

Minutes – Carolina Wetland Association Board Meeting
July 18, 2016; RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC

Members present

John Dorney, Secretary

Amin Davis

Steve Rebach, Vice President

Kim Matthews

Grady McCallie

Grace Lawrence

Rick Savage, President

Bill Flournoy

Robert Truesdale

Stratford Kay

George Matthis

Kristie Gianopulos, Treasurer

Alvin Braswell

David Knight

Diane Durance (phone)

Chad Guthrie (phone)

Dianne Greenfield (phone)

Dan Hitchcock (phone)

Kristine Cherry (phone)

Kerry Canviness (phone)

Laura England (phone)

The meeting at RTI started at 6:39 pm. After introductions, it was announced that CarWA t-shirts are available via order at the meeting or on-line.

The minutes from the last Board meeting in May were approved.

The next Board meeting will be changed from September 19 to September 26 and the location will probably be at RTI again. The November meeting will be changed from November 21 to November 14 and also probably be at RTI.

Curt Richardson (Board member) was congratulated on being awarded the Distinguished Professorship at Duke University.

The Carolina Wetland Association is now officially a 501 (c)(3) organization since we have received confirmation from the IRS. The Carolina Wetland Association would like to thank the UNC Law Clinic and Chad Guthrie who worked diligently on the application. Kristie will send a letter to the UNC Law Clinic thanking them for their help. She will also post on the website that individuals who donated money to CarWA last year are now eligible for a retroactive tax deduction. Rick and Cam McNutt will investigate a ESRI ArcGIS license for the organization a little or no cost and will bring that information back to a Board meeting for decision.

Rick met with Molly Diggins and the Capitol Area Sierra Club to discuss common interests. Bill Flournoy of the Triangle Greenways Council will seek the help of the Science Committee to survey wetlands on their property and investigate measures to improve those wetlands.

Rick and Amin met with Jack Spruill of Spruill Conservation Farm in Tyrrell County, NC. The Farm has protected wetlands along Albemarle Sound and may need our help to survey those wetlands. They want to be an affiliate of CarWA. The Policy Committee will discuss this issue and decide what affiliation entails. Any suggested policy will be brought back to the Board for discussion and adoption.

Similarly, CarWA is a member of the NC Conservation Network. The NC Wildlife Federation is interested in having CarWA be an affiliate as well. Again the Policy Committee will discuss the issue and develop a suggestion for the Board to consider. The SC Conservation Coalition has an annual fee of \$50 and is roughly equivalent to the NC Conservation Network. Again, the Policy Committee will discuss joining the SC Conservation Coalition and bring a proposed action back to the Board for adoption. Kristine Cherry volunteered to locate other possible SC organizations for CarWA to join.

Charlotte Clark from Duke University had a meeting with Curt Richardson and Rick to begin to determine student projects which might benefit CarWA. These would be MS student projects beginning in January 2017. Board members are urged to email Rick any suggested ideas before the September Board meeting.

Grady McCallie of the NC Conservation Network spoke. The Network was founded in 1998 to 1999 by a visioning process of existing conservation groups in NC. They focus on policy advocacy and have lobbyists on staff. They are seeking coalitions to help on their various issues. Weekly email updates are sent to members including weekly legislative updates when the NC General Assembly is in session. They also host meetings of various coalition members. He was not sure if there was a SC counterpart to his organization.

David Knight then talked about the NC Wildlife Federation. The group is headquartered in Charlotte and is an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation but with its own structure and priorities. Their focus is on wildlife and wildlife habitat. They have a quarterly journal and email updates. One recent focus has been on pollinators and the butterfly highway. They emphasize a science-based approach to NC issues and have 30 or so affiliates. One possibility is for CarWA to work with them to add an annual wetland award to the set of existing annual awards.

The Policy Committee will address the generic issue of CarWA having affiliates and CarWA becoming an affiliate of other organizations at their July meeting. Any suggested approach will be brought to the September Board meeting.

The Business Plan was then discussed. An ad-hoc Committee will develop it for Board consideration and approval. The Business Plan will be accompanied by a Strategy Plan which will provide approaches to implement the Business Plan. The Board will discuss it in more detail at the September meeting with an aim to adopt it at the November meeting.

Committee Reports:

1. Program – this Committee met on June 14th. Stratford Kay will replace Ashley Steele as co-chair on the committee. Fall field trips are planned for Mason Farm, Green Swamp and Antioch Bay. The Committee will meet the third Monday of every other month starting at 6:30 pm in August.
2. Science – This Committee has developed a Wetlands 101 narrative and will post it on our website. The next step is the definition of wetland types. They will next meet on July 25.
3. Regional Coordinators – this Committee will meet on July 20 at NCSU. They have met with the Conservation Trust of NC and want to partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service on their mountain bog National Wildlife Refuge initiative. They will continue to seek educational opportunities such as educator and youth outreach.
4. Policy – This Committee had their first meeting and is drafting a mission statement. The next meeting will be on July 26.
5. Development – This Committee has developed the CarWA T-shirt ordering process as a fund raiser. So far, 15 t-shirts have been ordered.
6. Finance – This Committee has met. Kristine will need someone else to chair the Committee. As of July 1, there have been 34 contributors to CarWA for \$3,136. Total expenses to date are \$1,966.78. About 40% of our money has been spent on mission-related items. 26% on marketing, and 35% on development/operations/fund raising. The photo contest fundraiser will include a 2017 calendar. Notice will be sent via email and listed on our website of the September 15 deadline for that contest. We will need to register with the Secretary of State as a charitable organization to obtain a charitable solicitation license. Rick will work with Chad to get that accomplished. They will check to determine if there is an equivalent process in SC
7. The Museum Task Force will work with the NC Science Museum for a spring 2017 event.
8. The Grants Task Force will continue to work. Amy Keyworth will focus on government grants which will be reflected in the Business Plan.

A webinar was held on insurance for non-profits, attended by Chad. CarWA will need Directors and Officer Liability Insurance. It was noted that this insurance is not cheap but is important. Event insurance would also be needed for CarWA events but that cost should be minimal.

A report on the Annual Meeting was presented. About 25 people attended. A Board Retreat will be scheduled later next year. The location will be near the NC/SC border to encourage attendance from both states. Possible locations include the Eastern 4H, Trinity Center, and the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. The Executive Committee will meet and discuss this meeting.

It was suggested that a list of services that CarWA could provide would be useful to other organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Minutes prepared by John Dorney on September 13, 2016. Modified September 23, 2016.