

**Minutes – Carolina Wetlands Association**

**Board of Directors meeting – January 25, 2016.**

**NCSU, Weaver Labs- Administration Building, Raleigh, NC**

**Board members Present:**

**Rick Savage, President**

**Steve Rebach, Vice President**

**Kristie Gianopulos, Treasurer**

**John Dorney, Secretary**

**Kim Matthews**

**Laura England (phone)**

**Curt Richardson (phone)**

**Dianna Greenfield (phone)**

**Chad Guthrie**

**Also Present:**

**Mike Verpraskas**

**Stratford Kay**

**Amy Keyworth**

**Cam McNutt**

**Mike Burchell**

**Amin Davis**

**Grace Lawrence**

**Ginny Baker**

**Glenn Catts**

**Meredith Gibbs (phone)**

**Robert Truesdale (phone)**

**Carrie Canviness (phone)**

**Anthony Scarbraugh**

The meeting started at 6:45 pm with introductions. The November 16, 2015 minutes were adopted unanimously. Meeting dates for 2016 are as follows: January 25, March 21, 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. Therefore, the next meeting will probably be in Durham, NC at Duke University.

It was announced that CarWA t-shirts are now available for sale along with bumper stickers. Rick announced that he met with Grady McCallie, NC Conservation League and that a follow-up meeting was planned with Grady and the Policy Committee of CarWA. Rick thought that the South Atlantic Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists might be a useful relationship for us to pursue and Curt Richardson agreed. Similarly, Rick talked about discussions he has had with the Association of State Wetland Managers about organizing the existing state wetland non-profit groups in NC, OH, MI, WI and OR. Finally, Rick noted that the EPA will present the results of the National Wetland Condition Assessment at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh this summer as well as a webinar in June on wetland monitoring.

#### Committee Reports:

1. Executive – This Committee did not meet since our November meeting.
2. Program – Amin Davis reported on this Committee's activities. He reported on the "Wetland Treasures" initiative and stated that this May we will honor some of the highest quality wetlands in NC and SC. An initial list of 10 sites has been narrowed to five or six sites as follows – Antioch Bay in NC, Green Swamp in NC, Phelps Lake in NC, Mason Farm (Big Oak Woods) in NC and Frances Biedler Swamp in SC (which is also a RAMSAR site). We will need more SC sites next year as well as mountain sites. The Committee is now securing landowner support for the designations. For logistics and field trips, member support and participation will be needed probably on Sunday afternoons (May 1, 15 and/or 22). Publicity will be important as well. Insurance waivers will need to be signed. Since there are three dates, the Committee may only recommend three sites for this year. May is National Wetlands Month and these designations will reinforce that declaration as well. The Committee plans to have activities outside Raleigh as well as in Raleigh to increase our geographic scope. February 2<sup>nd</sup> is World Wetlands Day and Rick will participate in an event at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center in Raleigh. Stratford announced that the CarWA brochure is now in final draft. A copy was distributed for review at the meeting. As a result, he will need to add a line that states "tax deductible status pending" as well as citations for the photos.
3. Science – Ginny Baker announced that the Committee met on January 14, 2016 as an organizational meeting. There will be information on our shared drive regarding relevant recent research with an eventual link to our website. The Committee plans to meet with Bill Flournoy at the next meeting to discuss helping the Triangle Greenways Council with some wetland management-related issues on property that they own. An April or May site visit may be in the offing. The Committee will serve a QA/QC function for Mike Burchell's EPA Wetland Program Development Grant on wetland monitoring. The Committee hopes we can serve as a Clearinghouse for folks looking for wetland expertise for a variety of reasons.

A future conference would also be a beneficial idea. A Doodle Poll will be sent soon to schedule the next meeting.

4. Regional Coordinators, Stakeholders, Landowners, and Community Involvement – This committee is led by Carrie Canviness and is just getting started. The Committee name will be shortened. A meeting will be scheduled for February or early March. James Graham was the chair but has since moved to Illinois. The main goal of the Committee is to expand CarWA beyond the Triangle.
5. Finance –The Treasurer reported that CarWA had a balance of \$1,539.66 from 2015. So far, we have received \$148.40 for 2016 with expenses of \$65.66 (post office box and credit card fee) for a new balance of \$1,622.50. Recurring charges are \$5 per month from Wells Fargo and \$41 every six months for the post office box. T-shirts are available for \$25 each (including set up costs) and bumper stickers are \$6 each.
6. Development – Kim Matthews reported that this Committee has made updates to the web page and our Facebook site. Anyone with suggestions should send them to Kim Matthews. Our Facebook page has 118 “likes” so far. The newsletter will also link to the website and to a donation campaign to raise funds focused on the 501(c) (3) application. As we get closer to events, members should try to “share” the event with others to increase awareness. Eventually we’ll have a Linked In profile too. Grant opportunities are being organized in a spreadsheet. For instance, the Enviva Forest Conservation Fund may be an opportunity to work with the Town of Wendell to preserve a cypress swamp near the Town. Curt Richardson will provide a list of potential Foundations to Rick in the next few weeks which may be useful to CarWA. He also noted that there will be a Wetland Conference at Duke on March 21 and that CarWA may be able to be a host in the future.
7. Policy Committee – this newly established Committee is led by Steve Rebach with John Dorney and Chad Guthrie as members. The Committee will have its first meeting soon with Grady McCallie.

Other Business: Chad discussed the role of the Compliance Officer that he is assuming. This position will address any Whistle Blower concerns, potential conflicts of interest, and related ethical issues. His role was approved unanimously by the Board. The 501(c)(3) application is under final review by the UNC Law Clinic and should be ready to send out shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by John Dorney, Secretary