

Agenda for Board Meeting
Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
March 18, 2021 at 5:30 pm
Virtual/Zoom

Call to Order and Attendance

At 5:30 pm; Attendance (**those attending in bold**)

- Gerri Reaves (P)** **Brad Cornell**
- Dan VanNorman (VP)** Courtney Kern Wayne Daltry
- Jim Rodenfels (T)** **Sean McCabe** Pete Quasius
- Michele Bellinger (S)** **Carol Newcomb** Carl Veaux

Guests: **Lina Ramirez, Vivian Cardosa**

Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2021 meeting

Approved with corrections with First and seconded by Jim and Dan

Treasurer's Report: see Jim's emailed report

Question was brought up by Gerri concerning the interest that is accruing and not getting spent and also there is a lot of money in the checking account that is not getting interest. Should we reinvest some of the money?

Jim said that we have \$13,000 in the checking account and an overall total of \$27,000. We should as a first step to take \$5,000 and reinvest that in the endowment account.

Motion by Brad and 2nd by Carol-Approved

Expenditure for discussion & approval:

- \$14 for two name badges -**Motion made by Michele and 2nd by Dan-Approved**
- Endowment Fund (LPL Investments); see notes below*

Committee Reports

Membership: see Jim's emailed report -**We have 1263 members through National Audubon, 206 chapter**

Conservation: **NOTE: Next meeting will include ½ hour conservation meeting before the regular meeting. The agenda will reflect this change for May**

- Brad suggested Lina do the shorebird Survey update summary

Lina stated the statistics were up and down, with a Black Skimmer colony of approx. 150, at first; but, after then, not many were noted (at most 15). Winter shorebirds that were counted included: Sanderlings, Western Sandpipers and other Sandpipers and Plovers, plus terns. FGCU students are helping survey by spot checking with photos. There are 2-3 volunteers that are especially good.

Jim: Would like ASWF to reimburse shorebird stewards for parking costs and associated fees.

Motion by Brad and 2nd by Sean-Approved.

RCC update-Brad:

There is going to be shorebird training by Rochelle Stecker for ½ time stewards in Lee and Collier Counties, at the end of April had meeting-Anchor Steward positions are open. Budget cuts are happening at Corkscrew Sanctuary because of Covid related lack of revenue; they are doing a capital raising campaign

- Gerri & Brad: AF's SW Florida Regional Resiliency Compact

Notes re: Compact: Sign-ons up to 10; meetings with two Fort Myers City Council members; Lee County Commission has Compact on agenda for March 16; City of FM hiring an environmental consultant subsequent to DEP fines

Lee County Commission voted to join the Resiliency Compact; There is a desire from Sanibel leadership to be unified to get more funding for desired projects. Gerri and three reps of Florida Audubon, Halle, Laura, met with two Fort Myers councilmembers and it was encouraging; Total is eleven sign-ons, Collier County is yet to schedule a vote. Gerri is working on a letter to request a letter of support from Sen. Rodrigues for the Fort Myers Mayor and Council.

- Gerri: Sent comments in support of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's new rules on nonnative invasive reptiles

City of Fort Myers to hire environmental consultant

- Dan: Eco update

1) There is a proposed resolution to oppose oil development in big Cypress Preserve, Brad will consult with Dan about this.

2) In 2021, in general there is support of Everglades restoration legislation

- Field trips: Jim

Shorebird visit to Bunche Beach with Lina has been added for March 20. A recruitment

opportunity? **Lina will be our shorebird 'expert' leader! The chapter will participate at the pop-up booth at the Mermaid Festival at FMB.**

Next is Venice Rookery-which is a great photo op to view nesting activities.

Esrero Bay: Sean-mentioned that there was not a lot to report but he would put the information in writing. Kevin Ruane now attending meetings.

Newsletter:

National & State Audubon Updates

- Gerri—AF's Presidents' Call

Old Business

- Jim--Environmental Breakfast: attempted contact with City of Fort Myers; no response yet

New Business

- Jim--Annual meeting: election postcard is being created; to the printer by March 31 & in the mail by April 12; request approval of approximately \$1,400 for printing and mailing
- Gerri—FGCU students: One more FGCU student/Humanities project—focusing on research & downtown; total of three students for this semester

Meeting Adjourned: 6:35

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021. Virtual.

Annotated by and submitted by Michele Bellinger

On March 30, 2021

***Endowment Fund** (LPL Investments): A long-term objective relating to the endowment fund has been to restore it to its permanently endowed balances of over a decade ago, which were then in excess of \$100k (currently at \$79k).

As there is a surplus of cash within our non-income producing 5/3rd checking account (current balance about \$14k), Jim suggests the chapter:

1) transfer \$5k to the LPL investment account so it begins earning income; and, 2) make a bookkeeping entry within LPL to transfer \$5k from “available” to “permanently endowed.” This still leaves over \$13k of “available” funds within LPL, begins to reimburse the endowment fund, and produces a bit more “available” income, all while preserving the primary function of the endowment fund to fully fund our annual FGCU scholarship with the fund's earnings (never the principal).