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Tuesday, August 4th, 2026 Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm in the Conference Room of the Jellico Public Library. This was the first meeting in Jellico in CORA's 38-year-history. Vice-president Ron Lambert led the invocation. Secretary Tidwell called roll and read the minutes of the July meeting. Coy Crutchfield gave the treasurer's report.

No committee reports were given.

With routine business conducted, NCWMA Manager Keith Thomas talked about Montgomery Fork Road repairs, Flat Woods Road being open, and that compliance has been good with the revamped OHV permit system. Sheila Westray asked about TWRA providing a new rate card, similar to the old handout. WMA Coordinator Joe Elkins spoke about the announced retirement of TWRA Director Jason Maxedon.

In other board business, the annual CORA barbeque date had to be changed from October 24, 2026 to October 17, 2026, due to Shelter 5 rental availability at Cove Lake State Park.

Secretary Tidwell then introduced Tim Radtke, Tenn Tech researcher, who has been conducting an acoustic grouse survey on sections of the North Cumberland. He gave a very professional and informative look into his research, noting that at least during 2026, peak drumming activity, detected by 150 acoustic monitors, occurred in mid-April. Areas for further management of ruffed grouse are being identified. Hopefully, this first-ever area study will be the starting point for enhancing stronger census numbers of ruffed grouse well into our foreseeable future. Ruffed grouse are extremely specific in habitat requirements, requiring layers of early successional forests, edge habitats, food sources, and overhead protective canopy from avian predators above, and avoidance areas for numerous ground dwelling predators below.

Tidwell had also set up an extensive display of grouse hunting paraphernalia collected over a half-century. From actual mounts, to first issue grouse postage stamps, there was something to promote everyone's inner-grouse admirer.



The meeting dismissed at 7:50pm. Food, desserts and drinks were provided at the meeting's conclusion with almost everyone staying to socialize over the next hour.

