

**Minutes – Carolina Wetlands Association**  
**Board of Directors meeting – September 24, 2015.**  
**Walnut Creek Wetland Center, Raleigh, NC**

**Board members Present:**

**Rick Savage, President**  
**Steve Rebach, Vice President**  
**Kristie Gianopulos, Treasurer**  
**John Dorney, Secretary**  
**Kim Matthews**  
**Stratford Kay**  
**Laura England**  
**Dianne Greenfield**  
**Laura Murray (Pending)**  
**Chad Guthrie (Pending)**

**Also Present:**

**Robert Peet**  
**Curt Richardson**  
**David Shouse**  
**Bill Flournoy**  
**Mike Burchell**  
**Trish D'Arconte**  
**Amanda Mueller**  
**Amin Davis**  
**Carrie Boyd (on phone)**  
**Alvin Braswell**  
**Robert Truesdale**  
**Ginny Baker**  
**Amy Keyworth**

### **Dan Hitchcock (on phone)**

The meeting started at 6:30 pm with introductions. David Shouse gave a short introduction into the history of the Walnut Creek Wetland Center that was spearheaded by a local group – Partners for Environmental Justice and opened by the City of Raleigh in 2009. The mission of the Center is to “make people aware of the importance of wetlands for clean water, habitat, and recreation while emphasizing the importance of human interaction with nature” (from the Walnut Creek Wetland Center website). The Center is closed on Mondays so if the Board meets on Mondays, we will not be able to meet at the Center.

The July 31, 2015 minutes were adopted unanimously.

Two new Board members were proposed – Chad Guthrie and Laura Murray. Chad is a non-practicing attorney from Raleigh. His NC Bar status is in-active and has a generalist background with an extensive history of working with non-profits in environmental conservation. He is getting clarity from the NC Bar as to his ability to give legal advice and will have an answer by the next meeting. Laura lives in MD but will soon be moving back to SC. She has an education background. Both were voted unanimously onto the Board.

Rick announced that at the next meeting the Board will be asked to consider adding Curt Richardson (Duke University) and another SC person to the Board.

The Board decided to meet the third Monday of each month except if that day is a federal holiday in which case the meeting will be the following Monday. The next meeting will be on November 16 at 6:15 pm at a place to be determined and announced later. Curt Richardson offered the Duke Wetland Center in Durham as a meeting place and noted that it is set up for remote access. An alternative location would be at NCSU but a location that is set up for remote access would need to be located. The Board decided to have its November meeting at the Duke Wetland Center in Durham. The other meetings for 2016 will be on January 25, March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, and November 21. All Board members were requested to put these dates on their calendars.

The Committee structure was approved unanimously. The committees will be as follows: Executive; Program; Science (renamed from the Policy and Science Committee); Regional Coordinators, Stakeholders, Landowners, and Community Involvement; Finance; Advisory; and Development. It was noted that the Committees will be expected to set their own agendas with feedback from the Board.

#### **Committee Reports:**

1. Advisory – Amanda Mueller reported on the activities of this Committee. She reported that the Wetland Program Plan prepared by the NC Division of Water Resources has been prepared and will be submitted to EPA soon. There are several parts of the Plan where CarWA could be involved. Amanda will post the final report on the CarWA website when the plan is done. SC does not yet have a Wetland Program Plan but the SC DHEC is working on one. Amanda noted that CarWA is not eligible to apply for Wetland Program Development Grants but could be a sub-contractor to another, eligible organization.
2. Executive – Rick Savage reported that at the last meeting, the Committee recommended that Chad Guthrie and Laura Murray be appointed to the Board. The draft minutes will need to be approved at the next Board meeting (they are presently in the third revision). Once

they are done, Chad plans to review them and then have the UNC Law Clinic look them over as well. They will then be adopted by the Board probably at the November 16 meeting. Chad will also work with the UNC Law Clinic to get our 501(c)(3) application completed and submitted to the IRS. Chad will also investigate the legal complexities of being a NC and SC organization. He will also determine if donations to CarWA can be tax-deductible retroactively since it may take a while for the IRS to approve the application. Another approach would be to have an existing 501(c)(3) organization be a legal umbrella for donations. Bill Flournoy noted that the Triangle Greenways Council already serves this function for several organizations.

3. Program – Amin Davis reported on this Committee that will be developing educational materials and coordinate outreach events probably with a focus on American Wetlands Month in May of 2016 perhaps in partnership with the Walnut Creek Wetland Center or other Nature Centers in NC and SC. The work will focus on “Carolina Wetland Treasures” (much like the Wisconsin Wetland Gems) with an initial target of at least three sites. The Unique Wetlands designated by the NC Environmental Management Commission will be a source of initial information. Ashley Steele is working on a brochure and Karen Hall will be organizing workshops with the assistance of NCSU. Another possible activity of CarWA would be to recommend RAMSAR wetland sites perhaps in NC focused on Lake Mattamuskeet, or Pocosin Lakes NWR, and in SC – the Congaree National Park and/or the National Estuarine Reserve Sites. Curt Richardson discussed an earlier attempt to establish RAMSAR sites in NC which was not successful since the effort became too large. When CarWA is ready to investigate the RAMSAR process, Curt can revisit the progress made earlier.
4. Science (previously the Policy and Science Committee) – Ginny Baker reported that the committee has not yet met but has been asked to provide a QA/QC function for the Wetland Program Development Grant for wetland monitoring the NCSU has been awarded (Mike Burchell is the main contact). In addition, the Triangle Greenways Council has asked for help in investigating property that they own that contain wetlands. This was discussed more thoroughly at the end of the Board meeting.
5. Regional Coordinators, Stakeholders, Landowners, and Community Involvement – This committee will also work with the Triangle Greenways Council and seek private landowners who may need assistance in wetland management as well as coordinate similar activities with Land Trusts.
6. Finance – This committee may coordinate workshops to raise funds for CarWA. CarWA can legally raise funds for services and materials if they are not the main source of funds for the organization. Other ideas (such as selling art work and other donations) were discussed as well. The Treasurer reported that CarWA had raised \$1,425 from 21 people, spent \$321.55 mostly on business cards and membership in the NC Center for Non-Profits with a balance of \$1,103.45.
7. Development – The CarWA website has been established but content is needed. A donation link will be added. A Facebook page has also been set up. Bios of Board members and photos may be needed but will be sought from Board members as needed. There are two members of the Committee with Social Media experience who will help develop materials.

Other Business

The Triangle Greenways Council was established in 1982 according to Bill Flourney who is currently the President. Its original role was education/advocacy which has morphed into land management since the mid-1990's. They manage about 750 acres in Durham, Wake, and Johnston Counties. The property is mostly riparian with extensive wetlands. The Council has a mandate to manage these lands before turning them over eventually to local government for long-term management. Members of the Science Committee have offered to assist. John Dorney will contact Bill Flourney to set up a date to visit the sites probably in October before leaf fall.

Curt Richardson asked if CarWA would be interested in preparing letters of support for various grant applications by various entities. The general thought of the Board was to support these efforts on a case-by-case basis with formal Board approval. He also noted that the Duke Wetland Center could list CarWA on their website. Curt also noted that various Foundations (such as the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation) could be contacted to see if they are interested in helping CarWA get established with a block/seed grant. He will send a list of such organizations to Rick Savage.

Amy Keyworth discussed the issue of how to get citizens involved in supporting wetlands similar to the support that the Chesapeake Bay receives in several states surrounding the Bay. It was noted that local champions would be needed to support that effort in addition to organizations like CarWA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Minutes prepared by John Dorney, Secretary

September 27, 2015