



## Minutes for NCNWF Board of Directors Meeting September 10, 2016

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

Bonni Stephenson was unable to attend.

Guests in attendance were Chris Kreh, Mr. Robert Mickler and several members of the Chatham County Limb-hangers.

The meeting was held at the Chatham County Wildlife Club in Bear Creek, NC.

9:00 am: Richard called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. He thanked everyone for coming and expressed a special note of gratitude to the Chatham County Limb-hangers for hosting the meeting.

Ken opened with a prayer.

### Minutes of Last Meeting:

Members reviewed the minutes of the June 25, 2016 Board Meeting. Ken motioned to approve the minutes. Perry seconded and the minutes were approved.

### Treasurers report:

Henry presented the Treasurers report as follows:

Checking Account Balance: \$37,629.39

Seed Account: \$42,927.74

Balance: \$80,557.13

Accounts Managed by Edgefield:

Superfund Account \$143,276.42

Outreach Account \$10,428.92

Capital Account \$83,000.00

Balance Edgefield Acct. \$236,705.34

Total Funds Available \$317,262.47

Ken moved to approve the report. Bill seconded and the report was approved.

#### **R D Report:**

Zac and Shawn were unable to attend. Richard reported the Superfund, year to date, is up approximately \$20,000 from the same period last year to \$117,000.

He also reported the State Sponsor Banquet produced \$40,000 gross revenue, \$7,000 net revenue and contributed \$1400 to the State Superfund.

After brief discussion Carl moved to have a 2017 State Sponsor Banquet, same venue and same time of year. Brent seconded and the motion passed. It was also agreed to allow Zac and Shawn to continue with planning the event.

#### **Regional Biologist Report:**

Richard reported Edgefield is conducting interviews for a new Biologist for NC/TN and expect to have someone onboard by October 1.

He also reported Edgefield has hired a new Forrester, Chad Rogers from Wilmington, NC. He has experience and a degree in Forestry from NC State University. Richard said Chad is currently trying to get up to speed with the Longleaf Pine Initiative.

Richard reported work has begun on the Yellow Creek property, saying there has been some spraying for invasive species and boundary lines have been posted.

#### **Turkey Project Leader Report:**

Chris Kreh, NCWRC Biologist, gave a very detailed report of the spring gobbling chronology project. With the deployment of fifty recorders, half in the southeastern coastal plain region and half in the northwestern mountain region, the quantity and quality of data gathered in this inaugural season is extremely impressive. The recorders ran each day for three months, March thru May, from one hour before sunrise for five hours. That equates to over twenty-two thousand (22,000) hours of recordings.

The processing of the enormous amount of data collected was a huge hurdle. A computer software program condensed and identified over one hundred thirty-two thousand (132,000) sounds that were possible turkey gobbles. Final analysis by technicians revealed the fifty recorders collectively recorded approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) gobbles.

In closing Chris expressed immense pleasure with the success of the project, praising the value of the base-line data produced and displaying excitement and anticipation of continuing this project.

To paraphrase Chris' assessment of the project, "priceless!"

Chris also agreed to share this information at the January Leadership Conference.

### **Seed Subsidy Report:**

Howard reported the program continues to work well. He said seed arrived timely and was delivered to the drop sites promptly.

He said Edgefield had set a flat rate for shipping at \$4.00 per bag. With some skepticism Howard said this does take the guess work out of pricing the seed once it is delivered.

Howard also expressed concern with checks and balances with seed drop sites and money collection. He asked that funds be returned in a timely manner.

Howard and Henry agreed to devise a plan to address this issue.

### **December Raffle:**

Wynn reported there are about 25,000 tickets in circulation. The drawing is scheduled for November 27 at Wynn's house.

### **Save the Hunt Report:**

Wynn thanked the board for their continued support of the WOW event. She thanked the volunteers that came out to help and those who made donations to the event. She added there are close to 300 pictures of the event posted on Facebook. She presented a short, very well produced, slide show of the weekend's event. Wynn proudly reported there were ladies from out of state in attendance which was a first for the event.

There was discussion as to the continuance of the WOW event. The Board approved supporting another event in 2017.

A WOW event committee was formed. Committee members are Wynn, Tony Q, Ken, Henry and Sharon Phillips.

Tony Quarino volunteered to donate a box call to each local chapter to be raffled at their banquet. The proceeds from the box call will go into the Outreach Fund and will be used to sponsor a lady from each chapter to attend the WOW event.

It was recommended and agreed to advertise the WOW event at the DDC.

Wynn again expressed the importance of registering mentored hunts. She urged all Board members to follow up with local chapters.

### **Old Business:**

Richard reminded the "Awards Committee," consisting of Ken, Carl and Perry, that the Awards Banquet is coming up and there are several State level awards to be considered.

## **New Business:**

The NCWRC presented four matching grant requests for Superfundable projects.

1) Grant request for the procurement of a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) and a slip-on pumper unit for the Southern Coastal Ecoregion. 25% Match \$6,500.

2) Grant request to fund contractual services to enhance approximately 25-30 acres on the Mill Ridge Project on the Pisgah National Forest. 25% Match \$5,000.

3) Grant request to fund contract dozer work to create four new wildlife openings totaling 13 acres and to purchase agricultural materials to plant the openings on the Little Table Rock Mountain Tract adjacent to the Blue Ridge Parkway. 25% Match \$7,343.50

4) Grant request to fund contractual services to reclaim approximately 10 acres of old field areas with the use of a vegetation grinding machine on the Sugar Creek Gap Tract of the Nantahala National Forest. 25% Match \$2,500.

Carl moved to approve all of the NCWRC proposals. Bill seconded and the motion was approved.

Area 5, District 9 NCWRC Enforcement Officer, M.O. Don La Tuilpe submitted one request.

Officer La Tuilpe requested one to five FLIR Scout Thermal Vision Monocular/Cameras. Due to recent night hunting laws being passed and an increase in night hunting activity, Officer Tuilpe said this would be a great tool for identifying people and animals present in total darkness. The newest FLIR equipment would not only be a useful tool to detect hunting (legal and illegal) activity, but also effectively help with officer safety by allowing officers to scan a field or woodlot for any possible heat signatures before entering.

The Board suggested the local chapter should purchase the equipment and submit a Superfund request for reimbursement.

Carl moved to approve reimbursing the Smokey Mountain Chapter for two (2) FLIR units, up to \$1,200. Bill seconded and the motion was approved.

Richard Conley, Smokey Mountain Chapter, presented one Superfund request for a cooperative wildlife project with the Nantahala National Forest, Tusquitee & Cheoah Ranger District.

The USDA Forest Service requested funding to purchase useful and preventive maintenance equipment for a new farm tractor that is to be used for wildlife habitat work/maintenance work.

Grant request: \$5,395.00

Ken moved to approve the request contingent on the Forest Service agreeing to furnish a yearly total of acreage impacted. Henry seconded and the motion was approved.

Mr. Robert Mickler, instructor, Wild Land Fire Fighting, NCSU Dept. of Forestry, presented a very informative slide show on the University's Forestry program. He requested any possible assistance available to procure tools and safety equipment to outfit a recently acquired vehicle (type 6 wild land fire fighting engine). The vehicle and equipment will be used for wild land fire fighting and prescribed fire training and certification.

The Board agreed this program is a potentially valuable aid to the NWTF Save the Habitat initiative. The Board also recognizes the opportunity for a cooperative effort to promote prescribed fire and wild fire containment education. This program will not only benefit North Carolina as students in Mr. Mickler's program come from across the country as well as foreign countries.

This proposal came through the NCSU Chapter.

Jeff moved to fund \$5,000 (20% of estimated total cost) contingent on an agreement to receive an annual report from the program as to the number of acres enhanced/impacted and signage recognizing the NWTF and NCSU Chapter being placed on the vehicle. Ken seconded and the motion was passed.

#### **State Leadership Conference and Awards Banquet:**

Wynn shared information on the upcoming State Leadership Conference and Awards Banquet scheduled for January 20-22. Motel accommodations and the Leadership conference will be at the Clam Digger Inn in Atlantic Beach. It was agreed the State Chapter will pay for one member from each chapter to attend the leadership event to include two nights' accommodations. There will be a \$75 charge for each additional attendee.

The weekend's event will kick off with a Friday evening meet and greet social. Saturday morning will feature break-out sessions until noon followed by lunch and free time in the afternoon for the participants.

Saturday night's Banquet will be held at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City featuring the 2017 banquet package. There will be a \$25 charge for all attendees.

**December Board Meeting moved to January:** January 22, 2017 9:00 a.m. Clam Digger Inn, Atlantic Beach

12:30 pm: Bill moved to adjourn. Ken seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Robert J. Smith, sec.