

CASTELL AREA WMA - *helping property owners enhance the quality of white-tail deer through proven wildlife and habitat management practices. What you do on your property does make a difference!*

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2017

Present: Charles Birk, Barry & Judy Box, Iva Galindo, Chris & Teri Gary, Clyde & Leatrice Haley, Dale & Patty Haner, Georgia Munson, Terry Obermiller, Larry Otto, Mike & Tina Phillips, David Reitz, and Glen Schnieder

Absent: Drucilla Banner, Jim Banner, Martin Dye, Donald Durst, Vernon & Frances Evers, Joni Farr & Vernon Zuercher, Jr, Bill George, Rick Grinnan, Dewey Helmcamp, Sterling Howry, Henry Lang, Randy Leifeste, Jason Martin, Mark & Vikki Medley, Derek Naiser, Art & Shirlean Patterson, Roger Randall, Gregg Russell, Nancy & Joe Stratta, Rick & Pat Vint, John Williams, and Sam Wilson

Guests: Justin Barnes, Sabrina Galindo, Bill and Linda Gullede

Hunters: Alan and Xander Johnson, Austin Ptomey, Mike and Libby Holt

Board Members: Joyce Lucas, Kevin Weaver, and Candy Obermiller

Advisor: Dale Schmidt, TPWD Technician

Next meeting: **October 14, 2017**, 1:00 PM, Castell Trinity Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

1. Welcome

Ms. Lucas welcomed 21 members, 5 hunters, and 4 guests to our first pot luck meeting. Ms. Lucas collected the harvest logs/jawbones while Ms. Obermiller set up for the pot luck. We were delighted to have so many of our newer members present as well as hunters and guests. Positive energy filled the room.

2. Introductions and Acknowledgements

Ms. Lucas recognized our newest members: Rich and Georgia Munson, Russell Pantermuehl, Ray and Nancy Bearden. Two of our members have been moved to the inactive list for failure to pay the annual dues.

Thanks to all who contributed the delicious food we enjoyed consuming. Without the help of Ms. Obermiller, the pot luck would not have been the success we experienced. Many thanks to her, Ms. Gary, Ms. Haley and others who helped with set up and cleanup.

3. Harvest/Jawbone Collection.

Compared to past years we had an excellent response. Congratulations and sincere thanks to everyone who turned in your harvest log and jawbones, a major responsibility of being a member of the WMA. Likewise, you who lease for hunting have the additional privilege of paying a reduced price for your lease license. Below is a recap by Survey Route.

Route 404: 9 Members

Lease (4): Three out of four turned in. The hunters on the missing property sent me their log but indicated they didn't know they were to save the jawbones. Hopefully, this has been a learning experience for them and the property owner.

Do not lease (5): Of those who hunt for personal use, one had harvested and collected but was unable to return to Llano to turn in. Another, member did not harvest anything this year and so advised Ms. Lucas.

Route 106/105: 11 members

Lease (3): Two out tree turned in. One owner said the hunters didn't keep the jawbones but they were working on a solution for next year.

Do not lease (8): Of those who hunt for personal use, one indicated he had not harvested any.

Route 405: 16 members

Lease (7): Only three out of seven turned in and one of those didn't turn in a 100% of their jawbones. No information for the remaining four. Ms. Lucas will attempt to obtain more information.

Do not lease (9): Of those who hunt for personal use, two turned in their jawbones.

Route 104: 8 members

Lease: (3): Two out of three turned in. One member indicated he couldn't find his. Again hopefully, he will be able to correct this problem next year.

Do not lease: (5): No information

4. Messrs. Schmidt and Weaver: Aging Jawbones – Hands on Experience

Mr. Schmidt handed out information to use to determine the age and reviewed the major factors to consider when determining the age of a harvested deer. Attendees formed small groups and Messrs. Schmidt and Weaver passed out the jawbones that had been collected for them to practice their aging skills. Everyone eagerly participated and the room was buzzing. Messrs. Schmidt and Weaver were extremely helpful answering questions and assisting when asked.

5. Financial Report/Business

Business will be covered in the October meeting.

A recap of our current financial standing: As of 31 March total funds in our account are \$1036.29; \$324.28 in checking; 712.01, savings.

6. Night surveys

Ms. Lucas, Messrs. Schmidt, Weaver, and Obermiller met following the meeting and discussed conducting the required surveys. Prior to adjournment Ms. Lucas and Mr. Weaver expressed the need for volunteers, invited members to sign up, and commented that it is a good learning experience.

Since most of the volunteers are not local, Ms. Lucas will send out a separate message to those who have expressed interest and ask for their availability and provide this to the survey leaders.

It continues to be a challenge to conduct the required night surveys. Every year we are required to conduct three surveys on each route (4) during the period August 1 and September 30. The surveys begin one hour after sunset and take about 2 – 3 hours. There must be at least one week between surveys. Five members to a team are preferred.

Survey routes and leader(s):

Route 404 (3 miles) **& 106/105** (4.2) (Total: 7.2 miles): Larry Otto and Kevin Weaver

Route 405 (7.6 miles): Terry "Obie" Obermiller

Route 104 (5.1 miles): Need volunteer

7. Wrap-up

Our next meeting will be at the same place on 14 October 2017 at 1:00 PM. Please mark your calendars **now**. The agenda will be a harvest report on for the 2016-17 season and harvest recommendations for the 2017-18 season.

Joyce S Lucas

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Presiding Governing Board Member