

## Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Carolina Wetlands Association meeting

Nov. 16, 2020, 6:30pm

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attending:

**Board members:** Kim Matthews, Kristie Gianopulos, Norton Webster, George Matthis, Heather Clarkson, Daniel Hitchcock, Geoff Gisler, Rick Savage, Tara Allden

**Non-board members:** Kristine Cherry, Carrie Caviness, Virginia Daniel, Robert Truesdale

### 6:28 Call to Order (Kim)

- Approve agenda – Dan Hitchcock made motion to approved without wetland treasures design presentation, Rick S seconded, none objecting
- Approve minutes – Norton motioned to approve as written, Heather seconded, none objecting
- General Announcements – Geoff Gisler reminded everyone that today was the deadline for the new Nationwide permit revisions; not a positive change for wetland protection.
- Re: Clean Water Rule - In SC, at an IRT meeting, a presenter mentioned re-delineations in two cases where the impacts disappeared (Charleston district). Tara Allden said it's a big change, with areas she's delineating in SC.
- In NC, the state has proposed temporary rules to give people a mechanism to permit "non-jurisdictional" wetlands; this is going to the EMC next week.
- Kristine Cherry wanted everyone to be aware of a new project, providing recommendation memos to government on climate change: <https://climate21.org>

### 6:40 Budget for 2020 – Norton (financial report at end of minutes)

- Review the budget for 2020
  - Income YTD as of today: (without Rick's FB birthday donations - \$1115) – \$9,554.89
  - Expenses YTD – \$2851.00
  - Net income \$6,703.89
  - Current bank balance - \$11,252
- Review the budget for 2021
- Defer approval to Jan. 2021 to allow Executive Committee to review

### 6:55 Treasures update – Carrie Caviness

- Current list of Treasures – no one on the board is opposed to these 5 sites
  - Carolina Beach State Park (Coastal NC)
  - Weymouth Woods - Sandhills Nature Preserve (NC; hardwood swamps and a bog, full ecotone between longleaf upland and wetland communities)
  - Richardson Taylor Preserve (Guilford County Park, NC - headwater wetland; WSW)
  - Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve (SC) – southwest of Weymouth Woods; 9,000 acres of blackwater swamps, oxbow lakes

- Maybe can add Pickney Island Wildlife Refuge in Hilton Head, SC; salt marshes, isolated/basin wetlands
- Doing a bit fewer than other years because catching up from not being able to do tours; need to get more virtual tours done
- Want to get the sites locked down by first week in December; scheduling tours and access won't be tricky this year
- Tours for both 2020 and 2021 Wetland Treasures
  - What is the best way to do 10 wetland tours?
  - Suggestion to do 2021 tours in May/June – spread out the 2020 site tours through the year
    - 2020 sites: Brogden Bottomlands (NC), Panthertown Valley bog (NC), Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve (SC), Pocosin NWR (NC), Botany Bay Heritage Preserve (SC)
  - Works better if we have one person per hike leading/attending the tour. There is a short protocol/checklist that Carrie Caviness or Rachel Massa can make anyone aware of. Looking for volunteers to represent Carolina Wetlands Association these tours.
- Treasures logo – design is in process; committee is working on getting signs

#### **7:15 Fundraising and Giving Campaign – Kim**

- Annual Giving Campaign - November 15-December 15
  - ask at least 5 people to participate or share on their social media accounts
  - 150 calendars to reward people for a \$25+ donation
- 2021 Sponsorships.
  - Existing Sponsors - Kim working on contacting them
  - New Sponsors
    - Review letter from the board
    - Provide e-mail text  
(conservation organizations, outfitters/outdoor companies, EcoBot)
- We want Board members to ask sponsors
  - update the spreadsheet with who you ask
  - Norton will send invoices

#### **7:30 Environmental Enhancement Grant Rejection -- Rick**

- (Applied for \$38,000 for project planning for the Stony Run project)
- Questioned the organization ability to do the project based on the materials submitted
- Concerns about adequacy of proposed budget
- Concerns about limited available funds (because this is a reimbursement type grant)
- Geoff G. encourages not reading too much into this; it may be a bit hard to break into getting this funding. There was a lot of competition. Most of the money seems to be going to land acquisition organizations, and after that, tiny projects. This type of project may just not be something they are giving priority to/interested in.

Will be applying for funding/grant soon

- Coastal Federation funding – Swansboro applying to be a contractor, Carolina Wetlands would be project partner

- Land and Water Fund (used to be Clean Water Trust Fund) – a planning grant for Stony Run; applying for restoration funds would follow in the next grant cycle – RFP/letter of interest in early December, proposals due February.

#### **7:50 Board Retreat – Kim/Rick**

- We will conduct a poll to determine the format of the Board Retreat
  - Scheduled for February 20, 2021
  - Covid will probably be raging then
  - An in-person meeting may have to be moved further out into June (would still be a hybrid in person/virtual meeting)
  - Dan H. and Norton W. both want in person – an outside, covered venue would be great; let's go ahead and plan it, with understanding that we postpone it if needed. Still have a hybrid.
  - Kim M. will have some potential venues ready for January board meeting and some potential dates

#### **7:55 Other Topics**

- Have been getting a lot of volunteers wanting to join
- Working on a webinar/workshop on using wetlands in nature based solutions (February, 2 part workshop)
- Not forgetting about having Bill Mitch talk again at a Wetlands Matters event
- Science committee – planning to meet this Wed. 6:30p

#### **7:35pm Adjourn**

Dan H motioned to adjourn meeting, George M. seconded

## Financial Statement as of 11/15/2020

### Funds Balance as of 11/15/2020

PayPal* (pending)	\$ 2,707.54
First Citizens	\$ 8,544.46
Pending Obligations – None	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>
Total Funds Available	\$11,252.00

### Revenue

Facebook donations	\$ 1,115.00
Checks and Cash	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 1,115.00

### Expenditures Since 10/20/2020

Workpress	\$ 5.00
Alliance	<u>\$ 270.00</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ (275.00)
Net Income	<u>\$ 840.00</u>

\*Pending transfer to First Citizen checking account.