

CASTELL AREA WMA

Helping property owners enhance the quality of white-tail deer through proven wildlife and habitat management practices.

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2017

Present: Charles Birk, Joni Farr, Iva Galindo, Leatrice and Clyde Haley, Dale and Patty Haner, Terry (Obie) Obermiller, Larry Otto, Art and Shirleyan Patterson, and, John Williams

Absent: Drucilla Banner, Jim Banner, Ray & Nancy Bearden, Barry & Judy Box, Ranae Rode Dameron Knust, Martin Dye, Donald Durst, Vernon and Frances Evers, Roy & Ann Feller, Chris & Terry Gary, Bill George, Rick Grinnan, Rick Hadley, Dewey Helmcamp, Alan Sterling Howry, Ella Lang, Henry Lang, Randy Leifeste, Jason Martin, Mark Medley, Rich & Georgia Munson, Rose Lee Myers, Derek Naiser, Kelly Oestreich, Russell Pantermuehl, Mike & Tina Phillips, Roger Randall, Becki & Gregg Russell, Glen Schneider, Nancy and Joe Stratta, Joe Tortorice, Rick and Pat Vint, Kevin Weaver, John Williams, and Sam Wilson.

Guests: Jake Scott, TPWD Game Warden, Curtis Calhoun, Kaylee Hollingsworth

Hunters: None

Board Members: Joyce Lucas, Candy Obermiller

Advisor: Kory Perlichek (Interim), TPWD Technician

Next meeting: *April 14, 2018, Pot Luck at 12:00 Noon, Castell Trinity Methodist Church Fellowship Hall*

1. Welcome

Ms. Lucas introduced and welcomed the interim TPWD advisor, Kory Perlichek, Kaylee Hollingsworth, a PhD student attending Texas A&M, and Jake Scott, Game Warden. Counting our guests and members 18 individuals attended.

2. Acknowledgements

Ms. Lucas commented on how instrumental Dale Schmidt had been in helping to organize the WMA and how much he would be missed. She invited everyone to sign a retirement card for him and to read the write-up by Jill Nokes whom Mr. Schmidt had helped with conservation management practices on her property.

Mr. Perlichek informed the WMA that TPWD had announced his position and expected to have it filled by December 1, 2017. This was great news.

3. Trends from Last Year prepared by Mr. Weaver and presented by Mr. Perlichek. Again as in past years, the trends presented were based on a small sample size. More than half the WMA members failed to submit the required data and in some cases, submitted incomplete data. The good news is six more members than last year (6612 acres) provided the necessary data. As expected, most of the deer were harvested at the beginning of the season -- November (34%).

Year	# Ranches	Bucks	Does	Fawns
2014-2015	9	35	46	2 (1 nubbin)
2015-2016	7	32	42	1 nubbin
2016=2017	13	53 (4 Stag)	91	6 (1 nubbin)

Although the sample size is incomplete, the data reflects a negative picture:

- Harvested too many young bucks -- average age: 2.4 years and not within the WMA's guidelines. Seven "trophy" bucks were only 2.5 years old.
- Likewise, average body weight was down. For example, 89.8 pounds Vs. 98 (- 9 pounds) was the average dressed weight for all bucks. The average dressed weight for bucks 8-point or greater was 108 pounds Vs. 121 (- 13 pounds) pounds last year -- the first time since WMA was organized.
- Although more does were harvested according to the WMA recommendations, some leased properties only harvested bucks.
- For the WMA to properly assess its progress it needs the cooperation and participation of its members. What does this mean:
 - Educating hunters and following harvest recommendations
 - Keeping and turning in accurate harvest data and jawbones for all deer harvested in the WMA

- Participating as a night survey team member regardless of location of member's property
- Turning in daytime observations when requested

Mr. Otto shared one of the methods he uses to educate his hunters how to age on the hoof. He uses buck photos showing how the buck's body changes as he ages. Cost is \$8.95 for the poster or a 6-card set. Website is: www.wildlifeenterprises.com

Additionally, Mr. Haner recommended hunters be educated to look first at the body, then the rack.

4. Kory Perlichek, Interim TPWD Advisor: Harvest Recommendations

The CA WMA consists of four separate hunting areas and the harvest recommendations for each area were distributed under separate cover.

- CR 404: Any property north of State Highway 29 excluding CR 405
- CR 405: Any property on CR 405
- CR 106/105: Any property south of State Highway 29
- CR 104: Any property on CR 104

The WMA continues to have an overpopulation of deer, generally a deer to 4-5 acres. The WMA Management plan indicates a healthier population would be a deer to 10-12 acres.

Due to unforeseen circumstances Ms. Lucas was only able to obtain the harvest recommendations presented by Mr. Perlichek for Route 405. In lieu of this the WMA will adhere to last year's recommendations for the other three routes. If she should obtain data significantly different, she will advise and correct this information.

404: 1 buck per 142 acres **and**
1 doe per 25 acres **or**
1 buck to 6 does ratio

405: 1 buck per 143 acres **and**
1 doe per 18 acres **or**
1 buck to 8 does ratio

106/105: 1 buck per 166 acres **and**
1 doe per 26 acres **or**
1 buck to 6 does ratio

104: In lieu of no data last year's recommendation stands
1 buck per 1000 **and**
1 doe per 250 **or**
1 buck to 5 does ratio

All Areas:

Bucks include spikes and culls 2- to 3- point only. Limit bucks to **8** points or more with a spread well outside the tips of the ears and be **5.5** years or older. **Protect young forked antler bucks and ensure "doe" is not a "buck fawn"**.

Mr. Perlichek informed the members that although a cull or stag needs to be tagged as a buck, members could have a subset on the harvest log for this category. Likewise, those numbers would not be entered in the TWIMS and skew the data.

Ms. Lucas commented that she had mailed each member a Harvest Booklet that included a copy of the harvest log with instructions and a sample tag for tagging the jawbone.

5. Kaylee Hollingsworth: Texas A&M Wildlife Nutrition Study

Ms. Hollingsworth explained the study she is conducting across the different grasslands in Texas involving white-tailed deer, Axis deer, and Hispid Cotton Rats. The purpose is to determine the quality and quantity of nutrition the animals are getting from the land without supplemental feeding. She is looking for landowners who might be able to assist her in collecting samples. She provided a flyer with all the pertinent information. She invited members meeting the criteria and interested in helping her to contact her directly.

6. Minutes and Financial Report

Ms. Lucas had previously distributed the Minutes of the April meeting shortly after the meeting date and no corrections or objections were voiced. Therefore, the minutes stood approved.

As of September 30, 2017, total funds in our account are \$1209.26: \$496.35 in checking; \$712.91, savings. Approximately \$190 is owed for various associated expenses including a \$50 gift card for Mr. Schmidt. Members approved the dispersal of funds as needed.

7. Old Business

Night surveys:

- Ms. Lucas expressed appreciation for all the volunteers who worked with Messrs. Obermiller, Weaver, and Otto to conduct the night surveys this year. The WMA continues to experience lack of participation whether helping with surveys, collecting jawbones/data, or attending meetings. This will be a major topic at the April meeting . . . again.
- Mr. Obermiller brought up the issue of safety and the need to have sufficient signage. He recommended using two signs; one on the driver's door as well as the tailgate. We currently have two tailgate signs (neither magnetic) that Mr. Schmidt had provided at the time the WMA was organized. Mr. Haner offered to research the cost of getting the magnetic signs. Likewise, Mr. Perlichek indicated he would contact the TPWP Regional Office to see what they could offer.
- Mr. Perlichek also advised having some type of flashing amber light.
- Mr. Perlichek clarified that camera observations may be used to supplement night surveys and provided the information to do so. However, one doing so must adhere to the strict protocol.
- Likewise, he indicated if a night survey was interrupted due to unforeseen circumstances that it could be counted based the percentage of the route covered.
- Ms. Lucas handed out a chart indicating by Survey Routes, the location of property, acreage, leased/not leased, and the number who lived outside of the county.

8. New Business

- **Llano Chamber of Commerce Hunter Event:** The Chamber event this year will be on Friday, November 3, 2017. Again this year Mr. and Mrs. Patterson along with Ms. Lucas will set up the WMA booth.
- **Spring Meeting – 14 Apr:** Ms. Haley suggested the WMA have a potluck lunch since it was successful last year. Ms. Obermiller and Ms. Haley offered to coordinate the potluck.
 - Turn in harvest data and jawbones
 - Brain storm WMA participation, length of meetings, etc.
 - Sign-up night survey team members

9. Wrap-up: Many important issues were discussed with excellent contributions from members. Our next meeting will be a potluck lunch at the same place on 14 April 2018 beginning at 12:00 noon.

Joyce S Lucas

Presiding Governing Board Member