

## Minutes – Carolina Wetlands Association

June 6, 2015

### Inaugural Meeting

The first meeting of the Carolina Wetlands Association was held on June 6, 2015 at the Lake Boone Trail Starbucks in Raleigh, NC. Thirteen (13) people were in attendance including three via telephone (see list of attendees below). Each of the attendees gave a short introduction to their background and interest in the Carolina Wetlands Association (CarWA).

Several potential logos were posted around the room and attendees were invited to vote for their favorite design using sticky notes. Rick Savage will compile the votes and announce the selected design by email. Rick noted that the CarWA is patterned after the almost 20 year old Wisconsin Wetlands Association and that Erin O'Brien with the Wisconsin group has offered to help. He noted that Laura England used to work for the Wisconsin group as well which will be a great help to us. Other state groups apparently exist in Michigan and Oregon although their missions may be slightly different.

The first order of business was to elect the Board of Directors. Rick Savage was elected President, Steve Rebach as Vice-President, John Dorney as Secretary, and Kristie Gianopulos as Treasurer. Discussion was held concerning the draft Mission Vision, Values and Program Areas that Rick had prepared. A final version was approved after changes were made. Rick will provide that final version to the Board and all members. Debbie Savage will take an initial cut at a website for review by everyone. The Board members will review the Bylaws at the next meeting.

There was agreement that the Association needs to select a visible project to accomplish this year. A discussion was held concerning the use of social media, youth, and underrepresented community involvement. Liability insurance will be needed for the Board and John Dorney will address this before the next meeting by checking with the NC Center for Non Profits. The draft Bylaws were modified to provide for staggered three year terms for the Board. Rick will file the Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State as soon as possible to start the 501(c) (3) status for the Association. It was noted that DENR employees have received instruction that they cannot serve as Board members but more clarity is being sought on this issue.

Rick will conduct a Doodle Poll to determine the next (July) meeting of the Board. All members will be welcome to attend the Board meetings in person or via phone as they desire.

#### Attendees

Ashley Steele private consultant	Anthony Scarbraugh – DENR (via phone).
John Dorney – retired DENR	Diane Greenfield – SC DHEC/USC (via phone)
Kim Matthews – RTI, International	Kristie Gianopulos – Independent Contractor
Stratford Kay – retired DENR	James Graham – DENR
Amy Keyworth – DENR	Steve Rebach – retired NCSU/Sea Grant

Debbie Savage – retired DENR

Rick Savage – DENR

Laura England – Appalachian State University (via phone).

**Board Members**

Rick Savage - President

Steve Rebach – Vice President

John Dorney - Secretary

Krisite Gianopulos – Treasurer

Kim Matthews

Karen Hall

Stratford Kay

Laura England

Dianne Greenfield

Minutes prepared by John Dorney, Secretary

June 15, 2015

Minutes approved by the Board of Directors as amended July 30, 2015