



Minutes for NCNWTF Board of Directors Meeting December 14, 2014

Members in attendance were Richard Plattenberger, Henry Smith, Carl Dixon, Wynn Smith, Ken Moore, Jeff Park, Bill Collart, Brent Phillips, Jonathan Brown, Tony Stallings, Tony Quarino, Bonni Stephenson, Richard Conley and Robert Smith.

Howard Rumfelt and Perry Bryant were not present.

Visitors present were Gary Peters, Brad Miller, Graham Hanson, Zac Morton, Chris Kreh, Shawn Jenkins, Sharon Phillips, Mike Absher, Janie Stephens, Kristin Bail, Phil Ferrare and Becky Humphries.

9:15 am: Richard called the meeting to order. He welcomed Board members and guests and thanked all for attending. He expressed appreciation for an outstanding leadership conference held on Saturday.

Ken opened with a word of prayer.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Members reviewed the minutes of the September 13, 2014 Board Meeting. Henry brought attention to an error in dollar amounts for two NCWRC proposals, Whitehall Plantation to read \$3160.06 and Holly Shelter to read \$6013.94, bring the total for eight proposals to \$37,464.73. Ken moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jeff seconded and the minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report:

Henry gave the Treasurers report:

Checking Account Balance: \$75,845.73

Seed Account: \$8,444.55

Balance: \$84,290.28

Accounts Managed by Edgefield:

Superfund Account \$72,426.78

Outreach Account \$7,051.78

Capital Account \$47,000.00

Shooting Fund \$50.00

Balance Edgefield Acct. \$126,528.56

Total Funds Available \$210,818.84

Jeff moved to approve the Treasurers report. Ken seconded and the report was approved.

RD's Update:

Scott reported the superfund is up again this year by approximately 2 percentage points crediting strong banquets and dedicated volunteers.

He said the western region now has an RD, Shawn Jenkins, giving us an excellent opportunity for development in that area. He asked that anyone with knowledge of folks that have helped in the past or towns, counties or cities that may possibly support a chapter to please let them know.

Scott presented a power point outlining the new 5-Star objectives, (see attachment) saying these changes are to put the 5-Star program more in alignment with Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt. objectives and will help accelerate those results.

Regional Biologists Report:

Brad gave an update on a superfund request that was approved at the September Board meeting for Longleaf Pine Seed Collection in the Uwarrie. The tree shaking yielded 179 bushels of pine cones, of which 83 bushels were funded by the NWTF. He made note the project was a huge success providing enough seed for seedlings to restore about 900 acres of Longleaf Pine Habitat.

He also spoke of a partnership between the NWTF and several other organizations known as the Nantahala-Pisgah Forrest Partnership. He presented a document referred to as a Consciences Agreement and Comments on the Forest Plan Revisions. He had two recommendations, 1) the board consider a vote to support the document and 2) we specify "hunting" be spelled out in the section titled recreation.

Richard agreed to review the document within the next couple of days, pole the Board and sign and return it.

Turkey Project Leader Report:

Chris expanded on his presentation given during Saturday's team building conference. He began with the summer brood survey reiterating the significance of increased observers participating in the survey. Data collected shows there were three or more observation reports in every county across the state, almost 9,000 total.

He said the survey numbers show that the poult per hen ratio is just a little under 2 at about 1.9 which is on the low side of the average over the last ten years(1.7 – 2.7) but still within an acceptable range. The gobblers per adult hen ratio, commonly referred to as gobbler carry over, over the last 10 years show an over-all trend of less pressure on the population which he indicated is very good. Chris surmised that the state-wide trend looks pretty good but when broken down per county and region there are some areas of concern but, again, he is pleased with the over-all trend.

He mentioned the public hearings starting in January with seven general wildlife regulation change proposals but none pertaining to wild turkeys.

U.S. Forrest Service:

Richard introduced Kristin Bail, National Forest Supervisor for four National Forests in North Carolina, the Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwarrie and Croatian. She spoke extensively on the importance of the collaborative efforts between the Forest Service and the NWTF in the past and encouraged continuation. She also thanked the NWTF for the tremendous donations of time and resources that made those collaborative efforts possible.

Habitat Signage:

There was a previous request for optional sizes and pricing. Tony obtained pricing for two additional sizes; 12" x 18" for \$12.50 and 18" x 24" for \$23.00

Gun Raffle:

Henry reported the gun raffle produced a profit of \$52,657.00, minus the RD's percentage, with 17,589 tickets sold and 94 prizes being given away. The general conscience of the board indicated a need to set an earlier deadline for tickets to be returned. Brent moved to set the **deadline for the 2015 Raffle for November 15th**. Richard Conley seconded and the motion passed.

The drawing will be held on November 29th.

Discussion on the gun raffle indicated a need to upgrade some of the prizes, i.e. a UTV and possibly a gun safe. There was also a recommendation to change the appearance of the tickets. The conscience of the board was to move forward with upgrades. Henry agreed to research the possibilities.

Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt:

Wynn reminded everyone to focus on the groups of individuals that are not hunters or those that have stopped hunting as well as collecting the data on those we do have.

She indicated the WITO committee would like to propose holding the state WITO event on September 18/19 in conjunction with the September Board Meeting. The location was undecided and she expressed hopes to have a venue finalized and some solid numbers by the March Board meeting and would like to talk about funding at that time also.

New Business:

The Franklin County Chapter requested two Game Cameras for NCWRC officers to replace two that were stolen.

Bill moved to purchase two game cameras for district 3 wildlife officers. Ken seconded and the motion passed.

Jeff presented a price on two Harley-Davidson motorcycles from Crossroads Harley-Davidson, Inc, Wilkesboro as an additional fund-raiser. After much discussion this item was tabled until a later date.

Ken proposed some type of recognition for Bass Pro Shops for their support and generosity over the years. Jeff seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business:

Richard Conley presented a superfund proposal for a seed drill for the Nantahala National Forest, Tusquitee and Cheoah Ranger District at the September Board Meeting. The proposal was tabled for further research on drill type, size, cost and possibilities of cooperative funding. Richard said he had gotten commitment for cooperative funding and asked that we fund \$6,000 toward the purchase of a \$12,000 no-till grain drill. He said the drill would be used across parts of five western North Carolina counties enhancing approximately 100 acres of wildlife habitat.

Bill moved to fund \$6,000 for this purchase. Richard C. seconded and the motion carried.

2015 NC Superfund Budget:

Hunting Heritage Fund (5 Star)	\$	100.00
Wildlife Legislative Fund USSA (5 Star)	\$	100.00
4-H Shooting Team Program (5 Star)	\$	1,000.00

Habitat Enhancement (NCWRC & USFS)	\$ 42,000.00
WITO (5 Star)	\$ 2,000.00
Wheeling Sportsmen (5 Star)	\$ 2,000.00
Jakes (5 Star)	\$ 5,000.00
Education Boxes (5 Star)	\$ 1,500.00
Local Chapter Scholarships (5 Star)	\$ 4,500.00
State Chapter Scholarship (5 Star)	\$ 1,500.00
Strut and Putt, Website, Mailing	\$ 4,500.00
Seed Subsidy	\$ 3,500.00
Travel	\$ 6,000.00
Misc. Projects/Equipment	\$ 20,000.00
Turkey Hunters Care	\$ 2,500.00
Capital Fund	\$ 15,000.00
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Total	\$112,200.00

Jeff moved to accept the proposed budget. Ken seconded and the motion carried.

Superfund Requests:

Graham Hanson presented a superfund request for \$6,345.00 for the purchase of a Prescribed Burn Trailer and equipment. The trailer will be available to landowners, which will help promote prescribed burning on private lands. This will in-turn, increase wildlife habitat in North Carolina and will contribute significant acreage to the Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt initiative.

Ken moved to fund two (2) trailers at up to \$5,000.00 each. Richard C. seconded and the motion carried.

1:00 p.m. Jeff moved to adjourn. Ken seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Robert J. Smith, sec.