

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
February 15, 2018
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other currently serving board members present were Brad Cornell, Jayne Johnston, Carol Newcomb, Pete Quasius, Gerri Reaves, & Jim Rodenfels. Gary Sayers was also in attendance.

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, & Maria Quasius.

Minutes of January 18 meeting approved (DV/JJ).

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Approved (GR/BC)

Committee Reports

Membership/Jayne: January 2018: 82 chapter; 1106 national; 20 renewals; 9 new chapter members

Conservation/Brad: Danielle Shepard has been hired by ASWF as the Winter Shorebird Stewardship Coordinator, a four- to five-hour per week job. Audubon Florida has posted a job opening for the Lee Anchor Steward for ASWF's Shorebird Stewardship Program, a half-time, seasonal summer job for nesting season.

Brad outlined grave concerns re: House Bill 7043, which would allow Florida DEP to take over much of the federal wetland permitting and enforcement activities. It is crucial for legislative oversight be exercised before the bill passes, but details of the negotiations are not scheduled to take place until the summer, after the bill passes.

He recently appeared before the Lee County Board of Commissioners to urge them to continue to buy land, even as they fund water-quality projects.

Education/Jayne: The bird club is going well, but retention is a problem. Jayne met 12 teachers at a meeting of Lee County Environmental representatives; some are interested in starting clubs at their schools, using Jayne's template.

On March 6, she and Dan will give a presentation on the chapter to the Canterbury High School. Because the school can bus students to birding locations, the school might be involved in future outings.

Pete mentioned an opportunity to help rehab the old Bluebird Trail at Babcock Ranch. Dan and others proposed setting up nest boxes on the site.

Field Trips/Jim: The next outings are Bunche Beach on Feb. 17 and Ding Darling on Feb. 25. Karl Werner of Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society has proposed that the two chapters plan field trips/programs together.

Programs/Gerri: Two presenters from SCCF will give programs in March and April, Kelly Sloan on Sea Turtles and Audrey Albrecht on Piping Plovers, respectively. The program/speaker for the annual meeting is to be determined.

Publicity/Carol: The programs have been generally well-publicized. Tonight's program was highlighted in the *News-Press*, for example. Dan and Jayne will attend the Burrowing Owl Festival (Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife), Saturday, February 24. Dan said the Water Resources Conference at Pelican Preserve on Feb. 2 went well and there were good speakers.

Newsletter/Jim: The next *Flyways* will publicize the annual meeting.

Old Business:

Christmas Bird Count/Jayne: Summary of count: 28 participants; 46+ hours spent counting; 124+ miles covered by foot, car, and boat; 99 species sighted; 5,137 birds counted.
The Southwest Florida Birding Seminar will take place March 16 & 17.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m., followed by Carol's introduction and a showing of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power*.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.