

Minutes for Board Meeting Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)

September 16, 2021

5:30 pm Conservation Committee Meeting (optional); 6 pm Board Meeting (Zoom)

Call to Order and Attendance

At 5:59 pm

Attendance (those attending in bold)

Gerri Reaves (P), Brad Cornell, Lina Ramirez-Granada, **Dan VanNorman (VP)**, Vivian Cardoso, Wayne Daltry, **Jim Rodenfels (T), Sean McCabe**, Pete Quasius, Michele Bellinger, **Carol Newcomb(S)**, Guests:

Approval of Minutes of August 19, 2021 meeting; Jim 1st, Sean 2nd

Treasurer's Report: Discussion and vote to approve Jim's emailed report; Brad 1st, Dan 2nd. We have earned \$29.99 through Amazon Smile.

Committee Reports

Membership/Jim: see emailed report. Membership is steady. Locally increased by 1 new member. Gmail list has 2 new additions.

Conservation:

- Brad: Conservation update - A letter will be sent to Army Corps. of Engineers about ongoing LOSOM concerns and will question the use of alum and sand treatment for Caloosahatchee Reservoir. ASWF is encouraged to press DEP and other agencies for answers to why Black Skimmers were dying this summer at Marco Island CWA and at the Estero CWA. Necropsies are underway.
- Dan: EvCo – mentioned upcoming EvCo conference in the Keys in January
- Sean: Estero Bay ABM update
- Jim: Shorebird Stewardship update – Getting ready for next year's shorebird season
- Gerri/Carol: We have reached out to Win Everham, Kara Leferve and Mike Savarese at FGCU's Water School with concerns about the highly reflective building envelope of the new Water School building with a tried and true solution to keep birds from striking buildings. Birds striking buildings that reflect sky and landscape are well documented to cause approx. 1.5 billion bird deaths annually in the US. Carol has announced this initiative to her FGCU students and is keeping a list of names who are

interested to help. Partnering with Stockton University, in New Jersey -- who has already taken measures to make their campus buildings more bird friendly -- is in the works. Gerri is intermittently monitoring a couple of government building in downtown Fort Myers, will increase monitoring during migration, and renew the effort to contact officials about making buildings more bird friendly.

Education/Jim: our educational outreach is being carried out through emails and field trips at this time

Field Trips/Jim: see emailed reports; collaboration with Sierra Club beginning with October's Hawk Watch, possibly on programs as well. All Field Trip destinations are chosen for next year. Theme is the "Great Florida Birding Trail". Has handicap accessible sites. Dates are set for 1/3 of trips/all dates are flexible. Field trips have been posted on ASWF website. 13 signed up for Hawk Watch; 1 signed up for field trip in 2022.

Publicity, Website, Newsletter, and Social Media/Jim: review DRAFT gmail blast for October; send short submissions by September 23. Gerri reminded us that there is money in the budget for publicity, if needed.

National & State Audubon Updates

- Audubon Assembly has a new approach this year: three locations over several weeks. Soon after announcement, AF stated in an email, "Our Nov. 6 Assembly registration for Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary is sold out. Online participation is still an option.
- Last Presidents' Call: Many chapters are once again evaluating how to proceed with programs and field trips because of the resurgence of COVID

RCC recently finished their update. Similar to last year's for the 5 chapters.

Programs/Gerri: November program is scheduled tentatively, as well as January and March. Holiday party tentatively planned for BOD and possibly membership. Carol offered to have it at her house.

Old Business: Environmental Breakfast Donations Follow-Up: \$250 Ding Darling was returned; authorized to apply \$100 Daltry Family and \$100 Responsible Growth Mgmt. to 2022's Environmental Breakfast. Riverside Community Center is reserved for October 27, 2022 - we'll try it again.

New Business:

- Conflict of Interest: Please disclose membership on other boards
- Robin Serne - LCEC grant for \$2,998 will go towards stipend for Stewardship position, new spotting scope and other new materials. Binoculars were discussed. Jim will order materials once check has been received. Robin suggested a formal evaluation/assessment of shorebird stewardship program. Discussed increase of steward stipend, balance with other committed obligations and long-term sustainability but nothing was decided for now. Should be decided by March.
- EvCo Conference, January 6-8, 2022 at Hawk's Cay Resort in Duck Key, hosted by Izaak Walton League. Conference was discussed but no board member at this time has decided to go.
- Dan mentioned the SWFWRC has been tentatively scheduled for January, 2022

Adjourned: 6:56 pm

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 via Zoom

Annotated and submitted by Carol Newcomb

On September 17, 2021