



C.O.R.A. Meeting Minutes January 2, 2024

The meeting was called to order by CORA President Terry Lewis in the lower courtroom at 7:00 PM. 5 board members were present with 11 absent. It was noted that “lots of sickness” was the culprit as per the low attendance.

Secretary Mark J. Tidwell led the invocation, called roll and read the December minutes. The minutes were accepted without change. Coy Crutchfield gave the treasurer’s report noting \$358.00 spent on newsletter publication and a \$1000.00 donation to Hunters for the Hungry.

No publicity, newsletter, trails, membership, fundraising or other reports were given.

Wildlife Officer Darrell England gave a report on the recent spate of elk poaching incidents. A suspect is awaiting a court date on the bull and cow poaching incident on the North Cumberland. There have been no breaks in the older case, or the discovery of a poached elk calf in Valley Creek on the Tackett Creek/Ed Carter WMA Unit.



TWRA personnel present (L-R): Darrel England, Wildlife Officer, Keith Thomas, NCWMA Manager, and Fred Jordan, Equipment Operator.

North Cumberland Manager Keith Thomas gave an update on the new elk program coordinator, Garrett Clevinger, and a new Off Highway Vehicle Officer, Stone Payne. The NCWMA now has a Sgt. and two officers for OHV enforcement. The long-

term goal would be to add 4 more dedicated OHV personnel and ideally have teams per 100 miles of trail.

Thomas continued saying that the OHV trails digital mapping initiative is now in the hands of the GIS employees for final tweaking. Actual field testing will be conducted in the near future. The ban on alcohol on the NCWMA is still an ongoing issue with a possible vote by the Tennessee Legislature in the near future. Due to a transfer, one Wildlife Officer position is vacant in Campbell County. Thomas discussed an “unpermitted” event which occurred on the NCMMA, at Royal Blue, involving a live band and a food truck. Deer harvest data was detailed on the NCWMA and associated units. So far, with a short segment of the season remaining, 328 deer have been harvested. Data by age and antler point was discussed. The antler restriction on the Tackett Creek/Ed Carter Unit was highlighted, with 94 percent of harvested bucks having 7-8 points. Hunter support has been overwhelming for the antler restriction on the unit. Thomas reports that many outstanding bucks have been harvested this season making for some happy hunters. On the New River Unit, two bucks are estimated at scoring over 160 inches. He is excited to see what the collection of “awesome data” and the next two years brings. Thomas has the goal of managing to provide “quality opportunity over just opportunity”.

County Litter Control Officer Glennis Monday updated the board on the Sheriffs Office project of placing OHV signage on Campbell County roadways. There will be two signs: NO OHV ALLOWED on unapproved roadways and NO OHV ALLOWED AFTER DARK on approved routes. All signage should be in place by mid-January.



CORA board members Glennis Monday and Mark J. Tidwell, January meeting.

The last topic of discussion concerned the renewal of CORA’s website domain and taking a look at getting the page up and running.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50PM.