

## **Minutes - Audubon of SW Florida Board of Directors Meeting held at Rutenberg Park, Ft. Myers on August 16, 2007**

### **Members Present**

Sally McPherson – Chair & conservation Committee  
Gerri Reaves - Flyways  
Kathie Zumich - Treasurer  
Dan Van Norman – Field Trips  
Ginny Cooper – PR-Marketing & Events  
Mary McAuliffe – Recording Secretary & Conservation Committee

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:15 pm. DVN moved to accept minutes (as amended) from the 7-19-07 meeting; with 2<sup>nd</sup> by GR. The approved minutes will be posted on the website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Kathie met with Neil Wilkinson on July 26<sup>th</sup> to review fiscal status. Kathie handed out a year end Profit & Loss statement to the Board. Total income was \$27,347 with total expenses of \$12,981 for the period 6-1-06 through 5-31-07. There is currently \$1,291 in the checking account and \$118,758 in the money market account.

She discussed the C. Foster Conservation Fund and current market. KZ will prepare a list of small item equipment owned by the Chapter for Board review and way to keep an updated inventory.

### **Budget**

Ginny distributed copies of a proposed budget for the period September 2007 through June 2008; with expenses grouped into categories for meetings, programs, PR, education, donations, memberships and operating expenses.

Estimated costs for planned activities and events in addition to on-going costs (ex. Flyways) were discussed in detail. The Board agreed that spending should focus on education and environmental protection in accord with the Chapter's Mission Statement.

Ginny will revise the budget to reflect changes made and approved at tonight's meeting. The revised budget will be sent as an email attachment to all members of the Board.

Board members voted to approve Ginny Cooper as Board member with motion made by MM, second by SM.

### **PR, Programs & Field Trips**

GC presented a calendar of planned events including field trips for September 2007 through July 2008. The schedule will be revised to reflect changes as they occur and will be sent to all Board members as an email attachment.

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Information and more details (ex. date, time, location, cost, etc.) will be posted on the Chapter's webpage and in Flyways.

EcoBreakfast flyers have been mailed out by Rae Ann Wessel, Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Ginny is working with an outdoor advertising company to provide layout and design in addition to free use of a billboard (3-6 months). The billboard message will be short, simple and convey this message: Join Audubon of Southwest FL today!

The annual meeting could take place on Saturday, 4-12-08 at Corkscrew after the joint Collier-AoSFW event with Cynthia Barnett. Date and location of annual meeting is still undecided. A closer, more central location in Fort Myers might draw more members.

### **Education, Donations and Memberships/Affiliation**

Everyone agreed that financial contribution to education is a priority. The Chapter will establish a General/Miscellaneous Fund along with guidelines for awarding scholarships and funding to attend educational events. Applications will be submitted to the Board for review and approval. Funding will cover registration and tuition expenses only.

The Board voted (motion made by MM with 2<sup>nd</sup> by GC) to approve continued spending (at the amount stated) for the following educational programs:

- \$450, American Groundwater Trust workshop for one approved applicant
- FL Fish & Wildlife Commission workshops in the Everglades & Ocala, \$300 registration/tuition for two approved applicants
- Audubon of FL Eagle Camp tuition grants @ \$200 each for 5 approved applicants

In 2007 the Chapter approved funding:

- \$5000, FGCU Tuition scholarship for an approved student enrolled in the university's Environmental Science program
- \$225 each for 5 approved applicants to complete the FL Master Naturalist Program (certified by the University of FL-IFAS)
- \$350 tuition grant for an approved applicant to complete the Cornell Lab of Ornithology home study course in Bird Biology.

KZ distributed a list of membership affiliations. A revised list will be sent via email for all Board members to review based upon tonight's discussion. The updated list will be sent as an attachment to next month's meeting agenda.

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Funding the Everglades Coalition Conference on Captiva was tabled pending more information; and may be discussed at next month's meeting.

### **Conservation Committee**

Ginny reported on the Strategic Planning meeting she attended on 8-8-07. Results will be posted 8-20-07 on the BPMP (Babcock Preserve Management Plan) website.

### **Flyways**

Next issue of Flyways will be in October. Send news and events to Gerri.

Additional copies of Flyways could be made available for distribution to local libraries, Lee County Parks Department, Southwest FL Water Management District office, Charlotte Harbour National Estuary Program office and other places where the general public would have an opportunity to learn about the Chapter and planned events. The Chapter will benefit by gaining new members who may also be interested in leading events, become active participants in fundraising and promote the Chapter's mission in their homes, workplace and lifestyle. We need more active members to join committees and participate in decision making.

### **NOTICE OF CHANGE IN MEETING TIME**

Members voted to change the BOD meeting time **from 7 pm to 6 pm**, beginning in October; with programs (if scheduled) to follow starting at 7 pm. The intent is to keep business meetings to one hour; and perhaps draw more members to attend and participate in scheduled events that follow the meetings. Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

All Chapter members and guests are invited and always welcome to attend all scheduled programs. Members are encouraged to plan and lead educational events, field trips and join committees.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm after motion made by TH, 2<sup>nd</sup> by GC, all voted in favor.