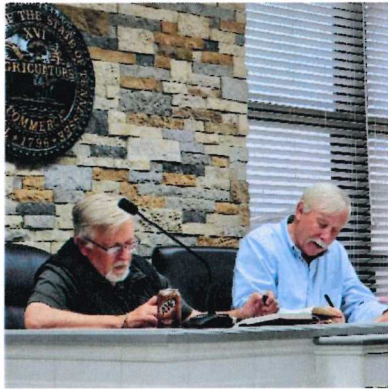




C.O.R.A. Meeting Minutes April 2, 2024



The meeting came to order at 7:06pm in the lower courtroom. Roll was called with 5 members present and 11 members absent. It is noted that severe weather was impacting the area so many did not chance travel due to the tornado warning(s). The March meeting had been cancelled due to the voting taking place at the courthouse, so the February minutes were read and accepted. Coy Crutchfield gave the treasurer's report.

In the publicity report: Bill Stanley spoke about upcoming invitations for public outreach to CORA from the Clear Fork Institute on Earth Day and the Cumberland Gap Trail Association on an as yet undetermined date.

As per the newsletter report, Tidwell asked for submittals so as to have an issue ready in June. Ron Lambert suggested contacting Steve Roark, retired forester, for a column submittal.

NCWMA Manager Thomas gave updates on the elk poaching cases. One case is deemed as solid and is proceeding through the court system. Evidence has surfaced in the other case and the investigation is ongoing. Thomas also spoke about the recently

passed alcohol ban on WMAs and the effective start date and enforcement measures to follow.

Garrett Clevinger, the new elk project coordinator, introduced himself and gave some background on his work. Clevinger, comes to TWRA from Kentucky. He was formerly the deer program manager. He wants to continue on the foundation of elk management built by Brad Miller, concentrating on habitat work and better understanding the population dynamics. Clevinger talked about the recent elk capture, with 19 cows being examined, all of which were pregnant. One of the 19 cows was a fatality during the capture event. Calf recruitment will be a part of the continuing, multifaceted elk studies.

The upcoming 20th Wounded Warrior Hunt was discussed by Terry Lewis. It will occur on April 27th. 18-20 hunters are currently slated to come. There are 6 more spots remaining that could be filled by Wounded Warriors. TWRA Director Jason Maxedon will be the keynote speaker and possibly guide one of the hunters at the event.

Ron Lambert spoke about The Nature Conservancy's conservation easements in both TN and KY. 58,000 acres in Kentucky will soon start to be managed in a similar manner to the Ed Carter/Tackett Creek WMA's 44,000 acres on the Tennessee side. In the future, a trail system will make travel possible all the way to Pineville, KY.

Bill Stanley gave a report on Postmark LaFollette's project to recognize five historic sites in Campbell County. They will all feature elk motif signage and kiosks. The meeting was dismissed at 8:00pm.



L-R: Jane Lewis, NCWMA Manager Keith Thomas and Garrett Clevinger, Elk Project Coordinator.