

Minutes – Carolina Wetlands Association
Board of Directors meeting – March 21, 2016.
Duke Wetland Center, Durham, NC

Board members Present:

Rick Savage, President

Steve Rebach, Vice President

Curt Richardson

John Dorney, Secretary

Kim Matthews

Laura England (phone)

Diane Greenfield (phone)

Chad Guthrie

Also Present:

Ginny Baker-Daniels (phone)

Amin Davis

Neal Flanagan

Bill Flournoy

George Matthis

Grace Lawrence (phone)

The meeting started at 7:10 pm after John Dorney spent some quality time wandering the wilderness that is Duke Campus looking for a safe place to park and then locating the class room. The meeting then started with introductions. The January 25, 2016 minutes were adopted unanimously. Meeting dates for 2016 are as follows: May 16, July 18, September 19, and November 21. Time and location 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 as these locations.

Rick discussed a meeting he recently attended with the Southern Environmental Law Center and citizen's groups regarding the I-540 southern extension project. Other attendees at the meeting were opposed to the project due to their belief that there were cheaper and more practical alternatives with less wetland impact. In response to a question from the CarWA Board meeting, Rick was not certain whether the Merger Minutes had been consulted for the project but will relay that issue back to the SELC and other attendees. With respect to a CarWA position, Steve and John agreed to schedule a Policy Committee meeting to sort out what types of issues CarWA should (and should not) be involved

in. SELC expressed interest in having CarWA assist them on various policy issues to help bridge the science and policy gap.

Rick then discussed a meeting he attended at Duke with respect to resilience and climate change. As well as a meeting with Lydia Olander from Duke with respect to ecosystem services. Various attendees discussed the Duke student meeting on wetlands on March 4 and all agreed that CarWA should approach Duke (and other universities) to partner on a similar effort next year. Reptile and Amphibian Day at the NC Natural Science Museum was successful and CarWA's participation was appreciated. Finally, Rick discussed the WRRRI conference that he attended and participated in on behalf of CarWA.

Committee Reports:

1. Executive – The 501 (c)(3) application is almost ready to go after one more final round of review by the UNC Law Clinic. Basically, we are waiting on the UNC Clinic mentor to sign off on the document and then it can be submitted to the IRS. Turnaround is likely to be 3 to 6 months but could be less depending on the IRS workload. The Committee recommends that we use the state fiscal year schedule (July 1 to June 30) for our fiscal year calendar and since no one objected, that motion passed. The Committee suggested that we prepare a token of appreciation (Dinner vouchers maybe?) to give to the students to thank them for their help. Laura Murray has resigned from the Board due to delays in her move to SC and other commitments. Rick is collecting names for possible SC Board members to replace her. For future Board meetings, it might be useful to have guest speakers from other partner groups so we can better understand how we may all be able to interact.
2. Program – Amin Davis reported on this Committee's February 15 meeting. Plans for the "Wetland Treasures" are moving along toward National Wetlands Month in May (please see the addendum to the end of these minutes for details). We will have three locations (Biedler Forest in SC, as well as Phelps Lake and Mason Farm in NC) and all locations have agreed to participate. There will be fact sheets for each of the sites, as well as led field trips. Publicity is key to good participation. Mike Schafele has agreed to review the fact sheets for the NC sites. An insurance waiver will be needed and John Dorney will provide one that he has used for other classes. John offered to contact Susan MAssengale (retired from DWR) to see if she will volunteer to help organize the publicity effort. The tentative launch date for the event would be the first week of April. Board members are urged to attend the Wetland Treasure events across the states.

Alvin Braswell is working on a general presentation on wetlands with an emphasis on reptiles and amphibians especially vernal pools. Members have agreed to help him.

Karen Hall is working on a financial needs assessment for the Program Committee and will present it when complete.

3. Science – Ginny Baker announced that they will schedule a meeting soon for early May.
4. Regional Coordinators, Stakeholders, Landowners, and Community Involvement – This committee is led by Carrie Caviness and Lindsay Smart and met on March 23rd at NCSU. The overall goal of this Committee is to increase participation beyond the existing contact locations. The Committee name will be shortened.

5. Finance –On behalf of Kristie, John Dorney reported that our net balance is \$2,028.52 as of March 10th. The effort to raise additional money for the 501 (c) (3) filing was successful.
6. Advisory Committee – Grace Lawrence reported that the Committee will meet in April and will report back to the Board after that time. The Committee will review goals and consider coordination our effort with things such as Big Sweep in Wake County (since the statewide effort ended due to lack of funding).
7. Development – Kim Matthews reported that the webpage and newsletter are in great shape and sent out regularly. There are two newsletters – a short, quasi-weekly newsletter with news items and events and then a longer, monthly newsletter with committee reports, future events, and feature articles.. Members are urged to send good articles to Rick or Kim for posting on our Facebook site..
8. Policy Committee – this newly established Committee is led by Steve Rebach with John Dorney and Chad Guthrie as members and will meet soon. Other individuals who may be interested in the Policy Committee include Grady McCallie, Matt Starr, Julie DeMester, and Meredith Gibbs.

Other Business

The establishment of an annual retreat (half day probably) was discussed and the Board will discuss this idea at more length at a later meeting. The Board could sign the required conflict of interest statements at this meeting among other things. Out of town Board members may need to have their expenses paid.

The next Board meeting is on May 16 probably at NCSU.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by John Dorney, Secretary

Addendum to the Minutes from Laura England

WETLAND TREASURES UPDATE—LAUNCH DATE APRIL 5th

FACT SHEETS

- Landowner permission secured for all 5 sites
- Draft fact sheet completed for all sites
- Amin working on locator maps for final fact sheets
- Amin, Rick & Stratford (& Mike Schafale) will provide feedback on fact sheets by Monday March 28th
- Laura will finalize and send to Kim for web posting by April 1st

FIELD TRIPS

- Working on confirming logistics with property owners and field trip leaders
- Recruited coordinator/host for each trip and prepared some tools for them (registration spreadsheet, draft language to use in communicating with registrants by email, and draft language to use for an opening at the field trip)
- Laura coordinating Beidler: Sun, May 1, 1-3, led by Audubon naturalist (\$5)
- Amin coordinating Phelps Lake: Sat, May 14 10-12, led by Neal F?
- Stratford coordinating Mason Farm: Sat, May 21? Time?, led by Allison W. and another person?

PUBLICITY—to launch the program and recruit participants

- Project webpage was posted a few weeks ago
- Laura will work with Kim to post FT details on website by April 1st
- Laura will work with Kim to post FT details in e-newsletter at beginning of April
- Regional Coordinators Committee is looking into local orgs and avenues to publicize for each trip
- Rick and Laura will work on press release—Q: Who will distribute? John will contact Susan Massengale (who might help)
- Rick will send info through statewide partner groups
- MeetUps, Native Plant Society

HELP NEEDED

- Liability waiver—can someone draft one for us to use for all field trips?—Chad Guthrie and John Dorney will supply prototype.
- Need one more CarWA representative to commit to going on each trip (carpool potential)

- Spread the word to friends and local organizations!