

Minutes - Audubon of SW Florida Board of Directors Meeting held at Rutenberg Park, Ft. Myers on July 19, 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
Terri Heath
John Cassani

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:15 pm. Motion made and passed to approve minutes of the 6-19-07 meeting.

Pete and Maria Quasius unable to attend tonight's meeting. They are in Tampa attending the bio-fuel/energy conference. Their registration fees will be paid by Chapter.

Budget-Expenditures

Paypal is needed to process membership fees paid by credit card. A not-to-exceed cost of \$300 was approved with motion made by MM; 2nd by TH. GR abstained from voting.

Previously approved educational budget requests are:

- FGCU tuition scholarship, 1 @ \$5000 (was this approved previously and for what amount?)
- FMNP tuition grants, 5 @ \$225
- Cornell tuition grant, 1 @ 350
- Groundwater Workshop (for teachers) tuition grant, 1 @ \$400
- Everglades Camp tuition grant, 1 @ \$300
- FWC Ocala Camp tuition grant, 1 @ \$300
- Eagle Camp Tuition grants, 5 @ @ 200 each

All remaining budget items listed on the meeting agenda were tabled after motion by GC, 2nd by KZ, all voted in favor. All present agreed the need to review a Treasurer's Report, financial statement or audit and compare proposed spending with prior years.

Tabled budget requests are:

- Conservationist of the Year, \$1000
- EcoBreakfast donation (\$1350 pledged; what is anticipated actual cost)
- Media center materials, Field trips and Special Events/Programs
- Affiliated membership fees with an approved list for future consideration

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Motion made by TH with 2nd by GR to find a CPA willing to donate their services.

The Board approved only one budget request at tonight's meeting:

- MS Publisher, not to exceed \$180, to purchase software needed to produce Flyways. Motion by KZ, 2nd by DVN, all present voted in favor.

Field Trips & Programs

Dan Van Norman has scheduled trips in Oct-Nov-Feb-Mar. Ginny Cooper distributed a Program Schedule for 2007-2008. It was suggested field trips be added to the Program Schedule, with all events posted in Flyways and on the Chapter website.

Issues-Comments-General Discussion

Flyways: Please submit items for publication to Gerri.

Web: Need to add a link to Flyways on the Chapter's homepage. Homepage needs major overhaul to make it more user-friendly and eye catching. The website is our best marketing tool. It should attract members, encourage member participation and invite donations.

Marketing: We need a marketing plan.

Agenda: Meeting agenda should be organized with items grouped by category and fit into a one hour meeting time.

Birdathon: KZ will ask Neal and Brian to take the lead on this. The date(s) chosen should be added to the Program Schedule, appear in Flyways and on the website.

Audubon Assembly: We need to discuss plans to host or co-host the assembly in 2008 at the next Regional Meeting. Need to know what support State will provide and invite local chapters to help with planning and cost.

Nomination to Fish & Wildlife Conservation (FWC) Commission Board

John Cassani was introduced, distributed his personal background information and spoke about the opening and requested nomination.

FWC's seven Commissioners are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate to five-year terms. Their constitutional duty is to exercise the "...regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to wild animal life and fresh water aquatic life and shall also exercise regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to marine life, except that all license fees and penalties for violating regulations shall be as provided by law."

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Commissioners meet five times per year at various locations across the state. Visit the [Commission Meetings](#) page for access to schedules, agendas and minutes. (Source: FWC website)

GC moved to nominate/recommend John Cassani to the FWC Board of Directors. 2nd by GR, all in favor. Pete will submit a nomination letter in support of John Cassani on behalf of the Chapter to the FWC Board of Directors.

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