



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



CORA board members Tommy Overton (l) and Jason Vanover (r) on July 2nd.

Terry Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:05pm in the lower courtroom. Jason Vanover led the invocation followed by the roll call and reading of the June meeting minutes by Mark J. Tidwell. Coy Crutchfield gave the treasurer's report. For the publicity report a short discussion was held on the upcoming CORA barbeque in October, with press releases to be sent to WLAF and LaFollette Press. In the newsletter report, Mark J. Tidwell and Tommy Overton spoke to recent efforts to rework the ad section and engage with advertisers. Also, Overton spoke about an upcoming firearm raffle and the pricing of tickets for a fundraiser. With no further committee reports, the board entered into its annual election of board members and officers.

Homage was paid to two members "retiring" from the CORA board: Mike McAfee, an original member of the group from its inception 37 years ago and Glenn Massengill a member serving 30+ years. President Terry Lewis, and Chairman of the Board Bill Stanley, both spoke to the overall standing of the board and the significant progress it has made, and successes it has had on issues/projects over the last 2 years in particular.

Jason Vanover made the motion to retain the present slate of board members, with Bill Stanley as chairman, by acclamation. With a second by Tommy Overton, and a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Tommy Overton then made the motion to retain the current slate of officers by acclamation: President

Terry Lewis, Vice President Ronald Lambert, Secretary Mark J. Tidwell, and Treasurer Coy Crutchfield. With a second by Glennis Monday, and a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Only one name was submitted to fill one of the two vacant board positions left by McAfee and Massengill. Glennis Monday nominated Justin Jones, which was seconded by Sheriff Wayne Barton and followed by a unanimous vote. For the time being, the board will operate with one vacant seat.



Justin Jones takes a seat on the CORA Board.

With board elections concluded, the meeting then turned to commentary from those in the audience. There were a variety of issues and opinions expressed from those in attendance. From the possible closure of the Titus Hollow Road by the new owners of the Royal Blue chip mill, to OHV/hunter conflicts, to trail issues, to sizes of tires on OHVs, to the newly enacted alcohol ban on WMAs, discussions proved lively and passionate.

President Lewis reiterated what a special place the North Cumberland WMA is, reviewed some of its foundational history and the many challenges associated with it being a multi-use WMA with far reaching public appeal. Fred Walker and Sheriff Barton weighed in speaking about CORA's efforts, and effects, as an organization through the years.

President Lewis concluded the meeting by reading a letter from TWRA Executive Director Jason Maxedon. The Director conveyed details of some of the preliminary survey data, collected by a University of Tennessee study, as per NCWMA users. The meeting dismissed at 8:50pm.



A vocal audience was on hand on July 2nd, which led to extended discussions on many issues.