



Minutes for NCNWT Board of Directors Meeting June 21, 2014

Members in attendance were Richard Plattenberger, Henry Smith, Carl Dixon, Wynn Smith, Ken Moore, Jeff Parks, Bill Collart, Howard Rumpfelt, Richard Conley, Brent Phillips, Jonathan Brown, Bonni Stephenson and Robert Smith.

Members not present were Tony Quarino and Perry Bryant.

Visitors present were Evan Stanford, Scott Martin, Gary Peters, Rick Smith, Tony Stallings, Rudy Simeone, Le Campbell, Jim Collins, Sharon Phillips and Andrea Brown.

9:00 am: Richard called the meeting to order. He welcomed Board members and guests and thanked all for attending. He also thanked the Bonni and the Crystal Coast Callers for hosting the Board meeting and the evening dinner and social.

Ken opened with a word of prayer.

The minutes of the December 8, 2013 Board meeting were reviewed. Henry moved to approve the minutes. Jeff seconded and the minutes were approved.

Henry gave the Treasurers report:

Checking Account Balance: \$22,558.15

Seed Account: \$25,869.65

Balance: \$48,427.80

Accounts Managed by Edgefield:

Superfund Account \$50,589.38

Outreach Account \$19,310.76

Capital Account \$47,000.00

Shooting Fund \$50.00

Balance Edgefield Acct. \$116,950.14

Total Funds Available \$165,377.94

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

RD's Update:

Scott reported we have 53-54 active chapters with 7730 members, placing us in the top 10 states in the country. He expressed that new chapter development and volunteer recruitment is most important to growth. The area west of Hickory to the Tennessee Line is the most under-developed and we need to concentrate on new chapters in that area.

Regional Biologists Report:

Gary said that all of the habitat projects are complete and at the present he is working with the Pisgah and Nantahala Forests on a partnership plan.

Turkey Project Leader Report:

Evin presented an enormous amount of very interesting and pertinent information and the following is a very brief summery.

Evin reported the 2014 turkey harvest was down 8% from 2013, with a total harvest of 16,912 birds. This follows five years of back to back record harvests and therefore he is not highly concerned with this statistic. The Youth season harvest was down also by 4%. This is still the second highest harvest on record. The complete harvest report can be found on the NCWRC web site.

He attended the Southeast Working Group (SEWG) meeting June 2-3. They received the final report from the University of Georgia on the Southeast Wild Turkey Decline Project.

The SEWG has been working on a resolution that deals with the timing of Spring turkey seasons. The resolution is still in draft form. This, basically, will be a document State Agencies can take and say the SE State Fish and Wildlife Association has a resolution that states early opening seasons are generally a bad thing. The resolution will go to the SE Association meeting in October of this year for approval.

Evin also spoke of the Wild Turkey Symposium. This is a national scientific symposium that meets every five years. The NWTF will host the January 2016 meeting in Tucson, AZ.

He reported that the Summer Brood Survey Report Cards were mailed out a couple of weeks ago. This year Scott provided a list of new members for the survey which added 2271 new participants in their data base, bringing the total to 5-6 thousand.

Evin announced that the NCWRC had approved a new position for an Upland Game Bird Biologist. He anticipates the hiring of a new turkey biologist in August. He plans to attend the

September Board meeting with the new biologist to introduce them and help with a smooth transition.

Next Evin reported the University of Georgia project, looking at the Southeast Wild Turkey Decline Study (SEWTDS) is pretty much wrapped-up. He explained that this is a preliminary study to look at brood survey data, productivity data and population data across all southeast states to identify commonalities in trends to suggest hypothesis or mechanism to explain those trends. So basically this a preliminary study to pull together all this data and try to come up with other potential research topics that could get to the meat of the issue to address what's going on. They found it impossible to combine all of the data because all of the states have used different methodologies for collecting, filtering, cleaning up and evaluating their data. So they pretty much evaluated each state independently.

So, he said the obvious thing is the productivity trends. For all of the states that have data, it's pretty evident that poult production is down over the long term.

Evin suggested they pull data from all of the SE states on single hens with poults. By doing that they concluded brood size is not down. But other data showed evidence of a higher percentage of hens that are not producing broods, another implication of a general decline in nesting success.

The Group looked at the Breeding Bird Survey Index (BBSI), which is a standardized survey that has collected data since 1966. That data showed that over the long run as populations increased productivity has decreased. Comparing the BBSI and each states productivity indices they found again as population increased productivity decreased.

So the University of Georgia researchers' hypothesis is that reproduction is mediated in a density dependent manner, basically indicating that it is just a function of increasing population density that productivity goes down.

Evin noted that all of the Southeast States participated in the study.

He also added at closing that the NCWRC is planning a deer hunter survey that will cover not only deer but several species of game including turkeys. He suggested although this is a survey by deer hunters, it's another tool that could provide valuable turkey data.

Conservation Seed:

Howard stressed that all seed coming into the state must come through the State Chapter.

He expressed numerous concerns with the seed order process. The new process of on-line ordering was definitely an improvement over years past but proved to need adjustments. He and Wynn have discussed changes to the on-line forms and process and have ideas for improvements.

Howard also expressed the need for additional drop sites across the state.

Gun Raffle:

Bonni said she had distributed about 6500 tickets since taking over the ticket distribution. She said she had inquiries about tickets being available on the web site. Wynn said that shouldn't be an issue, just a matter of getting an Authorize.Net button set-up on the site.

Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt:

Wynn reported that Edgefield has backed off on the starting date for SHSH but we are going forward with it. Information she received at the national convention indicates NC is one of sixteen states that have an approved plan. Edgefield had originally planned a national meeting in July but they have pushed that out to October. Wynn has registered for that meeting and it's possible they may invite some of our partners, i.e. NCWRC, to attend the meeting.

She said we are collaborating with NCWRC on Fall mentoring sessions to be held at three locations across the state. Their agenda will include turkey hunting 101 and we will be doing those sessions. She indicated she has volunteers for the Western and Central regions but needs someone for the Eastern region. Bill Collart volunteered to help with the session in the east.

She has implemented a SHSH Facebook page and it is gaining followers with 229 presently. On our regular Facebook page we have 1589 followers. She and Bonni are keeping the Facebook page updated and concentrating on material pertaining to the initiative including conservation, hunter recruitment and habitat projects. She also started a series of short stories from members around the state. She asked for help with stories to be posted.

The WOW is planned for August 15-16 at Bass Pro Shops in Concord. The event will start on Friday evening with a reception and registration from 7-9:00 pm. There will be four sessions on Saturday and a banquet on Saturday evening.

Ken motioned to fund the event, rent the Cabarrus Arena, and provide upfront money for the event. Bill seconded and the motion was approved.

New Business:

Tony Stallings, president of the Franklin County chapter, was elected to fill the vacant seat on the Board.

Assuming we are invited back to the DDC, the conscience of the board was business as usual with a few changes to the Call Makers Competition. There have been requests for additional classes for strikers and box call combos. Crow calls and Owl calls will be judged separately from other locator calls.

Carl agreed to manage the Calling Competition again this year but requested some additional help.

Andrea Brown volunteered to be editor for the Fall news letter.

There were numerous suggestions for additions to the Month of Prizes Raffle as well as a suggestion for incentive for people selling tickets. Richard asked everyone to be thinking about ideas for the raffle and we would address that issue at the September meeting.

Wynn asked for ideas for sessions at the December Leadership Conference. Richard again asked for folks to think about the event and send any suggestions to Wynn or himself. Wynn has already made arrangements for the event at Bass Pro Shop in Concord. It will be the same three day venue as previous events. The dates will be December 12-14.

The September Board meeting will be September 13. Jeff will make arrangements for the meeting and let us know where it will be held.

Caps for the Mentoring Programs: We previously agreed to purchase one thousand caps (500 Orange, 500 Camo). The cost will be \$3.49 each.

There was considerable discussion about signage for Gamelands projects. Tony S. volunteered to work on a standardized sign for Habitat projects.

Brent offered to gather more information on sponsoring a PBR event and report back to us at the September meeting. The annual event in Archdale is the PBR's longest running outdoor event and draws about 10,000 Spectators. Brent said this is a family event with a lot of kids there. The conscience of the Board was that this may be a very good opportunity for exposure.

Old Business:

Richard said all projects have been completed with exception of the Education Trailer and graphics are all that is needed to complete it.

1:25 p.m. Jeff moved to adjourn. Richard C. seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Robert J. Smith, sec.