

AUGUST 17, 2006 ASWF BOARD MEETING

The meeting started at 7:10 pm. Present were board members: Barbara Bacon, Christina Baker, Connie Langmann, Vince McGrath, Frank Pirog, Pete Quasius, Gerri Reaves, Dan Van Norman, Carl Veaux, Kathie Zurich; visitors: Pete Burkert and Brad Cornell.

Business conducted via email over the summer included: 1) failed -- a motion to not join in the plea to Sierra Club to withdraw its lawsuit regarding the purchase of Babcock Ranch; 2) passed -- a motion to support the DRGR study and a motion to support Conservation 20/20.

Pete requested that a time frame be put on motions made by email.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Barbara)

- The following amendments to the May minutes were approved: Frank and Catherine Pirog were given a family membership, not two individual memberships; Clyde Butcher's name was corrected.
- A thank you letter from Frank and Catherine Pirog was read in which Catherine also resigned from the board.
- Approximately ten new members have joined the chapter since May. Thank you notes will be sent to David Anderson and Susan Brookman for funds; Christina will send a thank you to John Kiseda for use of facilities.
- Barbara regretfully announced her resignation to the board. A motion (made by Connie, seconded by Carl) passed unanimously to accept Christina as the new Recording and Corresponding Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Kathie)

- The chapter received the following this summer: Charles Foster's bequest of \$14,329.73; \$60 from NAS for new and renewal members; \$1,002 from Water Resources; \$260 for memberships; \$500 for the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMN). Insurance was paid (\$1,225).
- Checking account = \$16,383 Savings = \$940 Conservation Fund = \$97,072
- Kathie is working on the annual financial report, due on August 15 for chapter to receive NAS annual rebate in September. Pete submitted the rest of the annual report in May. Kathie will also get information to the webmaster for chapter to use Pay-Pal for online memberships, trip fees, etc.

EDUCATION:

- Teachers in our four counties, plus Collier, will be notified of the scholarships offered by the chapter for attendance in the FMN program.
- Teri is looking into the cost of funding a scholarship for an FGCU junior or senior.

NEWSLETTER

Gerri and Vince expect to have the September issue ready by September 4; please submit articles by that date. Maria will organize printing and distribution by Sir Speedy of Naples. This issue should be able to be posted to the website and may be expanded in anticipation of reduced costs when an online edition is available.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Pete reported that Maria has received no new memberships over the web in the summer. We have a total of approximately 1400 members.
- Bonita members are currently assigned to Collier chapter.
- FGCU memberships still default to NAS, as do on-line memberships. The chapter feels that these should be credited to ASWF and we are in discussion with NAS regarding this.

EVENTS: (Dan):

- Birdathon has been scheduled for the weekend of March 24, 2007.
- The following field trips are in the final stages of organization:
 - Sep. 24 – Hawk watch with Vince at Sanibel Lighthouse
 - Oct. 22 – Dinner Island
 - Nov. and Dec. – Conservation 20/20 properties during the week with Laura
 - Jan. – Estero Bay Preserve State Park
 - Feb. 17 – Clewiston with Margaret
 - Mar. 18 – Babcock Webb
 - Apr. 14 – Corkscrew evening truck trip
 - May 19 – Caloosahatchee kayak trip with Connie
- Festivals: Sharon is working on the new chapter display board. Vince will head up the same two festivals as last year. Vince will work with Ray Ann Wessel on the environmental breakfast and will look into details on a bus trip to the 10th Annual Space Coast Birding Festival in January and a Maitland/Archbold trip. Pete reported that the bus cost would be approximately \$40 per person.

Dan will contact Laura regarding the Bunche Beach clean-up schedule for the year. There is also a possibility that the chapter will become involved in Calusa Regional Park clean up. Gerri reported on clean up needs at the Calusa Nature Center. She will contact Mary Ann and set up a date for this.

CONSERVATION:

Brad Cornell (from Collier Audubon and FAS) spoke on issues of importance to the chapter: DRGR, the importance of Audubon Assembly, Audubon Academy, regional Audubon RCC (chapter will pay for registration for BoD members to attend), DRI, upcoming Lee County Comprehensive Plan meetings. He reminded members of the importance of public support, not criticism, of local, regional and national Audubon efforts.

OLD BUSINESS:

Carl commented on Babcock Ranch issues, including that “Kitson City” is not a done deal..

NEW BUSINESS:

Pete Burkert, who is running for State Representative, District 73, spoke about his support of common concerns with ASWF, and particularly the need to have a mandatory Lee County member on the board of SWFM and that SWFM should be an elected board, rather than appointed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

