



Minutes for NCNWT Board of Directors Meeting January 14, 2018

Members in attendance were Richard Plattenberger, Henry Smith, Carl Dixon, Wynn Smith, Ken Moore, Bill Collart, Howard Rumpfelt, Brent Phillips, Tony Stallings, Tony Quarino, Bonni Stephenson, Ted White, Greg Ward, Perry Bryant and Robert Smith.

Richard Conley was unable to attend.

Visitors present were Zac Morton, Chris Kreh, Sharon Phillips, Janie Stephens, Sue Bley, Samantha Chase, Josh Chase, Jesse Powell, Larry Smith, Caleb Goodman, Mike Absher, Rudy Simeone, Roger Reynolds, Dave Mahlke, Denver Holder, JoEtta Holder, Ryan Stanley, Scott Martin,

8:30 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 10, 2017 Board Meeting. Ken moved to approve the minutes as amended. Bill seconded and the minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report:

Henry gave the Treasurers report:

Checking Account Balance:	\$55,800.80
Seed Account:	\$8,201.64
Balance:	\$64,002.44
Accounts Managed by Edgefield:	
Superfund Account	\$186,401.15
Outreach Account	\$2,557.43
Capital Account	\$100,903.42
<u>Balance Edgefield Acct.</u>	<u>\$289,862.00</u>
Total Funds Available	\$353,864.44

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

RD's Update:

Scott reported NC raised \$879,000.00 net in physical year 2017. Adult memberships were up by 400, two hundred two (202) of them being upper level sponsors bringing the sponsor total to 1366, placing NC #4 in the country.

He also spoke of the State Sponsor Banquet scheduled for September 15, 2018 in Burlington. Plans are ongoing.

Incentive for all 2018 sponsorships is a \$4000.00 Bass Pro Gift Card.

Regional Biologists Report:

Chris Coxen reported the following:

- October 2017
 - Field visit with WRC to Mill Ridge project – funded two years ago

- Restored/enhanced 32 acres of wildlife fields – removed invasive woody plants
 - Sent photos to board last fall
 - Attended the Shortleaf Pine Initiative Conference in New Jersey
 - Built on relationships with NC Forest Service
 - Attended Uwharrie NF Restoration Plan Meeting in Asheboro
 - Met new District Ranger, talked about restoration opportunities on Uwharrie
 - Attended Longleaf Coalition Meeting in Southern Pines
 - Talked about prescribed opportunities with NC State Parks and NC Forest Service
 - Continued work on Nantahala Pisgah Forest Plan
- November 2017
 - Attended Nantahala Pisgah Forest Plan – final stakeholders meeting before the draft Environmental Impact Statement is released this spring
 - Made a field visit to Little Table Rock project near Marion with WRC
 - Super Fund project funded a couple of years ago
 - They cleared about 13 acres of new fields. Should be a great benefit for turkey and deer populations since there are not many fields on public lands in that region
 - Have photos that I will share with the board
- December 2017
 - Attended the WRC Prescribed Fire Stakeholders meeting in Raleigh
 - Represented our interests related to prescribed fire in NC
 - Began involvement with planning a Raleigh Prescribed Fire Festival with NC State, State Parks, NC FS, WRC, others
 - Attended a prescribed fire training with the Nature Conservancy
 - Plan is to volunteer on a couple of burns this winter/spring to learn more about on the ground fire implementation
- January 2018
 - Coordinating with American Forest Foundation, NC Forest Service, Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon Society, other partners on a National Fish and Wildlife Grant that will fund habitat enhancement on private lands in SE NC.
 - It's a multi-year grant that will impact over 3,000 acres of private land each year
 - Cost-share incentives for private landowners to improve wildlife habitat on their property. Will include longleaf pine habitat enhancement – prescribed fire, forest thinning, young forest habitat enhancement

through herbicide/mechanical treatments, bottomland forest enhancement

- Will feature educational events for public and private foresters on forest treatments to benefit wildlife
 - They are in need of \$150,000 in matching funds for their grant proposal
 - Is the board willing to pledge up to \$15,000 in a letter of support for this grant? Our support can be earmarked specifically towards habitat management, allowing the NC chapter to count every acre of the 3,000+ towards our Save the Habitat goals.
 - **Bill moved to approve up to \$15,000.00 for this project. Tony seconded and the motion was passed.**
- Coordinating work with Duke Foundation Grant. Meeting with their staff during Convention to figure out exactly when we get those funds. Will work to route all of that money through our super fund so that we can track those accomplishments. Estimate about \$40,000 for NC.
 - Identified partnership opportunities with WRC, NC State Parks collaborative burns
 - There are multiple areas where NC Parks and WRC lands adjoin, and they perform cooperative burns. One is South Mountain gamelands, but also in Gorges State Park, Suggs Mill, others. Looking to offset cost of helicopter ignition of prescribed fire – burns range between 1,500 – 2,500 acres. NC Parks will pay for some of the cost, we can get the rest matched through Pittman Robertson through the WRC.
 - Working on project that will pay for the costs of contract WRC burn crews in the Northern Piedmont. Some of the best turkey habitat in the state. Also working with The Nature Conservancy and the NC Prescribed Fire Council to see if they will provide some matching funds so we won't be the only funder. Could have field visits with the Council, Duke staff, WRC, Nature Conservancy. WRC currently burns about 2,500 acres – they could double that with our support.
 - Current projects could impact 7,000+ acres across NC, include multiple partners.
 - Fire Learning Network research need
 - FLN researches the outcomes of prescribed fire in the southern blue ridge. This research is used to inform our managers on the best practices to use fire to improve wildlife habitat in the mountains of NC.
 - Students at Western Carolina are hired to monitor burn plots and use this experience to publish research posters at conferences and get experience doing research that will further their careers

- There are 5 sites, 4 on WRC gamelands.
- The program costs \$25,000 to run. The Nature Conservancy has pledged \$5,000, Fire Learning Network \$5,000. If the NC Chapter pledges \$5,000, there is hope that WRC will provide the remaining \$10,000 needed to run this program.
- **This Proposal was tabled until the March 4, 2018 Board Meeting.**
- Access Projects Update
 - WRC is moving forward with a 36 acre addition to the Cold Mountain gameland. They will stay in touch with NC chapter members and me as that project continues to develop
 - Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation provided an update on the final parcel that our board committed \$20,000 towards in 2017. RMEF does not expect the landowner to sell before 2019, but is continuing negotiations and will update NWTF as the project develops.

Turkey Project Leader Report:

Chris Kreh: See attachment

Gun Raffle:

Bonni reported 9 people had not been contacted. There is a continuing problem with people not filling out the tickets completely.

Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt:

Wynn reminded everyone of the upcoming Turkey 101 seminars and recorded volunteers for the eleven seminars across the state.

New Business:

Brent presented information to the Board about the possibility of establishing an NCNWTF Museum. He indicated he has access to quite a lot of L.A. Dixon's memorabilia. He agreed to chair a committee to gather more information and bring this subject back to the Board for further consideration.

After consideration of newly proposed Constitution and Bylaws, Bill moved to accept them contingent on changes recommended by The Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Ken seconded and the Constitution and Bylaws were accepted with changes.

2018 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)	\$	3,000.00	
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	
Spring and Fall seed		neutral
Travel	\$ 10,000.00	
Conferences	\$ 10,000.00	
Misc. Projects/Equipment	\$ 20,000.00	
Turkey Hunters Care	\$ 2,500.00	
		15% of 2017 Superfund
Capital Fund	\$ 30,000.00	income
Transfer to Capital Fund		
Total	\$ 93,200.00	

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

Board of Directors Elections:

Due to the number of applicants for a seat on the Board, three (3), exceeding the number of vacant seats, one (1), a full election of Board members is required. To allow the Nominating Committee to present all current Board Members and the three applicants for consideration, Robert proposed amending Article IV, Section 6, Subsection 2 of the Constitution and Bylaws, which reads:

Article IV: Section - 6 Subsection 2 – ELECTION; Nominating Committee

From the submitted valid nominations, the Nominating Committee shall select outstanding candidates to recommend for board openings. The qualifications for such candidates are to be determined at the sole discretion of the Nominating Committee. If the number of candidates submitted exceeds the number of open Board seats, the total Board shall be up for nomination and the Nominating Committee shall nominate up to **17 candidates** as possible Directors. The Nominating Committee shall present the names of these candidates to the Board of Directors for approval. The Board of Directors may accept or reject, in whole or in part, the list of the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee by a majority vote of a quorum of Directors present in person at the Board of Directors meeting.

After discussion, Bill moved to amend the Article to read **20 candidates**. Ken seconded and the Article was amended.

Carl moved to open the floor for election of Board of Directors. Ted seconded and the motion carried.

Richard opened the floor for nominations. The Nominating Committee presented 20 nominees for consideration to fill 17 seats on the Board of Directors as follows:

Richard Plattenberger, Henry Smith, Carl Dixon, Wynn Smith, Ken Moore, Bill Collart, Howard Rumfelt, Brent Phillips, Tony Stallings, Tony Quarino, Bonni Stephenson, Ted White, Greg Ward, Perry Bryant, Robert Smith, Richard Conley, Roger Reynolds, Tim Draghon, Josh Chase and Denver Holder.

The secretary presented ballots to the 16 present Board members with instructions to vote for 17 of the 20 nominees. The results are as follows:

Richard Plattenberger, Henry Smith, Carl Dixon, Wynn Smith, Ken Moore, Bill Collart, Howard Rumfelt, Brent Phillips, Tony Quarino, Bonni Stephenson, Ted White, Greg Ward, Perry Bryant, Robert Smith, Roger Reynolds, Josh Chase and Denver Holder.

Richard then opened the floor for nominations and election of Officers. The Newly elected officers are as follows:

President – Robert Smith
Vice President – Howard Rumfelt
Secretary – Wynn Smith
Treasurer – Henry Smith

12:00 p.m. Ted moved to adjourn. Bill seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Robert J. Smith, sec.