

## Board Meeting Minutes

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ASWF)

June 17, 2021

2 pm at The Collaboratory, downtown Fort Myers

### Call to Order and Attendance

At 2:05 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 (S) **Carol Newcomb** Carl Veaux

Guests: none

**Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2021 meeting** 1<sup>st</sup> Jim, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan no objections

Approved with one correction – The May minutes should reflect that “the direction of 2020 and the Larry Kiker Preserve was discussed.”

**Treasurer’s Report: see Jim’s emailed report** 1<sup>st</sup> Dan, Carol 2<sup>nd</sup> no objections

All of the following were approved:

- · \$200 to Audubon Florida - Stephen Buczynski, RCC Rep
- · \$90.95 reimbursement to Jim R. - 990-EZ fee
- · \$25 annual dues Everglades Coalition
- · Moving funds into checking account to maintain a \$10K balance and avoid a newly announced \$25/month maintenance fee effective August 1.
- Tax return
- Florida certification
- Conflict of Interest Policy

### Committee Reports

#### Membership/Jim

Currently ASWF has 178 members, down 33 from the past year but the numbers “bounce all over”. Received a \$1,000 lifetime member.

#### Conservation:

- Brad: Shorebird stewardship & RCC update

Brad was absent. Carol will be recruiting FGCU Colloquium students from Summer B (June 28 – August 6) to fulfill their Service-Learning hours at Little Estero Critical Wildlife Area

- Dan: EvCo update

Nothing new to report.

- Sean: Estero Bay ABM update

Sean was absent

### **Education/Jim:**

Update on chapter's choice for FGCU Scholarship Recipient. It is in the works.

**Field Trips/Jim:** see submitted emailed report

### **Publicity, Website, Newsletter, and Social Media: \*new all inclusive title – Public Outreach**

Jim: Send **short** submissions for June's email blast by June 23.

### **National & State Audubon Updates/Brad**

none

### **Programs/Gerri**

Plans are to use programs for 2021-22 that were selected pre-COVID 2020 and add others.

### **Old Business**

- Annual meeting/Jim: Results of the virtual annual meeting & election were discussed: Michele reelected as secretary (Michele's two-year term expired May 31) and Lina & Viv are new board members. Update as discussed: Carol will take on secretary duties for 2 years. Michelle will move to new undetermined position.

- Orientation doc distributed to new directors; available to any board member who wants it. Gerri will send orientation doc to all the BOD members.

- Environmental Breakfast/Jim: We are now actively planning for the Thursday, October 28, event. Assignment/to-do list will be sent out. It was discussed that Brad will ask Chauncy Goss to speak. He was going to speak at the canceled 2020 breakfast.

- Approved \$130 to purchase reusable plates.

### **New Business**

- Appointment of Photo Contest Committee, with Jim R. as chair minimally discussed. The contest will be a pared-down version of previous years.

- Committee Assignments

List of committee assignments was thoroughly discussed. Updates to list include Lina Ramirez-Granada to serve on Education Committee, Vivian Cardoso to serve on Field Trip Committee

and Membership Committee with Jim Rodenfels, Gerri to serve as alternate for Dan VanNorman for Everglades Coalition Delegate. Discussed that a By-Law committee should be formed.

Newsletter (Jim Rodenfels), Publicity (Carol Newcomb), Web Liaison (master) Jim Brock & Jim Rodenfels), & Facebook Editor (Pete Quasius) are now merged under one committee, newly renamed as "Public Outreach".

As discussed, for this coming year, a trial run of not publishing a hard copy newsletter to be printed and mailed will be replaced by monthly email informationals sent by Jim Rodenfels. This will save approximately \$2,000. An Annual Meeting postcard (\$600) will still be sent full of information and encourage members to update their annual dues. 1/3 of annual membership dues are received by outreach through the newsletter. If this trial run of one year with no newsletter sent results in losing memberships, the newsletter may go back into service. Current and interesting information is included in each of the monthly emails, so members can and do stay informed.

#### **Budget for 2021-2022**

Discussed budget item by item. Budget was not yet voted on and passed. Will do so at the August meeting or will vote by special Zoom meeting if need be.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:29 pm

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, August 19, 2021; no meeting in July, according to convention