

# **Minutes of the September 18, 2017 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Carolina Wetlands Association**

**Meeting held at RTI International from 6:30 to 8:00 pm**

Attending in person: John Dorney, Curt Richardson, Rick Savage<sup>1</sup>, Kristie Gianopulos, Jim Merchant, Ginny Baker Daniels, George Matthis, Chad Guthrie, Stratford Kay, Robert Truesdale.

Attending on the phone: Dan Hitchcock, Kristine Cherry, Alvin Braswell. Kim Matthews.

The minutes from the July meeting were approved unanimously after corrections to the dollar amount of \$3,451.45 for the amount of donations received.

Rick announced that he and Kim attended the ceremony where CarWA received the affiliate of the year award from the NC Wildlife Federation with a plaque signed by Governor Cooper

## **Committee Reports**

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

The Committee announced that the Wetlands 101 narrative has been completed and is posted on our website. Minutes will be coming soon from the Waters of the US/Confined Animal Operations meeting held at NCSU in June.

### **Program Committee (Stratford Kay):**

The Enloe High School student (Eisha Desai) who attended the last Board meeting is working with Program Committee members to coordinate activities with local high schools and the Walnut Creek Wetland Center in Raleigh.

The Wetland Treasures initiative is now considering sites for next year. Possible sites include Sparkleberry Swamp in SC once agreement is obtained from Santee Cooper in SC, Hemlock Bluffs Park in Cary, NC, Black River Swamp in NC, Beech Creek bog in NC and sites in the Croatan National Forest in NC. A second SC site will need to be found.

The March WRRRI conference in Raleigh will have two wetland sessions organized by CarWA. Possible tours as well include the SWAMP site at Duke University (Curt Richardson) and constructed wetlands at Walnut Grove, NC (Mike Burchell). Duke will have an internationally known wetland speaker on October 4 and Rick will send out an announcement to members.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that Rick's term on the Board has ended. However, a provision in the Bylaws allows him to continue to serve on the Board until his position is filled.

### **Nominations Committee (John Dorney):**

The Committee met on September 25 to begin its work. There will be another meeting in October after the initial work is done to find individuals interested in serving on the Board. The Committee will have recommendations including biosketches for the Board to consider on our November meeting.

### **Finance Committee (Kristie Gianopulos):**

Kristie gave financial report. At the end of 2016, we had \$3,501.45 in donations and our end of year balance was \$681.27. So far for this fiscal year, we have received donations of \$831.64 with a net balance of \$626.36.

A **Sustainability and Organizational Task Force** was established by unanimous vote of the Board. This Task Force will focus on finishing the Strategic and Business Plans and also discuss a process to move CarWA forward with a focus on sustainability in terms of management, seed minutes. There was general agreement that CarWA needed to continue its efforts on science-based action, and education/outreach. In addition, a general discussion about the future direction of CarWA revolved around two possible directions for the organization: 1) Advocacy versus 2) Impartiality. These directions are not necessarily mutually exclusive depending on the issue but often can be different, exclusive approaches with different revenue streams. There was general agreement that a science-based advocacy approach was best. The Task Force will discuss these approaches and bring them to discuss at the Board Retreat in October. Another issue to consider is whether to become a dues-based organization in order to raise money. It was decided to have the Wetland Calendars event every other year rather than annually.

The Board Retreat will be on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm but the location will be changed to Raleigh rather than the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge. Refreshments and lunch will be provided on site. Kim and Rick are planning the retreat with the main focus expected to be on the Strategic and Business Plan. Board members and Committee Chairs are urged to attend. The Board unanimously approved this modified location and time for the Board Retreat. The Retreat will focus on a few broad issues such as 1) advocacy versus impartiality, and 2) what should CarWA be known for? It will be important for the future of CarWA to get some resolution for these issues at the Retreat.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be November 27, 2017 at a location to be announced starting at 6:30.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Minutes prepared on October 4, 2017 by John Dorney, Secretary.