

Minutes for Board Meeting
Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)
February 17, 2022

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

Zoom link follows Agenda

Call to Order and Attendance

At 5:51 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)	

Approval (unanimous) of Minutes of January 20, 2022 meeting, with one amendment, addition of Allyson Webb's name in Audubon Florida update LR-G/VC

Treasurer's Report: **Approval** (unanimous) of Jim's emailed reports DV/VC; Cube Smart is increasing our monthly charge from \$107 to \$135.

Committee Reports

Membership/Jim: Numbers are good, despite the pandemic, with 233 chapter members and 1217 members with NAS affiliation. Sending a postcard vs. full end-of-year newsletter and appeal worked out well.

Conservation (5:30 pm):

- Brad reported via email that he will write a letter to FWC re: Gopher Tortoises and one to Lee County re: Troyer Bros. permit. He suggests making formal comments and maybe having a meeting re: the South Lee Flood Mitigation Plan.
- Dan & Gerri noted that the EvCo's quarterly meeting was again postponed and detailed recent sign-ons.
- Lina is the chapter's new EBABM representative. The next Estero Bay ABM meeting is March 11 at 10 am.
- Robin's Shorebird Stewardship updates, with photos, are being posted on the website.
- Gerri reported that the Florida Green Building Council had approved the Modification Request submitted by the chapter to include bird-safe glass and other design features in their guidelines. The documents reflecting the changes could be published as early as the end of March. She continues to follow-up on various things related to bird-glass collisions.
- Carol has not received a response from the FGCU students who contacted the chapter about a project to earn Service Learning credits. The chapter will take a break from SL for now. Carol has contacted Syd Kitson re: incorporating bird-safe glass and design features into "Innovation Way," a newly launched project that seeks to set a precedence in sustainable building and serve as a model for the state.
- Gerri reported that she endorsed, on behalf of the chapter, the American Bird Conservancy's comment letter asking the California Fish and Game Commission to prohibit the use of systemic

insecticides (e.g., neonicotinoids) on state wildlife refuges and other lands under the Commission's jurisdiction.

- Gerri reported that Halle Goldstein says that there will be a Climate Lead Network call soon and that the SWFL Compact members plan to meet soon for the second organizational meeting. Lina will be working with Mike Savarese on that Compact.

Field Trips/Jim: Reservation numbers are strong.

Publicity, Website, Newsletter, & Social Media/Jim:

- The monthly email blast will be sent out immediately, so send any additions to Jim.
- Dan, Jim, and Vivian will attend the Burrowing Owl Festival on February 26 to represent the chapter.
- Pete reported via email that the Facebook page is going well; he is posting the EcoVoice digest daily.

National & State Audubon Updates:

- Gerri noted Elizabeth Gray's, president NAS, recent email that stated focuses of next year's work: 1) Developing our next strategic plan; and 2) The namesake and legacy of John James Audubon.
- Brad reported via email that the RCC is searching for "a meeting time for the RCC and wrestling with best practices and reasons for being of that coalition with our sister chapters."
- Gerri reported that at the next AF Presidents Call, on March 22, she is scheduled for a segment on bird-glass collisions and the FGBC.

Old Business: Jim reported that 3 contestants have registered for the Photo Contest.

New Business:

- Nominations for the 2022-2023 BOD will be needed soon. Boards members whose terms expire in May are Gerri, Dan, Jim, Brad, and Sean.
- As an alternative to the Annual Meeting, the chapter will hold a drop-by/drive-through event in downtown Fort Myers by Bennett-Hart Park, adjacent to the Collaboratory on Saturday morning, May 28. Members can say hello, drop off ballots, enjoy refreshments, and/or explore the urban park. If there's an interest, Gerri can talk about the history of the ACL depot (1/2 of Collaboratory) and the history of the park property named for early citizens. Volunteers and portable refreshments such as muffins needed.
- Gerri noted that in its last email, the Calusa Waterkeeper named the chapter (one of four orgs) in its "Collaboration Corner," which cites like-minded organizations working to solve environmental issues.
- Dan gave a full report on the January Water Resources Conference, which he attended. This year, the profits will be given as awards for students who created posters, etc.

Meeting Adjourned: a. 6:40 pm; VC/LR-G--unanimous

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 17 on Zoom

Annotated and submitted by Gerri Reaves

February 25, 2022