signed up for Hawk Watch

Programs:

- Finalize details for "Mangroves & Mullets," ZOOM presentation in cooperation with The Friends of Cayo Costa on November 19
- Attendance estimated at 2700 plus Facebook attendees for Doug Tallamy's Zoom program through Venice Area Audubon & Audubon Florida

Publicity & Newsletter:

Teddy's deadline for December hardcopy *Flyways*?

Articles due by mid-December; to printer by year's end; mailed first week of January

National & State Audubon Updates

- Audubon Assembly is October 20 – 24 and virtual; some events are free; \$25 to register for entire assembly
- Update: AF's SW Florida Regional Resiliency Compact
 - Marco Island and Sanibel signed on, making a total of three municipalities/cities
 - AF and ASWF letters sent to Cape Coral manager, who intends to introduce it for a vote before the new council after the election
- Presidents meetings with Jacqui Sulek of AF: E D & I/Statement of Diversity; not required, but four options
 - Let the RCC "Priorities" stand as the chapter's E D & I
 - Simply state that the chapter adopt NAS's statement
 - Forego writing one

- Form a committee to write a statement for board approval; there are models from other chapters

Chapter approved adoption of NAS's statement JR/SM

Old Business

New Business

- Update on FGCU Service Learning students: field trips (2); bird-window collision project at campus library (2)
- Adding "donation" category to online membership form
- Mass email program
- John Canter, new volunteer; "I recently purchased, and yesterday read from cover to cover without pausing, an engaging, informative, thoughtful and beautifully written new book entitled 'OWLS OF THE EASTERN ICE ... A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl.' "
- Cayo Costa/Dark Skies letter

Carol will explore using a mural to deter bird collisions on campus; Approved up to \$500 for potential support for AF's suit re: CWA at FMB (amicus brief) BC/JR

Approved Jim's "Dark Skies" letter of support for The Friends of Cayo Costa

Approved up to \$50 for a table so Michele can represent ASWF at the NOW march on Saturday, 10/17

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020. Location TBD.

Due to the 7 pm Zoom program on Nov. 19, the board will do all business possible via email and meet online to conclude other business if necessary.

*Pete: CHNEP on good track on state issues/proposals

2021 CHNEP Legislative Priorities

The CHNEP Policy Committee, which includes elected leaders from the 10 counties and 27 cities CHNEP serves, also recently approved a set of unified state and federal legislative priorities for 2021. These have been sent to all elected state and federal legislators in the CHNEP area to support legislative actions that implement the CHNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan projects and activities.

- Continue and expand annual funding for the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Program, including recurrent dedicated funding.
- Create or strengthen nutrient and pollution reduction policies to reduce loads from wastewater, septic, agricultural runoff, reclaimed water, stormwater, fertilizer and internal "legacy loads".
- Expand funding for innovative technology pilot projects, including technologies to address harmful algae blooms – especially those that promote natural system solutions.

- Establish a statewide, long-term funding program through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection with sufficient funds for competitive, local cost-share projects for estuary restoration
 - Support increased funding of Florida Forever and Florida Rural and Family Lands programs.
 - Support of local governments' continued ability to enact more stringent environmental protection ordinances.
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