



Minutes for NCNWT Board of Directors Meeting September 10, 2017

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

Members not present were Carl Dixon and Tony Quarino.

Guests present were Zac Morton, Shawn Jenkins, Chris Coxen, Rudy Simeone, Chris Kreh, Robert Mickler, Roger Reynolds, Vickie Bryant and Denver Holder.

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

8:30 am: Richard called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He thanked everyone for helping with the weekend's activities (State WOW event) and expressed our appreciation for the support of local chapter volunteers. He also thanked the Chatham County Wildlife Club for use of the facility, and the Chatham County Limb-hangers for hosting the meeting.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

Members reviewed the minutes of the June 11, 2017 Board Meeting. Ken motioned to approve the minutes, Henry seconded and the minutes were approved.

Treasurers report:

Henry presented the treasurer's report as follows:

Checking Account Balance: \$23,053.74

Seed Account: \$18,157.74

Balance: \$41,211.48

Accounts Managed by Edgefield:

Superfund Account \$172,460.89

Outreach Account \$8,233.90

Capital Account \$100,903.42

Balance Edgefield Acct. \$281,598.21

Total Funds Available \$322,809.69

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

R D Report:

Zac reported the following:

Superfund Update:

1. 2016 YTD Contribution's vs. 2017 YTD Contribution's

- YTD (9/1/16) **\$122,553 vs. YTD (9/1/17) \$161,971**
- YTD + **\$39K** or **32%** Above YTD 2016
- Forecast an additional **5k-7.5K** in Banquet Contributions Before Dec. 31
- Forecast Year End Superfund Contributions for 2017 - **\$168,000 vs. 2016 \$134,352**
- A look back... 2010 - **\$45,199**

Outreach Fund

- 2017 Contributions - **\$10,061.86** (NC Hunting Heritage Box Calls)

Membership #'s

- 2016 – **6,137 Regular** (R,W,W) 2017 – **6,688 (R,W,W)**
- Increase **551** (\$19K or \$3,800 to SF)
- 2016 – **1164** Sponsors & **191** Life Sponsors – **Total 1,355**
- 2017 – **1389** Sponsors & **197** Life Sponsors - **Total 1,586**
- Increase **225 Sponsors** and **6 Life Sponsors** (\$56K or 11,200 to SF)

Tentative plans for a 2018 Sponsor Banquet were discussed. Roger Reynolds volunteered to look for a facility in Montgomery County and possibilities of lodging in Albemarle or Asheboro.

A State Sponsor Banquet committee comprised of Zac, Richard P, Howard, Bill and Bonni was formed to evaluate the banquet format and make recommendations for future banquets.

RB Report:

Chris Coxen's report was as follows:

- There were 2,243 acres managed through the Super Fund in FY17
- I have been very active in the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest Plan Revision since the last board meeting
 - Submitted a proposal to the Stakeholders Forum related to vegetation management goals in the Forest Plan
- I attended the NC Prescribed Fire Council meeting that the NC board voted to support
 - Growing partnership with The Nature Conservancy to try to become a bigger part of their controlled burning programs throughout the state

- Met a forester with Bladen Lakes State Forest, who is interested in partnering with us on controlled burning and longleaf restoration
- Have been coordinating with members of the NC Forest Service to provide information about how the Super Fund works and give examples of some of the projects we fund in the state – hope to increase our partnership with them
- In October, I will represent NWTF at the Shortleaf Pine Initiative conference in New Jersey
- Also in October, I will represent NWTF at the Longleaf Pine Coalition meeting in Southern Pines, NC
- I wrote a letter of support for a program in Western North Carolina that will provide NRCS dollars for private lands habitat management work, and will keep the board informed on if that grant is funded, and how we might partner on that grant (we should know by December)
- Have been coordinating a habitat management project on the Pisgah National forest with David Stewart, biologist with WRC, and have talked with him about a potential acquisition to the Cold Mountain Gamelands. Discussions are still ongoing, but I will keep the board informed on that progress.

Turkey Project Leaders Update:

Chris Kreh, NCWRC Biologist, Reported the following:

2017 Summer Observation Survey

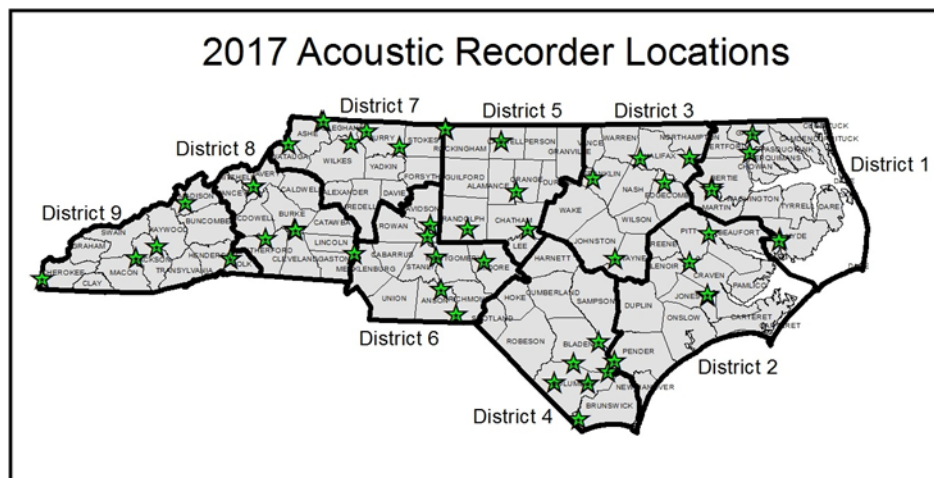
- As of August 31st, data were available from 979 observations reported on-line and 511 observations from post cards that were mailed early. (Participants have two options to report their turkey sightings: on-line or by post card.) On-line data are available immediately, but most data from the printed cards will not be available until October. I expect a total of approximately 6,000 observations once all the data are tallied.
- Based on these preliminary results, it looks like overall productivity in 2017 (i.e. poults/hen) may have been a little better than 2016. Also, preliminary estimates suggest that poult survival may have been considerably better this year as compared to recent years.
- As a reminder, last year's (2016) summer survey had the lowest estimates of turkey reproduction since this survey began in 1988. This low reproduction was likely a key factor in the much lower harvest of jakes in spring of 2017. Additionally, this may impact the overall harvest in 2018 as there may be a lack of 2-year old gobblers in many areas.
- I am pleased to see the preliminary results suggest that reproduction may have been somewhat better in 2017 and hopeful that will be the case once all the data are tallied. My final report for the 2017 Summer Observation Survey will be available by November 15th and will be posted at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Birds/Wild-Turkey>.

Regulation Changes for Youth Turkey Season

- Definition of “youth” has been changed and now includes 16- and 17-year old’s beginning with youth hunts (deer, waterfowl, turkey) in the 2017-18 hunting season.
- A proposal is currently being considered which will remove the requirement for youth to have an accompanying adult during the Youth Turkey Season (except that youth that have not completed hunter safety or that are hunting via a Hunting Heritage Apprentice Permit will still require an accompanying licensed adult that is at least 18 years old). Comments on this proposal can be submitted online through October 31st or in person at the Public Hearing in Raleigh at 7:00 pm on September 19th. If approved, this change will be in place for the 2018 Youth Turkey Season.

Gobbling Chronology Project

- 51 acoustic recorders distributed across the state in spring of 2017 (figure below)
- The recorders were set up on State Parks and other areas where turkeys are not being hunted.
- Each unit recorded for 2.5 hours/day, starting 30 minutes before sunrise, February 25th through June 4th. Approximately 12,000 hours of data recorded.
- Data analysis began August 1st, with data from 23 recorders processed so far.
- Approximately 14,000 gobbles have been tallied from the first 23 recorders.
- Final report from this year’s work is will be completed by January 31, 2018 and will be posted at <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Learning/Species/Birds/Wild-Turkey>.
- Information from this project will help ensure that we open our spring hunting season at the ideal time to maximize hunter satisfaction and turkey reproduction



Superfund Proposals:

The NCWRC submitted fourteen (14) cost share requests. Jeff moved to approve the following seven (7) proposals totaling \$54,450. Bill seconded and the requests were approved.

\$16,700 to contract Prescribed burning of 30,000 acres of game lands in the Southern Piedmont, Central Coast and Southern Coast. Funding represents a 5% cost share.

\$7,000 to purchase a No-till drill for use on coastal game lands to plant approximately 30 acres annually. Funding represents a 25% cost share.

\$4,125 to purchase a Truax drill that is well suited for use on small fields on mountain game lands in the Northern mountains region. Drill will be used on 500+ acers of wildlife openings maintained in this work area. Funding represents a 25% cost share.

\$4,125 to purchase a Truax drill that is well suited for use on small fields on mountain game lands in the Southern mountains region. Drill will be used on 200+ acers of wildlife openings maintained in this work area. Funding represents a 25% cost share.

\$6,625 to purchase prescribed burning equipment for use in the Northern piedmont work area. 1 UTV and slip-on pumper to be stationed at the Tillery Depot in Halifax County. Funding represents a 25% cost share.

\$9,125 to purchase 1 UTV, 1 ATV, slip-on pumper unit, hose and other equipment to add to efficiency of prescribed burning operations. Equipment will be used throughout the northern piedmont work area. Funding represents a 25% cost share.

\$6,750 to purchase a Fecon grinding attachment to be used on a Caterpillar 312 Excavator and used throughout the 1,392 acres of wildlife openings in the Southern Mountains region. Funding represents a 25% cost share.

Conservation Seed Program:

Howard reported seed distribution had gone very well. However, there remains an issue with collecting funds from the distribution sites as there are still \$35,000 to \$40,000 that have not been turned in to the Treasurer.

Howard also suggested we publish a disclaimer on seed germination. After much discussion Zac, Shawn, Wynn and Howard agreed to work together to develop a document for drop sites to help improve tracking the funds. They agreed to also devise a suitable method of publishing a disclaimer.

December Month of Prizes Raffle:

Bonni reported an increase in requests for tickets from new groups wishing to take advantage of the 50/50 split on sales. She noted about 6K of the 35K tickets printed were still undistributed. The ticket drawing will be held November 26 beginning at 10:00 am.

Save the Hunt Coordinator Report:

Wynn first thanked everyone for their support and help with the WOW. She reported 35 ladies attended the 4th Annual event.

Wynn asked the Board to encourage all local chapters to do mentored hunts. These hunts will be a key element in recruiting new hunters and achieving our Save the Hunt goals.

She also reminded everyone of our State Leadership Conference to be held January 12-14.

New Business:

Mr. Robert Mickler, instructor Wild Land Fire Fighting, NCSU Dept. of Forestry, expressed tremendous appreciation for the \$5,000 grant provided in 2016 and gave an account of the equipment the funding provided. He shared a very informative power point presentation highlighting the past year's progress in equipping their type 6 wild land fire fighting engine and the enormous advantage the equipment lends to their program and the experience it affords students. He spoke also of needs and plans to equip a second type 6 vehicle.

The Board again agreed to the value of this program and it's continued long-term positive impact on the NWTF Save the Habitat initiative.

Robert moved to make an additional \$5,000 grant to the NCSU Wild Land Fire Fighting program. Ken seconded and the grant was approved.

Henry brought to the attention of the Board, Zac's trailer needs extensive repair. It was the opinion of the Board, taking into consideration the age and condition of the trailer, it may be advantageous to replace the trailer.

Henry agreed to price a new trailer and report back to the executive committee.

The next BOD meeting was scheduled for January 14, 2018.

Bill moved to adjourn. Richard C. seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Robert J. Smith, sec.