



## NAI Great Lakes Region 4 July Conference Call Minutes

July 7, 2016  
2:30PM EST

Present: Deb Nofzinger, Jenn Kirts, Jennifer McDowell, Bob Dispenza, Jill Vance, Renell Simrau, Amy Gregg, Kelly Bentley, Dorothy McLeer, Murphy the Dog

Not present: Cookie Ferguson, Aaron Douglass, Nora Nindelar, Becky Parkin, Jenn Wright

2:35 Called into session

### Director's Report – Deb Nofzinger

Working on the policy manual. Tasked by national committee to figure out the grant stuff. There was an Organizational Unit conference call, but Deb wasn't able to participate and minutes haven't yet been sent, so there isn't really much to report from national.

### Deputy Director's Report – Jennifer McDowell

- Regional Workshops (Ontario - 2017, Michigan - 2018)

#### 2016 RIW update

The committee is still working on having a wrap-up conference call. They had good survey results with some good suggestions for future topics, key note suggestions, etc. Helpful comments and conversations that will be passed on to Ontario Crew for 2017

**2016:** 136 registrants at \$33,895. This may only be online registrations

#### 2017 RIW – St. Catherine's, Ontario April 24-28

The theme for the Ontario Conference will be **Breaking Barriers into New Ground**. It will be held at the Holiday Inn and Suites in St. Catherine's. Andrew Kirtwell and Rick Stronks as well as some others have joined the committee. They have a logo and have sent out a call for presenters, but we haven't seen it published yet. Jennifer will follow up with them on the publication of that material. Jessica has gotten something from Toby about getting something about the call for presenters next week. Jennifer wasn't able to join the conference call the committee had.

The website needs to be updated with this information. The mobiles are identified and reservations have been made, but the details haven't yet been shared.

**2018 RIW – Michigan** – Our 2018 Chair for Michigan is Maureen Stine. People have been talking about the Northern Lower Peninsula and UP. We could stay in Traverse City or we could go closer to Mackinaw at the U of M Biological Station or we could do the RAM Center in Roscommon. Jennifer will be looking for help to staff the committee.

Deb Nofzinger mentioned that we could invite the Heartland Section (Region 5) to join us on this one.

**2019:** Indiana

### Secretary's Report – Jenn Kirts

Jenn needs to re-send minutes to Dan so they can be posted online.

### Treasurer's Report – Bob Dispenza

Started quarter: \$43,042.01 Ended: \$52,244.94

Also shared registration and expenses for workshop. We are up from last quarter in our finances.

### Committee Reports

- Archives – Cookie Ferguson

- Nothing per Deb.
- Awards – Liz Emerson
  - On maternity leave – Haven't heard anything from her per Deb.
- Communication – Aaron Douglas
  - Unable to attend meeting. May need to change deadlines for submissions. He is working with Jessica to work on summer deadlines. Otherwise all is good.
- Interpretive Project Grants – Kelly Bentley
  - Not much to report. No applications received yet. Has used social media and verbal recruiting to attract applicants. 40 Second Fourthought, Facebook, Twitter, Etc.
- Scholarships and Grants – Jill Vance
  - 5 Applicants for National Workshop. Being reviewed by committee right now.
- Membership – Renell Simrau
  - Comp Memberships – reviewed 8 or 10 applications, chose top 4 and sent that out and contacted them. They are being processed now by the National Office. Recipients are: Ada Takas from Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division; Jill McDonald from Nature Travelers; Leianne Neff Heppner from Summit County Historical Society and Dave Lockert from the Toledo Zoo.
  - Ontario wins Birdathon with 162 species. About \$500 was raised.
- Student Involvement Committee – Dorothy McLeer/Amy Gregg
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  - It may be tough to get students to cross the border to the 2017 RIW in Ontario.
  - We are considering continuing the poster session in the future.
  - Jennifer McDowell asked how the poster session compared to the presentations in attendance. Answer: Attendance for the last couple of years has been pleasantly full. There has been some constructive feedback in the last several years. This year Amy felt that the members were generous with their time for the poster session.
- Ways and Means – Nora Sindelar & Becky Parkin
  - No one present. The shirts were great, but no specific information on how much they made on it.
- Strategic Plan – Jenn Wright
  - Not present. Deb will talk to her at a later date.

Future Calls: October 6<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30pm

January Meeting Dates: January 12 and 13

Reminder: Get your Passport! 6 weeks for the card, longer for the full passport.

Jennifer McDowell started looking at buses and has a couple of quotes that came back. Requesting a quote for trip there and back vs trip there, stay and trip back. Deb suggested talking with Toby for Perth. Pete Stobie might also be a resource for this. The budget for this comes from the Region rather than the Workshop budget.

Committee Members Needed: IPG especially from Michigan and Indiana

Facebook Page: Anyone can post, but in order for it to show up in people's posts, it needs to be posted by an Administrator. Deb: What would you think about opening that up? Admin can share so it goes on the newsfeed so it shows up for everyone. If you want more interaction, we need to set up a group instead of a page. NAI National may already have a group like that, they don't get used a lot.

3:15 Adjourned.