



C.O.R.A. Meeting Minutes August 6th, 2024



The meeting came to order at 7:00pm in the lower courtroom. Ron Lambert led the invocation followed by the roll call (11 present, 4 absent, 1 vacancy) and reading of the minutes by secretary Tidwell. Coy Crutchfield gave the treasurer's report noting payouts for newsletter printing and intakes for advertisements. No reports were given on publicity, newsletter, or membership. Tommy Overton detailed an upcoming raffle for a Taurus handgun in the fundraising report and distributed tickets for sale. In the trails report, Justin Jones noted that for the most part trails were in good shape.

President Lewis then turned to NCWMA manager Keith Thomas for any updates. No updates were available on two still unsolved elk poaching cases. Thomas spoke to the interactive trail map system that is in the works. It is not downloadable yet, but when finished will detail a "pretty robust trail system". Thomas would ultimately like to see an "OHV Guidebook" made available to compliment the hunting and fishing guides.

Thomas also updated the Titus Hollow Road situation. Currently, the road will be opened by the new chip mill owners for big game seasons. CORA board member Jason Vanover and Thomas have been looking at some alternate routes to alleviate access issues to popular land features due to the road closure.

Due a question from the audience concerning access to the Highcliff Unit of the NCWMA, Thomas addressed some private land issues which hamper public access.

The upcoming CORA BBQ was discussed. Planning is underway for the October 5th event at Cove Lake State Park.

The Jakes Day event on August 10th was discussed with a large crowd of youth expected to be in attendance.

Chairman Bill Stanley brought up the idea of chronicling the history of CORA since the book was written and published in 2019. Jocelyn Woods Griffo could update the groups history and substantial accomplishments of the last few years. Stanley also discussed the upcoming Campbell County Leadership Class visit to the Elk Viewing Tower on Friday, August 15th. Transportation of the group was discussed. Afterwards the group will be visiting Ride Royal Blue and then continuing on to Norris Lake.

The last item discussed by vice president Lambert is the \$400,000 grant (Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies) to study a nature-based tourism plan for the region. Tourism is a main economic engine driver with Tennessee's latest tourism figures surpassing the 30 billion dollar mark. E.L. Morton also spoke to the strengths of tourism growth in Tennessee and particularly the cluster of counties around Campbell County. Lambert suggested the CORA board consider ideas that funding could be spent on if the planning grant moves to the next level of implementation. President Lewis concluded the meeting with the comment "This is exciting stuff!"

The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

