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Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 7:08pm. Jason Vanover led the invocation. Secretary Tidwell called roll with 9 present and 5 absent. The meeting minutes of March 3rd were read and accepted followed by Treasurer Crutchfield's report which was also accepted. The current balance stands at \$9,660.19.

North Cumberland WMA Manager Keith Thomas gave an update on a temporary road closure at Roses Creek Road. This involves a permit issue with a mining company and some mitigation taking place. Keith also noted that a newly hired equipment operator had left (Fred Jordan's former position) and that another person has been hired.

No committee reports were given.



John Mike, TWRA Region 4 Regional Wildlife Program Manager, addressed CORA concerning the group's previously communicated concerns about unrecovered/wounded elk during the drawn hunts. Mike said TWRA had considered several possibilities: draw blood hunt is over, hunter proficiency test, etc. What will most likely go into effect is a provision allowing the use of thermal imaging drones to locate and recover wounded/lost elk. There will be specific timeframes for flight in such cases so as to, create the least disturbance to wildlife on the NCWMA. President Lewis noted his appreciation to TWRA for their efforts on the matter.

NCWMA Manager Keith Thomas also noted that officers are still encountering people on the WMA with alcohol and are writing tickets. Thomas also reported controlled burns on the area totaling around 1,000 acres.

Glennis Monday reported that 30 new "NO OHV AFTER DARK" signs are ready to be posted on county roads where complaints have been received.

James Wright reported he had spoken to State Representative Dennis Powers about TWRA's funding issues. Powers was said to be co-sponsoring a bill concerning such.

Terry Lewis spoke about the upcoming 22nd Wounded Warrior Hunt on the Lewis Farm. It will take place on April 25th with 26 hunters currently slated to participate.

Mr. Tom Slanker handed out Norris Lake maps and spoke about the surfing and wake board preferred areas, hopefully diverting wake traffic away from boat docks, marinas, floating cabins, etc.



Lewis spoke about the upcoming Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Knoxville, TN. It will take place on April 16th and 17th at the new Agriculture, Wildlife and Forestry Building on the UT Campus. CORA members were urged to attend.

Fred Walker finished out the meeting saying there is a possibility of a "flintlock rifle" deer hunt at Frozen Head State Park this upcoming season. This collaborative effort would feature a rendezvous and hunt. It would involve TWRA, TDEC, and the Department of Tourism. Fred says: "I feel pretty dog gone good about it!" The meeting dismissed at 7:47pm.

