

Minutes

North Central Fayette County Wildlife Management Co-op Directors Meeting

October 10, 2015

Norman Schultz welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. County Agent Scott Willey spoke about the Fayette County Coyote and Feral Hog bounty which begins and ends with the 2015 fall hunting season. The full coyote must be brought in to a check station for official weigh in. For feral hogs you must bring in the tails. Commissioner's court and Fayette County Farm Bureau provide the monetary support for the bounties paid.

TPWD Biologist Laura Sherrod spoke on the Texas Wildlife Association Brigades. There are several available, including the Buckskin, Waterfowl, Ranch Land, Bobwhite, and Bass Brigade. She encouraged members to spread the word to their children, grandchildren or others who might be interested. The Co-op will offer scholarship assistance for the \$500 program fee. Ms. Sherrod also announced there is once again a County Wide Wildlife Co-op. Their first meeting will be held on February 6th at the Round Up Hall in La Grange. In regard to requested doe permits, if you have not received them, contact her and she will assist. There are possibly some steps in the approval process that have not been completed.

She also addressed the current problem with the white tail deer population known as Chronic Wasting Disease. The disease has been found in Medina County and Lavaca County in breeder facilities. There is no immunity to it and there is no killing the disease. Her and her department are involved in testing animals for the disease. She will come test your kill and is also taking samples from road kill in the area.

John Hays, TWD presented a program on Native Grassland Conservation and why Native grass important? Native grasses help with maintaining the aquifers and store carbon because they have a strong root mass. The loss of native grass has contributed to the decline of wildlife including the Bob White Quail and other bird species as well. Whereas, in the past, our native grassland supported huge masses of wildlife including elk and buffalo. There are ways to restore native grass. One way is to use controlled burns. Texas Parks and Wildlife has a program to help landowner with native grass restoration. Steps in the restoration process are:

- Identify what you have
- Control the exotics with herbicide or disking i.e.: Bermuda grass, king ranch blue stem
- Pick the right seed mix – Google web soil survey
- Use a no till seed drill or broadcasting.

There is also an incentive program to help as well – they will focus on reseeding, brush management prescribed burning and prescribed grazing. There is a minimum of 50 acres to be considered for the program.

Tyler Brown, Ag Teacher from RT-C gave a presentation on the FFA American Farmer degree. 3500 youth will be recognized at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky on October 31st. This number equates to about one-half of one percent of the total number of youth involved in FFA. The NCFWCo-op presented \$250 to this years recipients of the award, Marissa Hibbeler and Amber Sternadel. The monies will be used to help defray the cost of the trip to the national convention.

Lanette and Bobby Williams are the adult leaders for the 4H Wildlife Habitat Education Program or WHEP. Ms. Williams presented information regarding the program and how they supervise youth learning about various species, their habitat and what is needed to encourage and discourage growth. The WHEP youth compete in many competitions throughout the State of Texas. In an effort to continue the support of wildlife management, the NCFCWMC sponsored the local WHEP group by providing \$500 to assist in their expenses.

Following the guest speakers, Gary Goebel provided a catered BBQ meal for the members in attendance, with Pastor Willie Rotter giving the blessing.

Norman Schultz opened the general meeting with a moment of silence in honor of the family and friends of the co-op who passed away in the last year. Audrey Sternadel then read the minutes from the Annual Meeting in 2014. James Urban made a motion to accept the minutes as read and it was seconded by Lana Limmer. Virgie Hall gave the treasurer's report stating the current balance is \$16,121.44. The co-op has made a \$350 donation to the Ledbetter VFD, Carmine VFD, and the Round Top-Carmine VFD respectively. General expenses included new metal signs for co-op members, and printing and postage costs for the newsletter. Carroll Rogers made a motion, seconded by Loralie Schultz to accept the report as read.

There are three directors ending their term this year. They are Norman Schultz, Emil Sodolak and Audrey Sternadel. It was noted all three directors agreed to another term, but the floor was also opened for nominations with none made. James Urban made a motion to re-elect all incumbents by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Carroll Rogers.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Luke Sternadel to adjourn and seconded by Dennis Crum.

Following the general business meeting the gun raffles, bucket raffle and live auction took place.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Sternadel
Secretary