



## Spring 2021 Business Meeting

March 18, 2021

12:30-2:00 Via Zoom

### I. **Call to order** – President Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe

This meeting was called to order by president Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe at 1:15pm

*Present: Aaron Askelon, Amy Andrews, Curtis Schnack, Brian Gibbs, Heather Gram, CCCB Naturalist 2, John Laird, Dave Bakke, Abby Conrad, Patrice Peterson-Keys, Brendan Kelly, Sara Subbert, Katie Cantu, Marci Trana, Jessica Lancial, Frances Owen, Tod Von Ehwegen, Rene Stroud, Lora Kanning, Madalyn Hewitt, Heather Huca, Annett Wittrock, Nikki Dunbar, Christina Roelofs, Michelle O.-Muscatine Co., Iowa CCB, Erica Place, Lisa Ralls, Heidi Reams, Lori Forsman-Kirpes, Woodbury County, Heidi Anderson, Danika Cox, Amy Andrews, Katie Healy, Paige Shafer, Bev Wagner, Chelsea Ewen Rowcliffe, Dave Murcia, WCCB Naturalist, Signey Hillby, Bry Kuhlmain, Decatur County, Diana, Dawn Snyder, Jess Wagner, Jones Co. Brendan and Holly Schulte, Barb Gigar, Kristen Bieret, Lilly Jensen, Victoria DeVos, Beth Waage, Matt Crayne, Bev Wagner, Emily Ostrander, Bree Blom, Toni Vorwald*

### II. **Secretary's Report** – Secretary Rene Stroud

Report was emailed prior to meeting and Jessica Wagner made a motion to approve minutes. Matt Crayne seconded. Motion approved meetings were approved as submitted.

### III. **Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Emily Ostrander

Clarified that the second budget that was sent out to membership included the \$2,300 for the Joe Halbur scholarships. Which includes 2-one-thousand-dollar scholarships and 2-One-hundred-and-fifty-dollar stipends to attend IAN conference.

\$10,000 Idea has about \$8,500 which is going to be transferred over to the virtual field trips.

Clarification on the \$4000 for mugs on conference costs and \$300 was on speakers. We have already spent half of our conference budget, should we consider bumping that line item back up to \$10,000. Mugs ran \$19.75/mug and we got 90 extra to sell and Bree is holding the storage for the mugs. We have been budgeting \$11,000 for workshops and that they usually break even.

When we budget we are running on a \$5000 deficit per year but we don't make the numbers. Clarification of Jr. Naturalist badges. Usually the patches are budgeted \$1500 every other year. Compared to what is made on Jr. Naturalist patches, there is a concern about the net loss.

The current budget was mailed out to the membership. Clarification of line items were discussed. Jess Wagner made a motion to approve report. Tony Vorwald seconded. Motion carried.

A condensed version of the investment options was mailed out to the membership. Chris W. from Trivant spoke to clarify options and answer questions. He is using 3 Calbert mutual funds to invest money in a conservative manner. Chris reviewed the risks vs. potential rewards with both investment options and an awareness that there will be fees. A question was brought up about “rules” for a non-profit. He mentioned that many non-profits have a committee or board to decide on the rules and best practices.

Lori asked if there were back-end loads. There are not, only front-end fees and yearly fees that will come out for services. Why not use Van Guard investment funds (ETF's) but the portfolio is not really big enough to make it and there is not green filter and they will also have user fee as well.

Victoria asked what is our plan for our money. We have made \$18,000 from membership however we need to have a plan for this money. We have had mini-grants of \$500 for years but recently we had three applicants and could not supply them. It might be worth adding income from investment into this program. There may or may not be income every year as well.

Emily Herring made a motion to invest \$10,000 with Trivant using the green filters without specification of option. Lilly Jensen seconded. Motion Carried.

Emily Herring made a motion to form a committee to work with the treasurer to decide on investments. Michelle Burns seconded. Motioned Carried.

Lilly Jensen suggested that a financially savvy and knowledgeable individuals within the committee be formed to develop guidelines and to give said committee permission to make recommendations for investment.

#### **IV. Executive Committee Reports**

##### **a. Professional Development - Katie Struss**

- Having a baby 😊
- Certificates were mailed

##### **b. Junior Naturalist - Michele Olson**

- The committee has a new patch -the geode so that is why there was an extra cost this year.
- The brochures, certificates, tabletop displays and order forms have been updated.
- Michele is working on a map of counties who participate in the Jr. Naturalist program to give the public an idea of where to go to use the program.



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- The price of patches was reduced in order to make it more affordable.
  - Victoria asked if they should be free to promote programs and doing things outside.
  - The stock of some patches are lower (200) and patches need to be ordered in 1000 increments.
  - Heather G. mentioned transitioning from patches to stickers for water bottles. Annette W. inquired if stickers would be cheaper and faster.
- c. Joe Halbur Scholarship - Lora Kanning
- Bree B. replied in Lora's place
  - Committee is currently reading applicants and about half of the applicants were college students
- d. IAN Scholarships - Jessica Steines
- Aaron Askelson replied in Jessica's place
  - There were three accepted applications for a total of \$450 for virtual Certified Interpretive guide training
- e. Membership - Victoria DeVos
- 176 paid members and 6 honorary members
  - We budget for 150 full time members, so that means more \$
  - Listserve seems to be functioning well. If you have an issue contact Victoria
  - Chelsea asked if every IA Naturalist is a member and Victoria replied that most are but some hybrid naturalists do not.
- f. Welcoming Committee - Lilly Jensen
- Expressed need to step down because she feels she cannot commit the time needed.
- g. ICEC/IAN Awards - Sarah Subbert
- When she asked about keeping plaques or not. They cost \$62 plus shipping per plaque. Costs are split with ICEC. This year 10 plaques so about \$310 for plaques this year
  - Last year, the plaques were hard to read
  - The majority of the feed back were in favor of keeping plaques

- Sarah asked the membership if they want to have options customizable (extra \$20-30/plaque) or standardized.
  - Lilly J. suggested that ICEC has a more limited budget and asked that IAN membership keep that in mind when making this decision. Would IAN want to absorb the extra plaques.
  - Kristen suggested using a unique wooden background with engraved metal sign
  - There are many plaque options so Sarah asked the membership if they want to keep plaques, stay the same, or shop around
  - Jess W. made a motion to a committee with IAN and ICEC to reduce costs and Michelle B. Seconded. Motion passed.
- h. Traveling Exhibits Committee - Jen Meyer
- Lyon county has Prairie Exhibit
  - Storage is needed for traveling exhibits between usage. It will cost around \$70/month to rent a storage space.
  - The prairie exhibit has 2 panels in need of repair. It will most likely be over \$500 to replace panels.
  - Jen asked if everyone is done with the Tall Grass Prairie traveling exhibit.
  - Currently the prairie exhibit is scheduled to go to the Clay Co. Fair where it can reside for a while.
  - Lilly asked if the DNR would want it for the state fair. Christina R. offered to check with DNR.
  - Jen will continue to work on getting info to update panels. There was some support to get storage if needed.
  - Discussion tabled until more information comes available
- i. Fundraising - Mary Bulger
- Mary gave a big thanks to everyone who helped out, donated items, and bought items during the fundraising last year.
  - They earned \$545, less than a normal workshop but pretty good for a virtual fundraiser
- j. IAN Website/Social Media – Cari Nicely
- Reported by Danika Cox
  - A request for a guide about the benefits of being outdoors has been insistently asked to post guide. The consensus was no, unsolicited things are often not good.
- k. Wilderness Trips - Emily Herring
- They will be meeting soon otherwise nothing to report.

**V. Administrative Reports (3 minutes each)**

- a. REAP CEP and ICCS – Victoria DeVos
- REAP CEP applications are do May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for spring/summer funding



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- ICCS is planning on hosting fall conference
- b. NAI Liaison - Heather Hucka
  - Our region is hosting “Not A Conference” on March 26. Registration closes on the 24<sup>th</sup>. It is free for all NAI members and \$10 for non-members. There will be breakout rooms for discussion of themes
  - In person conference in Peoria, IL. In March 22-25 of 2022
  - Two media Chairs are vacant (Website/Newsletter)
  - Our region has mini grants of up to \$500. This year’s grants are over but the next deadline is February.
- c. DNR Liaison – Holly Schulte
  - Education has been moved to a new bureau (Communications, marketing, and outreach).
  - Discussed the First Catch Center and Take it Outside, and other outdoor skills, bow fishing, hunter education instructor classes for this summer. You have to register through AEA learning.
- d. ICEC Liaison- Lilly Jensen
  - MEEC is moving forward with an in-person conference.
  - March 26<sup>th</sup> is an optional pre-session outing. Field days and meetings for the rest of the session. Thursday will be half a day.
  - Lodging: Hotels, camping, and air B&B’s. Working with Luther for dorms. Masks will be required inside and you will need your own transportation for field sessions and they will be keeping them closer. Registration will be around \$225/person. Can look at a sliding scale as need base. Looking for help with planning, people can get a hold of Lilly to help out.
- e. REAP Alliance – Amy Warnke
  - No Report

## VI. Workshop Committee Report

- a. Summer 2021 – MEEC- July 26-30th
- b. Fall 2021 – Woodbury Co -Nov 3-5th
- c. Spring 2022- Jackson County
- d. Summer 2022-Clinton County
- e. Fall 2022 – Mahaska County

- f. Spring 2023- Open
- g. Summer 2023-Open
- h. Fall 2023-Winneshiek County

**VII. Discussion/Action Items (5 minutes each)**

- a. Approval of 2021 Budget- Emily stated that the approval was done at the last meeting
- b. IAN Grants-3 grants were awarded:
  - \$300 to Story Co (fall application) to help improve public access to EE programming
  - \$350 to Sac Co (Spring application) to create Covid-friendly theaters and items for library programming
  - \$350 to Polk Co (Spring application) to create a display for anthropological artifacts
- c. \$10,000 idea-*No time-tabled until next meeting*
- d. Statewide Field Trips- *No time-tabled until next meeting*
- e. Investments-Discussed earlier
- f. Carpooling Efficiency Award (Field trips)- *No time-tabled until next meeting*
- g. Rare Sightings- *No time-tabled until next meeting*
- h. Other:
  - Katelin from Palo Alto has information on Becoming a Bird Friendly County. Chelsea will send the information out via listerve
  - Marline Ehrisman. has information on what to do with wildlife calls booklet and to see if membership would like to do a bulk order
  - Next meeting was set for 12:30pm for unfinished business

**VIII. Adjourn-Heather G. moved to adjourn and Annette W. Seconded Meeting ended at 2:52**