

Rocky Hollow Ranch Wildlife Management Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

4 March 2023 – 9:30 AM

- Meeting was called to order by Tommy Parker at 9:40 AM.
- Tommy welcomed the following new lot owners to the WMA: Mark and Tami Swingler (Lot 4); John Boyd (Lot 11); and Michael and Kimberlea DeLaCruz (Lot 16)
- Tommy gave a report on recent meetings he had with personnel from the Burnet Central Appraisal District and the Texas Department of Wildlife Ag Extension Service. Both agents were pleased with RHRWMA, and see us as a “model” wildlife management association. The ag extension agent said that we are currently overpopulated with deer. (One deer per ten acres is considered overpopulation). So, it doesn't make sense for feeding deer to be our primary focus at this time. It is agreed by both Tommy and the agents that we can always improve our efforts.
- Develop Thickets/Develop Trees – Keith Anderson gave an interesting and informative presentation on the subject of thickets. A thicket is defined as “a collection of trees or shrubs, closely set”. In terms of benefits to wildlife, Keith said he likes to think of a thicket as a group of trees where wildlife can move freely, where the wildlife can see out, and where the trees and shade make it hard to see in. Thickets can be natural but can also be developed over time by trimming up, and never cutting more than 1/3 of a canopy. Cedars, although much maligned by many property owners, can be great thickets. Some can be left as shrubs; other large ones can be trimmed back to grow into trees. Thickets can deter erosion and build organic matter underneath, but clear-cutting cedar can destroy the benefits that proper cutting provides. In addition to this, thickets can perform another important function: wildfire prevention. If the fire department cannot see where they are going in the event of a wildfire, they cannot efficiently fight the fire. Our property should be composed of tree thickets like those described above, as well as some dense cover and open grassy areas, and should be smooth enough to allow passage of a brush truck. A more detailed written copy of Keith's report is available upon request.
- RHRWMA Secretary's Report – Katherine Hilton
 - o Minutes from 26 Feb 2022 Annual Meeting were emailed previously with action required to approve. Motion to approve was made by Bill Bundy and seconded by Elizabeth Donohue. The minutes were approved.
- RHRWMA Treasurer's Report – Cathy Jacobson
 - o Current report was emailed previously with action required to approve. Motion to approve was made by Robert Mathews, and seconded by Dave Donohue. The report was approved.
 - o RHRWMA dues reduction discussion – Tommy Parker
A handout was prepared by Treasurer Cathy Jacobson and given to all members present for their review. Because we have a balance of \$9,195.85 in our RHRWMA account, with a projected amount of \$2,723 needed for our 2023 projects, the board members felt that there was no need to keep that high a balance in our account, especially since those funds can only be used for wildlife management. For this reason, the board recommended that the annual dues of \$120 be reduced to \$50. After 3 years of

reducing dues to \$50 per year, we would still have a projected balance of around \$7,000, with plenty of room for any increased expenses we may incur due to either inflation or extra projects.

Discussion of the proposal commenced. Keith Anderson reminded the group that there is nothing that would keep us from doing more than the designated projects, and used guzzlers as an example. There were concerns about running too low on funds, as well as maintaining an unnecessarily high balance in our account.

Robert Mathews made a motion to reduce annual RHRWMA dues to \$50 for the next 3 years. Tommy asked for a second, and the second was made by Elizabeth Donahue. After a vote, the motion failed to pass**.

- Old Business

- o Tommy Parker reported that the 2022 Annual 1-D-1 Report was completed and emailed to the county appraisal district on December 18, 2022. The full report was previously emailed to the membership. A hard copy is available for review.

- o There was no other old business

- New Business

- o **Vote on 2023 WMA assessment. Tommy requested further discussion on our 2023 dues assessment since the first motion had failed to garner enough votes for passage. After more discussion, Tommy presented a motion to reduce our annual dues from \$120 to \$100 for 2023, which would be re-evaluated for 2024. Dave Donohue made the motion, and Desiree McBride gave the second. The motion passed.

- o WMA 2023 Projects and Project Managers - Information only, no action required

- Supplemental Shelter – Bird boxes (1 new, others cleaned) – SPRING – Garrett Hagen, project manager
 - Supplemental Food – Gamebird Mineral Blocks – SPRING & FALL – Scott Cason, project manager
 - Habitat Control (range reseeding) – wildflower mix – FALL – Bobby Doyal, project manager
 - Tommy reminded everyone that extra help is always needed to complete these projects, so he asked that interested members contact one of the project managers.

- o WMA 2023 Work Days - Information only

- Spring (1st Saturday in April) - April 1
 - Fall (late summer/early fall) – September 23 (The earlier date is better for wildflower seeding than the usual October date.)

- o WMA Board Elections for 2023

- President – Tommy Parker 2022/2023 – midterm; no action required

- Vice President – Robert Mathews 2021/2022 – end of term; election required

- Nominee: Robert Mathews (Lot 28)

No further nominations were made from the floor, and Bill Bundy moved to re-elect Robert Mathews by acclamation. The motion passed.

- Treasurer – Cathy Jacobson 2022/2023 – midterm; no action required

- Secretary – Katherine Hilton 2022/2023 – midterm; no action required

- At Large Position – Scott Cason 2022/2023 – midterm; no action required

- At Large Position – Bobby Doyal 2022/2023 – midterm; no action required

- At Large Position – Garrett Hagen 2021/2022 end of term; election required

- Nominee: Garrett Hagen (Lot 14)

No further nominations were made from the floor, and Scott Cason moved to re-elect Garrett Hagen by acclamation. The motion passed.

- o There was no other new business

- Tommy entertained a motion to adjourn. Scott Cason made the motion, and Tom Boone gave the second. The meeting was adjourned.