

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
Meeting Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
August 17, 2017
Masonic Lodge, Fort Myers, FL

Call to Order and Attendance: The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by President Dan VanNorman. Other board members present were Melinda Averhart, Brad Cornell, Wayne Daltry, Jayne Johnston, Courtney Kern, Carol Newcomb, Gerri Reaves, Jim Rodenfels, and Carl Veaux.

Minutes of June meeting approved (unanimous acclaim)

Treasurer's Report: June & July reports presented by Jim and approved (WD/CV)

Committee Reports

Membership: Jayne reported the following changes:

July: 116 chapter, 1104 national, 0 renewals, 1 new chapter member

June: 118 chapter, 1148 national, 3 chapter renewals, 3 new chapter members

Conservation: Brad summarized the Conservation Committee meeting held prior to the board meeting and covered other issues as well.

The Conservation Committee and Board discussed the SFWMD's consideration of Deep Well Injection as part of the Greater Everglades and as restoration work for reducing impacts of high-water dumps on the northern estuaries. The committee voted 4 to 2 in favor of the Everglades Coalition waiting until the SFWMD staff present their report and recommendations to the SFWMD Governing Board on September 14, and the members of the Coalition have a chance to review the report and send a response to the SFWMD.

Given Melinda A.'s departure for a new job with Audubon Mississippi, a replacement is needed for the Shorebird Stewardship Coordinator position for the winter. "Significant adversity" was experienced over this last nesting season; one incident resulted in a truck driver being cited by FM Beach Code Enforcement. An appreciation potluck lunch will be held for the shorebird stewardship volunteers at Corkscrew Swamp at 9:30 a.m. on September 30, and board members are invited too. The failure of the legislature to fund Florida Forever is disappointing. Lee County is in negotiations to purchase Edison Farms. Brad reiterated that Audubon Florida urges each chapter to set its own priorities (the CREW Lands project, for example, in ASWF's case) and approach legislators for their support. Funds for sponsorship of the Everglades Coalition were approved. (\$250; BC/CV)

Education: Jayne announced that Courtney is the recipient of the chapter's annual scholarship at FGCU. Jayne and Melinda L. will pursue plans to establish a bird club at the school where Melinda teaches.

Field Trips: Jim reported that Vince will not be able to lead the Hawk Watch due to illness, but it would still be held. Dates for shorebird outings are to be determined.

Programs: Melinda A. has the year's programs set up, except for the speaker for the annual dinner. Gerri will assume coordination duties for programs (i.e., communication and flyers). Jim stressed that a nominee for the Environmentalist/Conservationist of the Year Award must be selected ASAP. Jim discussed plans to convert to eco-friendly utensils and supplies for programs, with assistance from Carol, Jayne, and Gerri.

Publicity: Carol reminded everyone to send info to be distributed to the press, published on the website, etc. Gerri said that new website, nearing completion by Jim Brock, will debut around November 1.

Newsletter: Jim stated that all material for the fall *Flyways* should be sent to Courtney by September 21 in time for the September 30 publication date.

National and State Audubon Updates: Brad said an RCC meeting will be held soon, with a focus on setting priorities.

New Business: Jim distributed Environmental Breakfast materials, including solicitation letters. Funds were approved for Dan to attend the Audubon Assembly in St. Augustine October. (WD/JJ)
Dan, on behalf of the board, presented a letter of appreciation to Melinda A. for her excellent work for the chapter.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 21, 2017

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7 p.m. A program on bald eagle monitoring training followed.

Respectfully submitted by Gerri Reaves.