

## Carolina Wetland Association

### Board of Directors Meeting October 1 (rescheduled from September 17), 2018

#### Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Restoration Systems, 1101 Haynes St, Raleigh, NC 27604

#### Attendees:

In person: Rick Savage, George Matthis, Kristie Gianopulos, George Howard, Heather Clarkson, Kim Matthews

By phone: Heather Patti, Robert Truesdale, Dan Hitchcock, Kristine Cherry, Geoff Gisler

Guests: Eric Schmitz, Sarah Long

#### Business Meeting

Business Meeting called to order 6:40pm

Approving meeting minutes of last board meeting from July 16 was postponed, because Geoff Gisler had made very recent changes that needed to be reviewed.

Role of the Executive Committee attachment was discussed – this statement was developed because the CarWA has been getting more requests for sign-ons and position papers, which the Executive Committee has to act quickly on. The statement defines the Executive Committee and outlines how they will deal with issues like these on behalf of the entire board. It was stated that the Executive Committee would include decisions into reports to the board. Kim Matthews motioned that this statement be sent to the Policy Committee, Heather Clarkson seconded. This is to make sure the statement is consistent with the bylaws and policies.

Financial report given by Kristie Gianopulos: Net this year - \$272.15, Overall net from all years \$3420.40, calendar fundraiser coming, should raise \$1700

#### Committee Reports:

Program Committee – wetland treasures should be selected by next board meeting

#### Policy Committee

- WakeNature Preserves Partnership has a Memorandum of Understanding that has to be signed; they want us to join their network/group
- Want to make the advocacy policy a little less formal; Chad G thinks it's too restrictive. Rick has some things that he wants added.

#### Focus of the Board:

- Chad wants our board meetings to focus on how to make the mission happen and fundraising happen, discussion of each ensued
  - Mission:

- Dan Hitchcock will write an informal blog about flood storage of wetlands;
- the idea was raised of writing a white paper about 60 days after Hurricane Florence, including the fact that the Waters of the US Rule is rewritten to drastically reduce wetland protection;
- George Howard made the comment that people don't have a general landscape awareness (NC is #3 in wetland acreage)
- any changes to the speeches modifications that Geoff Gisler made were to be emailed by October 15<sup>th</sup>
- Fundraising:
  - Rick presented a general budget plan, Heather Clarkson asked for a short writeup description of each line item to lead better into proposal explanations;
  - we are still looking for more stable source of funding, then plan to go to the grant making entities; Kristine C., Chad G., Kim M. going to get together for planning this
- Annual Meeting/Networking Event:
  - working on getting keynote speaker, Derbe Carter at SELC was suggested; Geoff Gisler to contact him and get date available
  - can cover all cost ourselves or try to get sponsors; several venues were suggested, Kim Matthews will work on finding cost effective and available option
  - every board member needs to invite 5 people to the event; Kim will prepare email messages, there will be a registration website

Other: Board retreat moved to January

Business meeting adjourned at 7:49pm (Rick motioned, all in favor)

## **Staff Meeting**

Staff Meeting called to order 7:49pm

Annual Report (Kristie) – first “annual report” was written for 2015/2016, will change to biannual reports for these first years of the organization, so next report will be 2017/2018. Kristie needs a paragraph or 2 from each committee highlighting activities, George H will do a RAMSAR update

Annual Fundraising Campaign

- Annual Fundraising Campaign will be kicked off at the networking event
- Wetland Treasures calendars being printed soon, printing 100 and setting at \$25 donation for first, \$20 for any subsequent item (magnet, calendar, shirt)
- Engagement Plan – invitations to people for networking meeting, Heather Clarkson asked about a targeted email to consultants, etc., need to get some medium/small companies to put us on their annual giving list

Exploratory meeting with conservation groups (Chad; mission and fundraising)

- meeting hasn't happened yet; purpose is to open some doors, see if maybe we can work with/for them and get paid for services, to assess needs (service) of these group and identify potential partners
- Duke Energy Grant for <10K (Executive Committee says go for it, who will do it was not settled)
  - o some expressed concern (including Geoff Gisler) about accepting money from Duke with their pollution issues or if it came out that they had major wetland impacts from some activity
  - o Rick will send out a link of the startup grant description and list of who else has gotten these grants
- Suggested shortlist of groups:
  - o NC Conservation Trust (Caitlin Burke)
  - o State Director the Conservation Fund (Bob Homan)
  - o Coastal Land Trust (Camilla Herlevich)
  - o NC Coastal Federation (who)
  - o NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (Walter Clark)
  - o Kevin Brice Southeast Director of the Land trust

#### Mission effort

- Rick is working with committees (Science and Program) and workgroups, working on the mission
- Rick is encouraging board members to join committees
- Development committee needs a communications officer/social media/PIO person
- Rick working on a Who's Who of who is on board, committees, coordinators, etc. and plans to send it out

RAMSAR update – George Howard said Representative Jones is interested in seeing the draft nomination and application materials

Staff Meeting adjourned 8:09pm