

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
September 19, 2019
The Collaboratory, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 5:52 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Brad Cornell, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels. Chapter volunteer Carol Mariany was also in attendance to monitor the meeting room.

Minutes of August 15 meeting approved (CN/BC).

Treasurer's Report/Dan.: Report for August 2019, previously distributed by email, was approved (BC/CN), along with the 2018 tax return.

Committee Reports

Membership: As of the end of August, national membership was 1159, down by 82 since last report. Chapter membership is 145, down 2, with 1 new membership, 3 drops, and no renewals.

Environmental Breakfast/Jim R: The event will be on Oct. 31, 2019, at Riverside Community Center. Ruth Watkins, president of Calusa Waterkeeper, will be the speaker. An Environmentalist of the Year was selected. Jim R. will order the plaque. Approximately 25 people have already confirmed attendance in response to the email sent recently. All is in order as long as volunteers show up as planned.

Conservation/Brad: Brad mentioned the importance of incorporating into our statements and goals the just released study about U.S. bird populations being down three billion since 1970. The state legislature will have an early term, January-March, because 2020 is an election year. In preparation, citizens and organizations will have a chance to speak to legislators who will visit Fort Myers in October. A chapter member will attend. Cape Coral's Dane Eagle is part of the Lee County delegation. The RCC will likely meet on Saturday afternoon, October 5, in downtown Fort Myers.

Field Trips/Dan: Update, as emailed previously.

Programs/Gerri: The program schedule for the year has been distributed via email. Programs begin this evening.

Publicity/Carol: The *News-Press* website makes it difficult/impossible to easily post events. However, announcements did go out in various other places.

Flyways/Jim R.: A digital version of the newsletter will be sent out in early October.

National & State Audubon Updates/Brad: The next Audubon Assembly will be in Gainesville in October; Dan and several others are considering attending; the chapter has approved funding for one attendee.

New Business:

Approved (BC/CN) \$75 for the Environmentalist of the Year plaque.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 17, 2019, if a meeting is deemed necessary—if so, location to be determined. There will be no regular program that evening because of the Environmental Breakfast.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned about 6:45 p.m.

A program by Shawnlei Breeding, Audubon EagleWatch Program Manager, Audubon Florida, followed.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.