

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
September 20, 2018
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 5:49 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other currently serving board members present were Brad Cornell, Wayne Daltry, Jayne Johnston, Sean McCabe, Carol Newcomb, Pete Quasius, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels. Also in attendance was member volunteer Jim Convery.

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 August 16 meeting approved (GR/PQ).

Treasurer's Report/Jim:

Report for August 2018, previously distributed by email, was approved, as well as two expenditures (JJ/BC): \$70 for plaque for Environmentalist of the Year and \$700 for Environmental Breakfast food.

Committee Reports

Membership/Jayne: The only change in membership since last month is an increase of 26 new national members for a total of 1280. Chapter membership remains at 83.

Conservation/Brad: This week's three-day hearing on the private boardwalk proposed on Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area in Fort Myers Beach has ended. A decision might be announced in about a month. The RCC meets on Sunday at 2 p.m., with the site TBD. Sean approved as RCC chair (PQ/BC).

Approved support of Steve Buczynski of Hendry-Glades's candidacy as Southwest rep on Audubon Florida board (PQ/JR). Approved financial support for him (\$250 annually), conditional on three other RCC chapters contributing an equal amount (PQ/JR).

Approved (BC/JJ) Pete's requests to use in negotiations at legislative delegation meeting with the Florida legislature. The RCC will work toward a reasonable consensus position.

1. \$105 million (2019) from Legacy Florida for continued construction of the C-43/Caloosa reservoir.
2. Re-reinstatement and funding of the Florida Harmful Algal Blooms Task Force with funding of \$4 million a year.
3. \$100 million a year sustained funding for Florida Forever Program (ARC priority list) from doc stamp revenue.
4. \$4 million for design of nutrient-reduction facilities in the Caloosahatchee basin at Boma and Hicpochee, and the Charlotte Flatwoods project managing water from Babcock Webb to Cape Coral and the harbor.
5. Legislation to manage septic systems, including state assistance to convert systems with connections impacting Florida waters to central sewer systems with advanced treatment

systems. Mandatory inspection and certification of septic systems upon sale of property and mandatory hookup to central sewage systems if available.

Approved (GR/CN) forwarding \$250 to Audubon Florida Little Estero Island Legal Defense Fund, a donation received from Charles Schwab, as reported by Jim R.

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

- With Melinda Lynch, planning a field trip to Lehigh for kids.
- Setting up a table at Ding Darling Family Days on Sunday, October 14, with three FGCU students assisting.
- With Jim R., visiting his grandson's preschool with two of Courtney's reptiles.
- Presenting to the Southwest Florida Astronomical Society, with an FGCU student assisting.
- Continuing to collaborate with the Pine Island Friends of the Library.
- Training in Jupiter to become a Project WILD trainer and offering to assist the environmental education director for the Lee County School Board with teacher training.
- Attending the Southwest Florida Environmental Education Alliance Conference on October 5, followed by the League of Environmental Educators of Florida (LEEF) mini-conference on October 6. Dan and Sean also attended.
- Continuing to work with students on drafting materials regarding our programs, field trips, and Facebook posts.
- Attending a field trip on a Calusa Land Trust property on Pine Island and introducing ASWF to attendees of the subsequent free photography class.

She has confirmed the dates for the Fall 2019 trip to Colombia but is awaiting cost details for accommodations. She will confer with John Cassani about how previous trips were handled.

Field Trips/Jim:

There is a trip to Powell Creek Preserve on September 22 and a Hawk Watch on Sanibel on October 14. All trips need to be posted on the website.

Programs/Gerri: The regular monthly programs for the 2018-19 season are all scheduled. Only the speaker for the Environmental Breakfast is TBA. Pete will know tomorrow whether Lt. Col. Jennifer Reynolds from USACE will agree to speak. (Note: The following day, she agreed to speak.)

Publicity/Carol N.: Announcements for tonight's program appeared in the *Florida Weekly* and the *News-Press*. Jayne said our Facebook page is up to date.

Newsletter: The fall *Flyways* will be distributed electronically in early October (pre-E-Breakfast). Courtney's recently emailed call for content urged that submissions be sent by next week.

National & State Audubon Update/Brad: Audubon Assembly will take place Oct. 19-20 in West Palm Beach.

New Business:

Environmental Breakfast/Jim R.: The event will be on Oct. 25, 2018, at Riverside Community Center. Volunteers will soon receive task assignments. Jim gave an update on donations for events.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 18, 2018. There will not be a program that night.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m. (JR/WD). A screening of the documentary film *Toxic Puzzle* followed, with John Cassani of Calusa Waterkeeper fielding questions afterwards.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.