

# **Minutes of the January 23, 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Carolina Wetlands Association**

**Meeting held at RTI International, Research Triangle Park, NC from 6:30 to 8:05**

Attending in person: John Dorney, Chad Guthrie, Robert Truesdale, Amin Davis, Kristie Gianopulos, Heather Clarkson, Rick Savage

Attending on the phone: Steve Rebach, Stratford Kay, Laura England, Kristine Cherry, Kim Matthews, Dan Hitchcock, Frank Henning, Jacob Oblander, Ginny Baker

Minutes from the November 14 Board meeting will be approved at the March 20 meeting.

Heather Clarkson, Defenders of Wildlife, was added to the agenda.

Jacob Oblander of the Lower Savannah River Alliance, gave a talk about the organization which is nonpartisan/nonpolitical, educational, very involved in Ecotourism, and talked about their various campaigns. The Lower Savannah River Alliance is interested in becoming an affiliate.

Heather Clarkson talk about the Defenders of Wildlife, how they are excited about Carolina Wetlands and our joint effort in the Wetland Forest Initiative. Heather feels there are definite opportunities to work together.

## Committee Reports

### **Program Committee (Amin Davis and Stratford Kay):**

- Last meeting was Oct. 17 and the next meeting is Feb. 20.
- Amin Davis is working on Wetland Service Icons.
- Alvin Braswell wants volunteers to review the Freshwater Wetlands issue of Wildlife in Carolina magazine (1995) to see what references/links/etc. are out of date or needs updating, he wants to produce an errata for the issue so we can give it out at events.
- Laura England talked about the 5 nominated Wetland Treasures for May 2017
  - Scuppernong and Congaree have not responded but Amin and Frank Henning will help,
  - Kanuga Bog, Robertson Mill Pond, and Hobcaw Barony have accepted,
  - Fact sheets and Field trips need to be worked on,
  - Hope to have all acceptances by March 1, and
  - By April 1 have the field trips lined up.

### **Science Committee (Ginny Baker Daniel and Robert Truesdale):**

- Site surveys completed for several of the Triangle Greenways Council's properties,
- Form for Site Surveys developed by Ginny will be sent out for review,
- Wetlands 101 has been reviewed by Alvin Braswell and Neil Flannigan,

- Wetlands 101 will next be reviewed by John Dorney, Rick Savage, and Mike Burchell and Steve Bydal,
- Heather Patti has agreed to format the document for publication.
- Functions and Goals
  - Still a work in progress
  - Kristine Cherry – need to promote good science and point out good science papers/research (detailed comments send to Ginny)
  - Comments on the Science Committee functions and goals are due by Feb. 15
  - Rick made the comment that decision about the goals and functions should NOT be based on capacity, that if it is important, then we will get a grant to do it.
  - Kristine Cherry also suggested a top 5 most wanted poster for Research.
  - ESII – ecosystem services tool presentation is Jan. 31 at 4:00 – Robert Truesdale is the contact for the recording and presentation slides (James Graham was the original source of this information).

**Policy Committee (Steve Rebach and John Dorney):**

- Has defined the Affiliate program, both in terms of CarWA being an affiliate with another organization and with an organization being an affiliate with CarWA
- Board member selection process needs to be defined
- Board Member terms need to be determined (Rick)
- Policy for managing grants in terms of paying staff or hiring staff need to be defined

**Development Committee (Kim and Rick):**

- Business Plan/Strategy Plan status – Kim and Rick are reading two books on nonprofit strategy planning and nonprofit business planning by the same author. Rick is working on a draft of the strategy plan with Kim and will submit to the Business/Strategy Plan Task Force soon. A new timeline needs to be developed.
- Kim developed a member survey to gather information about skills and interests of our supporters so that their talents can be called upon.
- Grant Task Force (Steve and Rick)
  - Still some research needs to be done (Lizzy Cawley-Stokes has summarized some grant potentials).
  - Will apply for a Wetland treasures Grant.
  - Citizen Science Grant (with Nature Serve, New River Conservancy, and River Network) was approved and CarWA will get \$14000 over two years.
  - Other possible grants are being identified.
- Filing of NC and SC forms (Chad and Kristie)
  - Is complete for both states (forms to doing business in SC and defining CarWA as a charitable organization in NC).
  - Lundie Spence and her address is the SC office of CarWA

**Regional Coordinators and Stakeholder Engagement Committee (Carrie Caviness and Stacey Feken):**

- Have a new proposal for reorganizing the committee as a subcommittee under both the Science Committee and the Program Committee.
- Plan has been written up by Carrie Caviness and sent to the two committee Co-Chairs.
- Board may vote on the changes at the next Board meeting

**Finance Committee (Kristie Gianopulos):**

- Kristie gave financial report
- Balance \$2402.52
- A handout was provide that summarized the finances and is attached to the minutes

Meeting with the SC Board members (Rick)

- Met Diane Greenfield, Dan Hitchcock, and Lundie Spence in Charleston.
- Met Frank Henning at Congaree.
- Got good feedback about relationships between SC and NC Board.
- Got good comments on Business Plan.
- Future Visits will happen and meet SC contacts.

Wetland Forest Initiative (Rick)

- Meeting in Charleston of Steering Committee
  - 20+ organization make up the Steering Committee (TNC, Defenders, NRDC, Sierra, Audubon, various Forest organizations, CarWA, etc.). Complete list is on the WFI web page.
  - Mission statement formed and agreed upon.
  - Vision statement and Principles stated and agreed upon.
  - Press release on Feb. 2, World Wetland Day.
- Chad Guthrie is on the Governance Work group.
- Lizzy Cawley-Stokes is on the Research Work Group.

Other Business/items:

- Heather Patti and Amin Davis are attending the next meeting of the NC Association of Environmental Professionals where a state officials will present proposed changes to the General 401 Water Quality Certifications.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be March 20, 6:30, at NCSU.

Adjourn