

Board Meeting Minutes
Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
May 19, 2022

5:30 pm Conservation Committee Meeting (optional) & 6 pm Board Meeting

Call to Order and Attendance

At 6:30 pm; Attendance (those attending in bold)

Gerri Reaves (P)	Brad Cornell	Lina Ramirez-Granada
Dan VanNorman (VP)	Vivian Cardoso	Wayne Daltry
Jim Rodenfels (T)	Sean McCabe	Pete Quasius
Michele Bellinger	Carol Newcomb (S)	

Guests: **Robin Serne**

Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2022 meeting: Jim 1st, Brad 2nd

Treasurer's Report: Approval of Jim's emailed report **Dan 1st, Carol 2nd**

Committee Reports

Membership/Jim: see emailed report

Member count: National 1,161, Chapter 230; picked up 16 new people in April

Conservation (5:30):

- Brad & Carol/LEICWA: Shorebird Stewardship & discussion of LEICWA
- FGCU Service Learning
Carol Newcomb has 2 University Colloquium summer classes (50 students) involved with the Lee Shorebird Stewardship Program to earn credit for their FGCU Service Learning course requirement.
- Brad/ RCC meeting on May 15
- Dan/EvCo update
- Lina/Estero Bay ABM update—no report

- Robin/Shorebird Stewardship update: stressed the need for a good photographer to document work; Jim will put out the word.
- Gerri/bird-glass collision update: surveys of various buildings continue, new volunteers; June 22 meeting with County Facilities; downtown hotel; County's request for input re: Federally funded county projects
- Gerri: CFM is discussing green space

Field Trips/Jim: see emailed report

Field trip to 3 cemeteries adjacent to each other in the City of Ft. Myers to learn history and look for birds was very successful.

Lakes Park next field trip

Programs & Events:

- Jim/Environmental Breakfast (see emailed Planning Timeline); scheduled for Thursday, October 27; to hold or not? An alternative plan is in the works (see below)
- Carol, Dan, & Gerri attended Babcock Earth Day on April 23: We talked to attendees about bird collision glass, bird boxes – Dan gave a blue bird box to the Babcock Homeschoolers Group, and had a sign-up sheet for people interested in starting a new Babcock Chapter. Gave names to Pete Quasius.

Publicity, Website, Newsletter, & Social Media/Jim: An Action Alert to support Florida's state wildlife agency (FWC) new guidelines, "Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines," will be sent. Brad drafted a letter.

National & State Audubon Updates: Brad

- Gerri/Next AF's Presidents Call is May 24, with theme "finding your chapter conservation voice".

Jim mentioned we could get involved with the Audubon Assembly that is being held at the Luminary Hotel in downtown Ft. Myers in October as an alternative to holding the environmental breakfast. Host a meet and greet with coffee and donuts and invite membership to meet Audubon Florida assembly participants. Also offer some field trips.

Education/Jim: Voted unanimously to approve scholarship application (previously emailed); excellence of candidate noted.

Old Business:

- Jim/Photo Contest: Winners to be announced by May 28; 20 entrants, 87 entries, \$515 fees expected, vote to approve \$500 in cash awards & a \$100 for framing

Award payments: \$200 grand prize plus framing their photo, \$100 for the rest of the runner ups (3 people); Funding approved: **Carol 1st, Brad 2nd**

- Annual Meeting/Election: postcards mailed; as of May 9, following votes received: 5 by postcard, 20 by gmail, 2 mail; 38 current responses total
- Drop-by/drive-through voting event in downtown Fort Myers by Bennett-Hart Park, on Saturday, 10 am to noon, May 28; commitments to volunteer and/or bring refreshments. Jim will buy donuts, coffee, and fruit.

Gerri, Jim, Robin, Carol N., Dan, and Carol M. will be attending

New/Updated Business:

- Pete/EvCo membership—no substantive discussion; Everglades Foundation controversy noted
- Tent purchase? Not really needed
- Polk County – Jim will write a letter of support for the ballot initiative to renew ELAP Program.
- Constitutional Amendment for Right to Clean Water briefly discussed

Meeting Adjourned: 7:26 pm Jim 1st, Dan 2nd

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 16, Post-Election Organizational Meeting. Jim has secured a room at the Collaboratory for 2:00 pm.

Annotated and submitted by Carol Newcomb

On May- 21, 2022