

Audubon of Southwest Florida, Inc.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Eco Living Center, Ft. Myers
Nov. 19, 2009

Chair: President Carol Newcomb-Jones

Call to order

Present: Rebecca Austin, Toby Clark, Mari Hanley, Gerri Reaves, Conny Spurfeld, Carl Veaux, Kelly Williamson,

Guest: Cheryl Clark

Minutes: Approve corrected Oct. minutes as posted to website.

Membership: Current NAS members Oct. 1/Nov 1: 1552/1536; NAS new/renewal members: 94/63; current chapter-only members: 27/30. Memberships due to expire on 12/31/09: 254.

Treasury: Investment account is up for last quarter, still down for the year. The board unanimously approved the budget for the remainder of FY 2009. That budget was discussed at October's meeting.

Conservation: As a result of attending Audubon Assembly in Oct. and discussions with Terry Cain and Charlie Euwell, Carol is exploring our chapter's (i.e., Lee County's) participation on ongoing shorebird surveys.

Brad Cornell updated the board on governance issues relating to Audubon of Florida and National Audubon, SW Florida conservation issues, and his representation of ASWF, including: Lee County's DRGR Plan Amendments (ASWF supported); the RCH/Corkscrew Excavation Rock Mine on Corkscrew Road near Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary; the CR951 extension in Lee County (ASWF opposed); Lee County's Buildout Study; and near-shore oil/gas drilling, which he urged to board to oppose.

In summing up the long-standing confusion and dissatisfaction regarding National Audubon's membership management, Brad said that negotiations were still in progress and could continue for up to a year. He predicted that one of following scenarios could happen regarding Audubon of Florida's relationship to NAS: separation from NAS and the creation of a sole entity, or the renegotiation of the agreement between the two. He stressed that many Florida chapters recommend uniformity of membership management among the many Florida chapters.

He emphasized the importance and effectiveness of the five-chapter RCC, in which ASWF takes part.

Pete reported via email that the final Cape Spreader meeting was postponed. Tony is the chapter delegate, and Pete is the alternate. Pete attended the Everglades Coalition quarterly meeting on Oct. 30 in Clewiston, as an alternate for Carol. Approved letters included ones that opposed changing designated uses of waterbodies, supported the ban on near-shore drilling, and expressed thanks for Everglades restoration funding. The next meeting is in Palm Beach on Jan. 7. He suggests chapter representation at the EvCo conference on Dec. 1.

Fairs, festivals and support: Mari, Pete, and Maria attended butterfly conference at Terry Park on Nov. 7. The Fossil Club would like to know if Audubon would like to

attend the Fossil Show December 5th at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. ASWF attended last year. This year program chair Conny is unable to attend; however, a volunteer is invited to step up. Conny and Carol reported good crowds and response at both the Ding Darling Days festival and the Calusa Blue Way events. Cups and bird guides are selling.

Field trips: Vince McGrath's Hawk Watch on Oct. 18 at the Sanibel lighthouse was well attended.

Programs: Scheduled: Norm Dillman: "Owls and Night Flyers of Florida," January 21, 2010 and Mark Westall: "Sanibel Ospreys, Feb. 18, 2010.

The board generally agreed to cancel our December meeting and tentatively scheduled holiday party. However, an impromptu outing might be arranged via email. The cancellation will be posted on our website calendar to avoid confusion.

Eco-B'fast update: Carol reported a. \$413 in donations from the Eco Breakfast, in addition to the \$800 from sponsors. She was acknowledged for her monumental efforts in making the event successful.

Web report: Pete reported via email that ASWF sponsored Eco-voice.org, which is approaching 4500 members. Paul Holmes, Eco Voice founder, has nominated Rick Roberts for Everglades Coalition 2009 Communication Award, the Kabler. ASWF has committed to renewal of Audubon SWFL.org/net/com for 2010. The ASWF website hit-count for Oct. was 3900.

Birdathon: Toby is preparing materials to hand out to Birdathoners and hopes to get them posted on our website. Birdathon will be March 20.

Public/Relations/outreach: Gerri sent out press releases for our programs.

Flyways: The new issue is almost ready to post to the website; however, we need to decide on a printer, since the board was generally dissatisfied with the quality of the last issue. Kelly and Gerri will explore printing options. Newsletter costs remain a concern, especially with the newly approved budget.

New Business: Eric Draper is now Acting Director of Audubon of Florida, following the resignation of David Anderson. Carl urged the board to contact officials in support of a couple of local issues.

Adjourned at 7:14 for Conny Spurfeld's excellent program on the Nile Monitor Lizard in it native African habitat and in Cape Coral.