

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
October 18, 2018
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other currently serving board members present were Brad Cornell, Jayne Johnston, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels. Also in attendance was member volunteer Carol Mariany.

Note: Past Presidents still active/interested in chapter though not serving on the current board are John Cassani, Don Doggett, Bill Hammond, Connie Jarvis, Mary Lee Mann, Vince McGrath, and Maria Quasius.

Minutes of September 20 meeting approved (JR/CN)

Treasurer's Report/Jim:

Report for September 2018, previously distributed by email, was approved (JJ/CN).

Other expenditures approved were:

- ✓ \$200 (budgeted) for sponsorship/co-host of SWFWRC on Friday, Jan. 25, 2019; no more than \$300 additional financial backing (i.e., surety bond) (BC/JJ); Courtney and Carol are possible representatives; chapter typically makes money or breaks even
- ✓ \$100 (budgeted) for 2019 EcoVoice sponsorship (GR/CN)
- ✓ \$50 (budgeted) for 2019 WOW Festival sponsorship, Lehigh Acres MSID (JJ/BC)
- ✓ \$43 (annual) for Wix website's membership notifications (POWR) (JJ/BC)

Jayne and Brad will help to complete the National Audubon 2018 Chapter Annual Report (used for baseline funding), which was examined and discussed.

Committee Reports

Membership/Jayne: In September, National membership increased to 1298. Chapter membership is now 97, with 13 renewals and 2 new memberships since last month. Emails and letters re: expired memberships are being sent, as well as thank-you notes for paid memberships.

Conservation/Brad:

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife's (CCFW) request that the chapter sponsor their membership in the Everglades Coalition approved (BC/JR)

Need to hire a winter Shorebird Stewardship coordinator

Steve Buczynski of Hendry-Glades Audubon, the new Southwest rep on Audubon Florida board, has received \$1,000 in support from Hendry-Glades and \$250 from Audubon of the Western Everglades (AWE). ASWF's \$250 (annual) approved at the September meeting will be disbursed upon request. Brad will follow-through on Peace River Audubon's pledge.

No legal decision yet on the private boardwalk proposed on Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area in Fort Myers Beach.

Issues discussed at the 5:30 Conservation Committee meeting/Brad:

1500 acres at Babcock Ranch that are being "fast-tracked" by county staff obtaining appraisals; the process is apparently circumventing CLASAC; concerns revolve around whether the land is already under state conservation easement protection and is therefore the best use of 20/20 funds.

3 RCC Priorities:

1. *Buying CREW lands/Florid Forever for sea-level mitigation and adaptation*
2. *Promoting climate change and sea-level rise and adaptation by pushing local government to join a consortium of other regional governments and hire a resiliency officer as they have.*
3. *Insist on an appropriate response to the algae crises and the State's reactivation of the Florida Harmful Algal Task Force. Focuses are source control; agricultural pollution (DEP); and the restoration and protection of wetlands.*

Education/Jayne: Jayne outlined various completed and planned activities:

- Complete Project WILD training in Jupiter
- Completed and attended both EE conferences
- Completed field trip and photo class on Pine Island, both of which had good attendance
- Completed the Ding Darling Days event, October 14
- Presented to the Astronomical Society; another presentation is planned

Upcoming events:

- Diamond Oaks Village in Bonita Springs, Saturday, October 27 at 11am
- Follow-up photo class at the Pine Island Library, Saturday, November 10 at 1pm
- Table for kids at the Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival in Punta Gorda, Saturday, November 17

Field Trips/Jim:

Recent trips include Powell Creek Preserve on September 22 and a Hawk Watch on Sanibel on October 14. Attendance was down for both. Corkscrew After-Hours on Nov. 16 is the next trip.

Programs/Gerri: The regular monthly programs for the 2018-19 season are all scheduled. Dan discussed KC Schulberg's (Calusa Waterkeeper) invitation to a screening of *Wind Across the Everglades* on December 10.

Publicity/Carol N.: Announcements for E-Breakfast have gone out. Jayne gave an update on the Facebook page and the work student assistants are doing.

Newsletter: The fall *Flyways* has been distributed. The next issue will be mailed at the end of the year.

National & State Audubon Update/Brad: Dan, Brad, and Pete will attend the Audubon Assembly Oct. 19-21 in West Palm Beach. The RCC's three priorities will be adopted at the Assembly and Brad will compose a press release.

Old Business:

Environmental Breakfast Update/Jim R.: The RSVPs for the event on Oct. 25, 2018 at Riverside Community Center are at 85, the highest ever, with the usual walk-ins expected. The program and table flyers (sponsor logos) are ready to print. A donations update was distributed and work assignments and schedules were discussed. Some students will be helping too. Brad and Dan will take care of/rehearse the technical aspects of the program.

New Business:

The ASWFL and AWE Agreement of understanding was discussed and tabled (CN/JR). Discussion of the proposed International Birding Trip was postponed due to the late hour.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018. Jayne will give a program on the Christmas Bird Count.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.