



## C.O.R.A. Meeting Minutes December 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order by CORA President Terry Lewis in the upper courtroom at a little after 7pm. 10 board members were present, 1 present via phone, with 5 absent.



Secretary Mark J. Tidwell led the invocation, called roll and read the November minutes. The minutes were accepted without change. Tidwell followed up with the newsletter report and had 300 copies of the December newsletter ready for distribution by Tommy Overton.

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

Tommy Overton gave an update on Hunters for the Hungry. He had made 10 pickups totaling 3,532 pounds, or enough for approximately 13,000 meals. The board voted to contribute \$1000.00 to TWF for Hunters for the Hungry.

TWRA's Joe Elkins discussed two elk poaching cases; the Dutch Valley case for which a substantial reward has still not led to any break in the case, and a new case in which a cow and bull elk were recently poached on the North Cumberland.

The discussion then turned to the tabling of the proposed OHV fee revision. (TWRA's John Mike, Joe

Elkins, Rusty Dunn, T. J. Sexton, and Fred Jordan were present.) The TWRA has hired a professor to look into the "human dimension" and other aspects of OHV users on the North Cumberland. Surveys are planned to ascertain hard data on user numbers, etc. It is hoped that with some information mining, that the best balance concerning permit fees, investment back into the North Cumberland, and accommodation of various end users can be reached.

Justin Jones, of "Ride Royal Blue," spoke optimistically about a good solution being reached. He reported receiving good responses from all the contacts he had made.

Sheriff Wayne Barton detailed the Campbell County Sheriffs Department coming initiative on educating OHV riders on OHV legal routes and hours of operation. This will be accomplished through signage along roadways. The proliferation of bed and breakfast rentals catering to OHV users is causing confusion among riders and resulting in complaints from citizens. From many rental properties there is/are no approved, legal OHV routes from which to reach the trailheads. Sheriff Barton is also optimistic that things will work out as to this situation.

John Mike mentioned a situation in Powell Valley concerning a trail used to access the Ed Carter/Tackett Creek Unit. The actual trail does not involve TWRA Wildlife Management Area property or right-of-way. The access, known as "Pudge's", involves a private tract(s) and illegal access to and through state park property. There is currently no legal access to the Ed Carter Unit from Powell Valley.

With no further discussions from the CORA board, TWRA, or the audience, the meeting was dismissed.

