

Minutes of Meeting of Audubon of Southwest Florida
August 16, 2012, 7pm
Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Review/approve the Agenda. The meeting was called to order by President Veaux at 7:10 pm.

Attending: Cornell, Quasius, Ulakovic, Veaux, Rodenfels T, Forbes, Brock, Brooks, Rodenfels J, Daltry. Guest: Jay Brock, Mary Rawl

2. Minutes of June 21, 2012: Postponed due to lightning strike of Secretary's computer

3. Treasurers Report: Distributed by JRodenfels. Motion to Approve by Daltry, second by Forbes, Unanimous

4. Annual Budget (Action Item) The draft budget was distributed by JRodenfels. Under discussion, \$300 was added to the "programs" budget (motion by Cornell, second by Brock), to not increase the Constant Contact estimated cost and reduce services accordingly (Motion by Daltry, second by Brock), and with these changes, the budget was approved (Motion by Brooks, second by Daltry). Unanimous.

5. Committee Reports

a. Conservation. Presented by Cornell. He introduced the National Parks Principles, which we endorsed (Motion by Quasius, second by JRodenfels); A "sign on letter" of support and thanks for Senator Nelson's request for funding for the Everglades was approved (Motion by Daltry, second by Quasius); Support for a Florida Constitutional Amendment for Florida's Water and Land Legacy (involving a commitment of 1/3rd of Documentary Stamp revenues) was given unanimously (motion by Quasius, second by Brooks); The North American Migratory Bird County lacks a Lee County Coordinator, so instead assistance will be given to Glades and Hendry County; an amount of \$800 was committed for the Shorebird Stewardship Program, Motion by Brooks, second by Quasius, unanimous.

b. Education: (JRodenfels)One request for a scholarship was received, but the applicant was not an Audubon member.

c. Field Trip: (MBrock) An open question was asked, "who are the Birders in ASWF." Myrna Brock distributed a "year of Field Trips," with September 15th being the Bird Count at STA 5, and October 21 being Hawkwatch at the Sanibel Lighthouse. There is something in every month.

d. Membership: (Forbes) We have 128 Chapter memberships.

e. Program (September) Board member Vince McGrath will present on Hawkwatch, September 20th 7pm, CNCP Planetarium

f. Publicity: As noted elsewhere

g. Publication (Newsletter): Quasius is stepping down as Newsletter editor (our thanks for years of service) and Daltry will step up when he finds out where the bathroom is.

h. Environmental Breakfast. It is October 25th, 7am, Riverside Park Pavilion in E Fort Myers. The topic is the County 2020 Program, plus awards.

6. Pending State/National Audubon matters

Phosphate mining in the Peace River is heating up again, with the draft EIS for mining out the remainder of the Bone Valley area out for public review.

The Audubon Assembly is on October 26-27 and \$135 registration expense was approved for Pete Quasius.

The Heartland Express has raised up again, also, a highway to extend roughly from the center of Polk County and heading due south through private and public lands to roughly the location of Ave Maria in Collier County. Supported by FDOT and large land owners, its purpose is to support the speculation in new towns favored by those owners.

7. Nature Center Updates. A fundraiser for the Audubon Aviary is in the making, says CNCP Director Mary Rawl, more later. Haunted Walk dress rehearsal is October 18, and runs through the 31st. Friendly Forest is the last weekend of the month, including Friday and Monday.

8. Old Business

Following the theme of the walking dead, SR 951 extension into Lee County is being discussed by Collier Metropolitan Planning Organization. It has not yet been resurrected for discussion by the Cape Coral Fort Myers MPO.

9.. New Business

We are a sponsor of the Everglades Coalition annual meeting, \$250 being authorized for that purpose (motion by Quasius, second by JRodenfels, Unanimous)

10. Next Meeting Date and Adjourn. The next meeting date is Thursday, 7pm, October 18, CNCP Board meeting room.