

# **Minutes of the January 22, 2018 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Carolina Wetlands Association**

## **Meeting held at Cary Chamber of Commerce from 6:30 to 8:00 pm**

Attending in person: John Dorney, Rick Savage, Kristie Gianopulos, Jim Merchant, Ginny Baker Daniels, George Matthis, Chad Guthrie, Alvin Braswell, Kim Matthews, George Howard, Geoff Gisler, Cam McNutt, Amin Davis, Heather Patti.

Attending on the phone: Stratford Kay, Robert Truesdale, Kristine Cherry, Clint DeWitt, Eesha Desai, Emily Sutton (Haw River Assembly), Amy Stabler.

The minutes from the November 27, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Rick Savage was elected as President and Kim Matthews was elected as Vice-President, both unanimously.

Emily Sutton discussed the Muddy Waters Watch program that her group has started in Chatham County and now Orange County and which will soon expand to Durham and Wake Counties. The overall purpose of the program is to increase awareness of sedimentation and turbidity in streams and to provide actionable information via a smart phone app to the relevant regulatory agencies (state or local). Notice of the program will be placed in the CarWA Newsletter.

The Board Retreat was next discussed. Two groups established by the Retreat will soon meet to discuss 1) Core Competencies led by Rick, and 2) Sustainability led by Chad.

The third action item from the Retreat was to develop an Advocacy Policy. John Dorney reported that the Policy Committee had met and developed a draft policy. He then led a discussion of the draft policy and gathered changes to take back to the Policy Committee to revise the Guidelines. The Policy Committee will meet in February and bring a revised policy back to the Board at their next meeting (March). Chad suggested that the Policy Committee also develop a companion document with more precise policies to be reviewed and approved by the Board after the Advocacy Policy is approved. The Policy Committee will also develop this document.

Cam McNutt announced that CarWA has now set up an ESRI account for ArcGIS activities. He'll work with the appropriate Committees to link our website up with this account but may ask for help in this process.

### **Committee Reports**

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

CarWA will be a sponsor at the March 2018 WRRRI meeting in Raleigh with an exhibit. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$250 for this purpose.

**Program Committee (Stratford Kay):**

Wetland Treasures for this year in NC will be the Pink Beds in the Pisgah National Forest, Hemlock Bluffs in Cary, and the Black River in Sampson County. SC sites will probably include the Santee-Cooper Sparkleberry Swamp and the Lewis Ocean Bay Preserve pending resolution of final details.

Eeshi discussed on going youth efforts.

Alvin discussed the forthcoming Amphibian and Reptile Day at the Natural Science museum in Raleigh on March 17. He will need volunteers again to help at the CarWA booth. George Matthis and Rick offered to help line up volunteers.

Mike Burchell will lead a constructed wetland tour of a site in NE North Carolina in March.

**Policy Committee (John Dorney):**

The Committee met and developed the draft Advocacy Guidelines and will meet in February to revise them before the March Board meeting.

**Finance Committee (Kristie Gianopulos):**

Kristie gave financial report. We have a balance of \$2,767.77. Copies of the financial statement were provided. The giving campaign from last year was successful. This year (2018) we'll have a calendar event again in place of the magnet from this year.

A Ramsar Work Group was established to begin the process of establishing a Ramsar Wetland in NC. Curt Richardson will be asked to serve on the committee along with John Dorney, Kristie Gianopulos, George Howard, Rick Savage, and perhaps Mike Schafele.

Rick gave a brief report on the Citizen Science Grant on which he is working as a private contractor.

Amin and Chad will attend a Grant Writing workshop on behalf of CarWA and Rick, and Kim (with Chad as a backup) will attend a Board Training workshop. Summary reports will be prepared from these efforts.

A brief discussion was then held on the Wetland Forest Initiative. There will be a summer meeting probably in Raleigh.

The Board decided unanimously to renew our memberships in the NC Conservation Network and the SC Conservation Coalition.

In other business, a Pisces Foundation grant will probably be sought with the Walnut Creek Community Partnership, NCSU, and local stakeholders with CarWA as the possible applicant. This work would seek to develop a watershed plan on the Walnut Creek watershed. The Letter

of Interest is due January 29 with the grant application due February 26. CarWA's role is unclear but the organization may generate some funds for overhead expenses.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be March 19, 2018 at a location to be announced starting at 6:30.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Minutes prepared on January 29, 2018 by John Dorney, Secretary. Revised version prepared April 2, 2018