

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
January 17, 2019
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Brad Cornell, Courtney Kern, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels. Also in attendance was member volunteers Carol Mariany and Jim Covery. Amy Towne and Kathy Busick were also present.

Minutes of December 20 meeting approved (JR/BC), with one change: A note that the RCC meeting was subsequently rescheduled for 9 to 11 a.m.

Treasurer's Report/Jim:

Report for December 2018, previously distributed by email, was approved (BC/CN). Also approved (CN/DV) was an expenditure of \$558.60 for renewal of insurance policy. Jim reminded us of the budget process must be followed.

Committee Reports

Membership/Jayne (via email): December National membership was 1358 (up 36). Chapter membership was 129 (down 1), with 2 renewals and 3 new memberships. December expirations were notified by email and mailed thank-you notes based on payments received through November. Further expiration notices and thank-you notes are postponed until *Flyways* is distributed.

Conservation/Brad: Jim C. was chosen as Steward of the Year for the Lee County Shorebird Stewardship Program. Courtney Kern was approved (BC/CN) as our Winter Shorebird Steward Coordinator this season, when the focus will be on Bunche Beach, Little Estero Island CWA, and the beach north of there. The priority is looking for banded and birds sick due to red tide. Brad will look into the Fort Myers Fire Station proposed on Six Mile Cypress.

He recapped the Conservation Meeting held before board meeting:

In attendance: Dan, Jim R., Gerri, Brad, Carol N., Carol Mariany, Courtney, and visitor Amy Towne.

The permit (state Environmental Resource Permit or ERP) was issued to Argo Corkscrew Crossing; the chapter will not challenge it. However, Brad filed for and received an extension for filing a challenge to a federal permit from ACE. He will pursue getting a denial to an ACE R404 permit. Legal costs are prohibitive without fundraising, but he would like to at least call attention to problematic rules in the processes. Many of the new governor's actions are encouraging.

Education/Jayne via email (presenting tonight at the Tidewater community): Jayne did presentations and supervised activities for the winter camp at the Everglades Wonder Gardens (meets National Audubon's equity, inclusion, and diversity initiative). She is exploring these possibilities:

- after-school activities in marine biology and ecology with Lori Spiers, a sixth-grade earth science teacher at Veterans Park Academy of the Arts, January 16 to March 20;
- weekend bird program at Shady Oaks Park during Lee Country School Board's spring break (meets National Audubon's equity, inclusion, and diversity initiative); and
- co-leading a Project WILD training session for Lee County environmental education teachers.

Jim: Jayne's request for funds for school-program supplies approved (JR/CN) up to \$550.

Field Trips/Jim:

Manatee Kayaking trips are scheduled for January 26 and 28. February 24 is the Ding Darling bicycle tour.

Programs/Gerri: Next month, Church Roberts will present a program on Caloosahatchee Rookeries/Drones, CHNEP grant project.

Publicity/Carol: Carol wasn't able to get out all the publicity she'd hoped for. Jim C. discussed ideas for printed publicity materials.

Gerri suggested more clarity about who is in charge of and what the exact functions are of the chapter's Facebook account, website, email account, and Flyways. Confusion arises from over-lapping purposes and duplication of efforts.

National & State Audubon Updates: An RCC meeting will be held at Babcock Ranch on Jan. 26, 9-11 a.m.

Old Business/Dan:

Announcements: 28th Annual Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference on January 25. Dan and Carol N attending to display. Exhibit Table at Wings Over Water Festival, March 16, Lehigh Acres, Harns Marsh.

New Business:

The 2019 Environmental Breakfast will be October 31. Dan is registering for the January 28 FGCU Service-Learning Fair. The chapter will have two exhibit tables at the Burrowing Owl Festival, February 23. Dan is working with Peace River Audubon on Potential Bluebird Trail projects; the chapters will split expenses. Carol N. distributed invitations from Bill Hammond for the reopening of the Aviary at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m. Daniel Quinn's program "FWC's Non-native Wildlife Update and Non-native Identification" followed.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.