



## Minutes for NCNWT Board of Directors Meeting December 6, 2015

Members in attendance were Richard Plattenberger, Henry Smith, Carl Dixon, Wynn Smith, Ken Moore, Tony Stallings, Tony Quarino, Howard Rumfelt, Perry Bryant, Bonni Stephenson, Richard Conley, Brent Phillips, Jeff Park and Robert Smith.

Bill Collart was unable to attend.

Guests present were Chris Rogers, Joni McPhetridge, Todd McPhetridge, Janie Stephens, JoEtta Holder, Denver Holder, Larry Smith, Vickie Bryant, Chris Kreh, Zac Morton, Brad Miller, Shawn Jenkins, Gary Peters, Greg Ward, Ted White and Jim Vickers.

The meeting was held at Bass Pro Shops in Concord, NC.

8:30 am: Richard called the meeting to order and welcomed all members and guests. He also thanked and congratulated everyone on a very successful leadership conference.

Ken opened with a prayer.

### Minutes of Last Meeting:

Members reviewed the minutes of the September 20, 2015 Board Meeting. Ken motioned to approve the minutes, Jeff seconded and the minutes were approved.

### Treasurers report:

Henry gave the Treasurers report:

Checking Account Balance: \$85,243.97

Seed Account: \$8,058.83

Balance: \$93,302.80

Accounts Managed by Edgefield:

Superfund Account \$106,731.84

Outreach Account \$12,050.00

Capital Account \$63,000.00

Balance Edgefield Acct. \$181,781.84

Total Funds Available \$275,084.64

Ken moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Jeff seconded and the report was approved.

### **Old Business:**

Richard Conley withdrew the tabled proposal for a seed drill for the Nantahala National Forest, Tusquitee and Cheoah Ranger District.

Bonni and Henry reported on the state fund raising raffle. Of the 30,000 tickets ordered 26/27,000 were distributed with between 16,500 and 16,750 tickets being sold. Henry said he did not have a total of proceeds as there are outstanding expenditures but preliminary indications look positive.

### **Conservation Seed Report:**

Howard said the seed program, over-all, went pretty well. He said after further consideration he would suggest leaving the order dates the same and not move them up as earlier thought. He said we received two loads of corn, two loads of milo and two loads of winter wheat come into the state this year. He reported all seed requested, with the exception of soy beans, were received. He said soy beans were available, but too late and he rejected delivery. At the present time he is trying to get an update on the amount of seed still on-hand.

Howard expressed moderate satisfaction with the way the program ran throughout the year stating, "Although not perfect, it was greatly improved."

Bonni asked about the progress on pull-up banners discussed at the September BOD meeting. Richard asked the RD's if they could offer any information. Shawn said he had some used banners he planned to take to Edgefield to have new banners installed on them and he would get more info on additional banners and report back to the Board.

### **2016 Board of Directors Elections:**

Wynn Smith, VP and Chair-person of the nominating committee presented two applicants for the two open Board seats. The nominating committee reviewed applications and brought forward Greg Ward of the Three Rivers Chapter in Columbus County and Ted White of the Lumber River Chapter in Robeson County. The nominees were present and each introduced them-self and addressed the Board.

Robert motioned to accept the nominees, Ken seconded and the nominees were accepted.

Richard opened the floor for nominations for Board Officers.

Ken motioned to re-elect the current officers for another two year term. Richard Conley seconded and the motion passed.

### **Turkey Project Leader's Report:**

Chris reported on the 2015 summer observation survey noting the survey cards were sent out to almost 3000 people. He said they also have people filling out on-line surveys, not only hunters but non-hunters also, making up a very diverse group with very good information. To view the complete survey results, see the (Attachment A) (2015 Summer Observation Survey Summary).

His second topic was Lymphoproliferative Disease Virus. This virus was discovered in turkeys in NC in 2009. The NCWRC collected 759 samples from hunter killed turkeys during the 2015 spring turkey season. With the data collected during the 2013 season it was determined that about 46% of the population has been exposed to the disease. They did not see any difference in the prevalence rate between hens and gobblers. He noted that the one statistic they did notice was by grouping samples by age of the bird it was evident that the older the bird the higher the prevalence of exposure. Chris concluded with a comparison of LPDV to the common cold. He said it's definitely out there, a lot of birds have been exposed to it but at the end of the day their weight isn't any less and there's no obvious indication it causes the population level to be affected. He stated he was pleased to get to that concluding information. Chris summed-up the subject with, "This is good news!"

Chris also gave an update on the Southeast Wild turkey Working Group. See a list of future Research Priorities for the SEWTWG. (Attachment B)

Chris presented an overview of an up-coming Gobbling Chronology Research Project that will hopefully provide much needed data to help support wild turkey management in NC. Chris said, "Gobbling activity, the timing of the spring turkey season, hunter success, and hunter satisfaction are all intertwined. As such, an understanding of gobbling chronology is paramount to successful turkey management." He said the NCWRC has received 50 acoustic recorders he plans to deploy in the spring in southeastern NC and northwestern NC. He hopes to eventually deploy two recorders in all 100 counties across the state. For more information and to view Chris' project proposal and expected benefits, see (Attachment C) (Gobbling Chronology Proposal).

### **R D Report:**

Zac congratulated the state chapter and volunteers for the work done during the 2015 banquet season. He reiterated what Henry reported in the treasurer's report stating the Superfund was at \$124,000. He said that was a very good indicator of the hard work done in NC as the Superfund had grown from approximately \$40,000 5/6 years ago.

He said Shawn, Bill Collart and himself had been working on details for the State Sponsor Banquet scheduled for August 2016 at the Ramada Inn – Burlington. They have two 5 gun sets of Henry Golden Boys, each engraved with the five sub-species of wild turkeys. One set would be used as an incentive for local chapter sponsor memberships. Each sponsor membership will receive a chance to win the first set of Henrys and the drawing would be held at the State Banquet. The winner will not have to be present to win.

Zac proposed that all sponsors interested in attending the state banquet or entering the drawing for the second set of Henry Golden Boys be required to register for a state lottery whereby a specified number of sponsors will be drawn. Each of the sponsors drawn will be contacted to insure he/she will participate in the banquet/drawing. If a sponsor/sponsors declines participation an alternate/alternates will be drawn until the specified number of participants are confirmed. Each participant must purchase a custom numbered box call. The box call will be his/her ticket to attend and chance to win the second set of Henry Golden Boys.

Henry motioned to limit the event to 125 numbered box calls at a cost of \$200 each. The purchase of a box call will include 1 chance for the second set of Henry Golden Boys, admission of 1 sponsor and guest and a prime rib dinner. The winner will not have to be present to win.

Jeff seconded and the motion was approved.

#### **R B Report:**

Brad and Gary gave an update on the Nantahala – Pisgah Forest Plan revision process. Brad indicated there are numerous diverse groups including back-packers, bird watchers, horse-back riders, just to mention a few, and “us” that are all about management and creating good habitat that are submitting comments. He said they are presently looking at maps and in the spring they will have a draft, an environmental policy act document, which has some alternatives that lay out what management scenarios could be for each of the places on the map. It could be from areas that can’t be touched to areas that could have active timber harvest, a wide range of possibilities. Brad and Gary emphasized the importance of individuals that use the Forest or with knowledge of the Forest submitting any and all comments possible to the NFS. Both agreed this is a “big deal” and the more information the Forest Service can get, the better decision they can make. Gary said, “ Let me give you an idea, it is one-half of the public hunting land in North Carolina. That’s how big it is.”

Again, they encouraged everyone to go on-line and submit comments.

#### **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt:**

Wynn reported we have received two applications for the Hunting Heritage Event Grants.

1) A request from the Crystal Coast Callers for a first time deer hunt for children.

2) A request from the Surry Long Spurs for a first time dove hunt for JAKES in December.

Wynn announced the 2016 State Women's event will be held September 9/10. She and Shawn are looking to obtain a venue in the western region and hope to have that secured soon.

She asked for ideas for the 2016 Leadership Conference, i.e. presentations, activities, topics or new location.

Zac and Shawn suggested we move the Leadership Conference and Awards Banquet to January. After much discussion it was decided to table the issue until a later date to gather more information.

**New Business:**

Dixie Deer Classic: March 4-6

Richard asked that Board members ask for volunteers from their local chapter to assist with the D.D.C. and also noted the State Chapter will pay for lodging and lunch for all volunteers.

Sharon Phillips graciously volunteered to list the winning calls from the Call Makers Competition on eBay.

Brent, with Carl's help, will take over responsibility of the Turkey Calling Competition.

Fund Raising: Month of prizes raffle

Shawn agreed to get pricing on ticket printing from Edgefield.

Henry proposed to increase the number of prizes from two per day to guarantee 100 total prizes. The Board agreed. The number of tickets sold before additional prizes are added will also be adjusted.

**2016 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) **Special projects**

WITO (5 Star) Outreach fund with

Wheeling Sportsmen (5 Star)	balance coming from	
Jakes (5 Star)	Superfund	
Education Boxes (5 Star)	\$ 1,500.00	
Local Chapter Scholarships (5 Star)	\$ 4,500.00	
State Chapter Scholarship (5 Star)	\$ 2,000.00	
Strut and Putt, Website, Mailing	\$ 4,500.00	
Seed Subsidy	\$ 5,000.00	
Travel	\$ 6,000.00	
Misc. Projects/Equipment	\$ 20,000.00	
Turkey Hunters Care	\$ 2,500.00	
Capital Fund	\$ 20,000.00	15% of 2015 Superfund
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Total	\$68,200.00	

The 4-H Shooting Team Program funds were increased to \$2,000. The name will be changed to "Youth Shooting Team Program" with a new application process and new criteria for eligibility to be developed in the near future. Funds will be distributed in four (4) \$500 grants.

Jeff moved to approve the 2016 Superfund Budget. Bonni seconded and the budget was approved.

Perry Bryant volunteered to handle State Scholarship applications and selection of recipient.

The NC State Chapter and the SC State Chapter have joint ownership in a utility trailer Gary Peters used to move conservation seed. As Gary is no longer moving seed, it has been brought to our attention the SC State Chapter wishes to dissolve joint ownership of the trailer.

Ken moved to sale the SC State Chapter our interest in the trailer. Jeff seconded and the motion carried.

2016 Board Meetings:

March 6, 2016	Raleigh, NC (DDC)
June 25, 2016	Surry County (location TBD)
September 11, 2016	Haywood County (location TBD)
January 15, 2017	TBD

12:40 pm: Ken moved to adjourn. Henry seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Robert J. Smith, sec.