

Minutes – Carolina Wetlands Association
Board of Directors meeting – May 16, 2016.
NCSU, Weaver Hall, Raleigh, NC

Board members Present:

Rick Savage, President
Steve Rebach, Vice President
Curt Richardson (phone)
John Dorney, Secretary
Kim Matthews
Laura England (phone)
Diane Greenfield (phone)
Chad Guthrie (phone)
Krisite Gianopulos, Treasurer

Also Present:

Mike Burchell
Ginny Baker-Daniels
Kristine Cherry (phone)
Mike Verpraskas (phone)
Kerry Caviness (phone)
Alvin Braswell
Bill Flournoy
Stratford Kay
Grace Lawrence

The meeting started at 7:00 pm. The meeting started with introductions. The March 21, 2016 minutes were adopted unanimously. Meeting dates for 2016 are as follows: May 16, July 18, September 19, and November 21. Times and locations to be announced later. We anticipate switching between the Duke Wetland Center in Durham and NC State University in Raleigh to take advantage of Weblink abilities at these locations.

The first order of business was to elect a new Board member from SC and Kristine Cherry was unanimously elected and her first meeting as a voting member of the Board was this meeting.

Rick then reported on his attendance at the Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM) meeting in Shepherdstown, WV in March. ASWM has established relationships with other state level wetland organizations depending on the level of interest within the organization. A general discussion was held concerning various types of relationships but no formal decision was made. CarWA will actively be part of the EPA's September workshop in Raleigh concerning the National Wetland Condition Assessment along with other partners. Also for some grant opportunities, we would need to partner with groups outside of Region 4 in Atlanta and the Wetlands Watch group in Norfolk, VA is a possibility.

The 501(c)(3) application is complete and was mailed to the IRS in early May. The IRS has deposited our check and we hope to hear from them soon. Rick will send thank you letters to the UNC Law Clinic whose help was crucial in getting the application completed.

The Annual Meeting of CarWA will be held at a location in Duke Forest in Durham in late June¹ with an announcement to members and a posting on our website soon.

The Board retreat will be next spring and CarWA will provide travel funds for out of town members to attend. Possible locations include the Biedler Forest in SC or Lumber River State Park in NC. Steve Rebach will organize a planning effort soon. It will probably be a day to day and one half meeting. We will coordinate the date with university spring breaks if possible.

With respect to meetings with other organizations, the Land Trust Alliance is interested in using our expertise if any of their land purchases include wetlands, and the NC Coastal Federation wants to develop linkages between our organizations and links to our webpages as well. In addition, the National Wildlife Federation is interested in partnering with CarWA as well as attend and address the July Board meeting. They are considering adding a Wetland Award to their annual Awards Ceremony in NC. Finally, the NC Museum of Natural Sciences wants to partner with CarWA as well and tours of Antioch Bay and Green Swamp will be arranged jointly with them probably in October. Rick will organize that effort.

Rick has established a Grants Task Force to work on various grant ideas for CarWA. The Task Force met last week. Chad will focus on non-governmental grants, Amy will focus on governmental grants, and Steve will prepare background documentation to be used for all grants. The first application will probably be for start-up funding and/or educational outreach. The Task Force has developed a grant spreadsheet of potential grants to present at the July Board meeting.

Kristine Cherry discussed the recent meeting in or near Wilmington that she helped organize for the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance that was funded by an EPA Wetland Program Development Grant. This meeting discussed stormwater Best Management Practice training focusing on the NC Coastal Federation's method of watershed planning and management. Information on the meeting is on the Governor's South Atlantic Alliance website if folks are interested.

The first Wetlands Treasures effort of CarWA was then discussed which was launched in May 2016. Laura England discussed the visit to Biedler Forest where about 17 people attended. The Phelps Lake tour had about five attendees which is pretty good for this remote location. Finally, the Mason Farm trip

¹ The Annual Meeting will be June 26 at 4 pm in Duke Forest.

will be May 21 and 18 people are signed up (20 maximum). Rick will send thank you notes to the rangers at each of these locations to thank them for their help.

Bill Flournoy discussed the efforts and needs of the Triangle Greenways Council which is a local land trust established in 1997 to mainly protect riparian corridors for future greenways. They now protect 101 parcels across three Triangle counties. They may seek CarWA help with respect to management of wetland areas that they own and will be contacting CarWA in the fall regarding site visits.

Mike Burchell then presented the work his group at NCSU is doing on wetland monitoring which was begun by the NC Division of Water Quality. The new work is looking at old and new data for any trends in wetland condition as well as developing metrics (such as hydrology criteria) which could be used for mitigation performance standards. Eventually the data will be available on a website probably with a link to the Southeast Wetlands Work Group led by RTI. RTI is working on a Southeast Wetland Monitoring website which will be useful for this purpose as well.

Committee Reports:

1. Executive – This Committee did not meet in the intervening time period between the two Board meetings.
2. Program – The main emphasis of this Committee since the last Board meeting was to hold the Wetland Treasures events in May. The Committee also maintains the CarWA Website.
3. Development – This Committee has 118 FaceBook “likes” and 178 subscribers to the CarWA Newsletter.
4. Science – This Committee met earlier this week. Ginny discussed the initial work of the Committee to develop a short wetland overview for the general public with linkages to the 16 NC WAM general wetland types. This will be a more general approach for now but will include references.
5. Regional Coordinators, Stakeholders, Landowners, and Community Involvement – This Committee recently met and will present more information at the next Board meeting.
6. Policy Committee – This Committee will have its first meeting in Cary on May 26 and will report to the next Board meeting about that meeting.
7. Finance – Kristie reported that our net balance is \$1,196.46 after paying the IRS for the 501(c)(3) application. We will need to track Board member time as well as member time for in-kind contributions to match for grants.
8. Advisory Committee – Potential members were contacted but the purpose of the Committee is still fluid at this time.

Other Business

It was decided that the Executive Committee needs Board authority to spend small amounts of money (with an explicit cap) between Board meetings. This issue will be discussed at the July Board meeting.

The next Board meeting is on July 18th probably at RTI in Research Triangle Park starting at 6:30 pm. Grady McCallie with the NC Conservation Network and someone from the NC Wildlife Federation want to present information at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Minutes prepared by John Dorney, Secretary