

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)  
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting  
June 28, 2018  
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other currently serving board members present were Brad Cornell, Jayne Johnston, Courtney Kern, Sean McCabe, Gerri Reaves, and Jim Rodenfels. Also in attendance were members Carol Mariany and 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, & Maria Quasius.

Minutes of May 17 meeting approved (JR/JJ).

Treasurer's Report/Jim: Funds for p.o. box fee & Everglades Coalition dues approved (BC/GR); Conflict of Interest Policy (Renewal) approved (SM/BC).

The Lease Renewal, IRS Form 990-EZ, and other documents were distributed.

Report as of May 31, 2018, previously distributed by email, was approved (GR/JJ).

### **Committee Reports**

Membership/Jayne: Our numbers have changed very little since the last report. We need to increase membership.

Conservation/Brad: Two issues remain of major concern: Troyer Brothers Florida Inc.'s bid for approval of a lime-rock mine; and CLASAC's (advisory committee) prioritization of water-quality projects over buying land.

In her Shorebird Stewardship update, Courtney said that staff is preparing for July 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be out most of night. Also, a couple of student volunteers have shown an interest in joining the effort. Brad noted that generally things are going well; the presence of a tent, signage, and staff seems to be effective. Gerri said that shorebird reports are being posted on the website. Jim C. cited FGCU's service-learning requirement as helpful in maximizing student participation.

Education/Jayne: She has received scholarship applications for review; a three-person education committee (appointed later in the meeting) will review them and a summary will be provided to the board. The continuance of bird club is in question, since a teacher sponsor is required. Jayne is considering alternative ideas, for the success of last year's club justifies continuing the project. She shared teaching materials from workshops, such as the Flying Wild lesson-plan book from training by someone in Tampa Audubon.

Field Trips/Jim: A summary of last year's trips and programs (attendance & donations) was distributed, along with a tentative schedule of 2018-19 Field Trips. The possibility of joint trips with other chapters is being explored. Brad said the topic could be discussed at the RCC, and Sean suggested the Sierra Club as a possibility. Jayne will also plan trips around the Christmas Bird Count. Brochures on organizing birding tours were distributed.

Programs/Gerri:

Gerri requests that board members email her speaker suggestions for 2018-19 Programs ASAP.

Publicity: It was generally noted that Carol has done an excellent job in securing publicity.

National & State Audubon Update/Brad: Audubon Florida has made a PSA re: fireworks and Shorebird Stewardship for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Audubon Assembly will take place Oct. 19-20 in West Palm Beach. National Audubon, which rarely litigates, is doing so over the dilution of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The EPA's rulemaking process for Sec. 404 wetlands is an ongoing concern.

Jayne reported on an email received from a Keys resident and Audubon chapter member re: the protection of the Flamingo, recently established as a Florida native; Brad reviewed the pros & cons of officially listing it as a protected species.

**Old Business:**

Annual Meeting Update/Jim: An overall success.

**New Business:**

Committee Appointments/Dan: Dan led the board through an update to the list of committees. Chapter members Carol M. and Jim C. agreed to serve on committees. Jayne once again mentioned the advantage of having a coordinator of citizen-science organization (e.g., Jay Watch), and Brad proposed, in lieu of that, options to disseminate the data, including simply notifying organizations that we will publish it in *Flyways*.

2018-2019 Budget/Jim: Materials for the proposed budget were distributed, and after lengthy discussion, a new budget was approved (JJ/SM). Ideas for increasing revenue were discussed, among them raffle and auction at the Environmental Breakfast, qualified charitable giving, legacy giving, and membership increase. Courtney proposed giving short presentations to FGCU colloquium classes on chapter opportunities.

Environmental Breakfast/Dan: The event will be on Oct. 25, 2018, at Riverside Community Center. The board needs to begin deciding on the program and the Environmentalist of the Year recipient. Board members should send suggestions to Dan.

Miscellaneous: Dan summarized his meeting with Audubon of the Western Everglades (Collier County) (AWE) on possibly collaborating on field trips and programs. AWE has requested ASWF's permission to fundraise in Estero and Bonita, and possibly other Lee County locations. Dan will get a summary of the proposal in writing for board consideration. There was general agreement that no grant application should be submitted without the board's prior knowledge and approval. For the time being, no grant committee will be formed, but individual board members are encouraged to investigate grant sources for worthy projects.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 (No meeting in July & no program in August)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.