

Jack County Wildlife Management Association
P. O. Box 923, Jacksboro, TX 76458

Minutes of General Membership Meeting held October 20, 2007.

The first annual meeting of the JCWMA for 2007 was held at The First United Methodist Church, Jacksboro. A delicious BBQ catered meal was served by Keith and Tricia Reeves (**Cowboys Kitchen**) of Newport. A total of 40 members and guests were in attendance. A kitty was placed by the door to accept donations from non-members who expressed a desire to contribute towards their meal or the JCWMA. After visitation and dinner the meeting was called to order by President Ben Murray.

Ben Murray introduced the evening's guest speakers:

NRCS Wildlife Biologist Ricky Linex – *Wildlife Habitat 101*

TPW Biologist Jennifer Barrow – *2007 Hunting Forecast*

Ricky Linex presented an interesting and informative power-point program entitled "Managing Grasslands for Wildlife". He began by asking if anyone had ever been on a deer or wildlife roundup similar to a cattle roundup and then stated that although domestic stock can be managed, it is not the wildlife but the **wildlife habitat** that we manage. He then went on to discuss the requirements of food, cover, water and space (habitat arrangement) for deer, turkey and quail. He pointed out the necessity of diversity in habitat and the importance of rotational patterns for both food plot strips and grazing to increase nutrition. He referred to the historical aspect of grazing, the principal of competition for forage, stocking rates and the fact that cattle grazing was a necessary component beneficial to deer.

Ricky Linex brought handouts of the slides shown during his presentation and indicated he would make the .pdf files available for inclusion on the JCWMA.org website. He also brought various other handouts including a list of reference materials for Texas deer managers, which will be posted on the website. He reminded us to contact our local NRCS office in Jacksboro if we would like an individual range assessment and recommendation.

Jennifer Barrow spoke about the 2007 hunting forecast in the area. She stated that the TPW is not analyzing data by county any more but by RMUs (resource management units) with the majority of Jack County in unit 25 and a small area in the SE portion in unit 24. She commented that this year's rainfall has made all wildlife habitat managers look good! She said the tall grass has made deer census difficult, but they are definitely here. She also cautioned that deer hunters need to pay special to body shape to help indicate age because the nutrition available this year has created good racks on younger bucks. She said a mature (trophy buck) population could not be maintained if the majority of the bucks taken were less than 3 ½ years old. She also stated that last year's drought brought a high mortality rate to last year's fawn crop and that there would be

Maurice Graham, Director – SW quadrant
Rod Heltzel, Director – SE quadrant
Tom Carpenter, Director – NW quadrant

With the NW quadrant Director position still vacant, Ben asked if we had any members from the NW quadrant. Tom Carpenter indicated his place was in the NW quadrant. Tom Carpenter was nominated as Director – NW quadrant. As each officer was presented, Ben asked for any other nominations. No other nominations were made from the floor; the above slate was voted on and unanimously accepted.

Ben Murray stated that 2005-2006 membership consisted of 41 paid memberships totaling 30,472 acres. He made apologies for allowing the JCWMA to become inactive and was encouraged by the interest shown by the response to this meeting. Ben acknowledged the support which the JCWMA received from the Jack County Agricultural Extension office, and thanked Heath Lusty for arranging for this evening's speakers.

A motion was made and approved by members to extend all 2005-2006 memberships to March 31, 2008.

A motion was made and approved by members to extend all 2007-2008 new and renewal memberships to March 31, 2009. (Currently 44 members totaling 28,950 acres)

Ben Murray indicated that the website he had set up in 2005 lasted 3 weeks and then “crashed”. Ben stated that Keith Reeves had just set up a new website: **www.JCWMA.org**. This domain has been purchased for a term of 5 years. We would like this website to serve as the primary information site for our association. Leslie Hathorn will e-mail or USPS mail the minutes of this meeting to the active membership to advise them of the website. The minutes of this meeting, future meetings, newsletters and notices will be posted on the site. Unless requested otherwise, only annual notice of dues and elections will continued be mailed to members.

Ben Murray asked everyone to fill out and return the questionnaire. In order for the JCWMA to best serve its membership, we need the input of our members! He mentioned that several members thought our meetings should be at lunch time in order not to conflict with hunting time.

Ben Murray indicated he had received some questions from members regarding wind farms and wildlife. He noted that member Bill Beall has wind turbines on his acreage and would be willing to talk to any member who has questions. Jerry Wilhelm (guest) and his neighbors north of Barton Chapel are currently talking to a wind farm group. Ricky Linex brought handouts referencing a “Wind and Wildlife Conference” to be held in Abilene on October 25-26, 2007. Depending on the questionnaire survey, it is possible that this will be a topic of discussion at a future JCWMA meeting.

Ben Murray also mentioned that there were handouts available regarding the NRCS EQIP program and that the deadline for applying this year is November 16, 2007.

Member Ron Sewell brought cards promoting the TPW Law Enforcement Division “Operation Game Thief” wildlife crime-stoppers program. 1-800-792-GAME

An announcement was made that the JCWMA hats were on “back-order” due to a broken silkscreen machine. Leslie Hathorn will make sure anyone who paid for a hat will receive theirs when we get them.

In open discussion, Ricky Linex suggested that the JCWMA work with the Jacksboro Chamber of Commerce and help promote the Chamber’s “Big Buck Contest”. He mentioned that some of the other wildlife management co-ops will have a potluck lunch or supper hosted by the landowners for the hunters as an opportunity to get to know one another and show appreciation. He also stressed the importance that all our members report their game harvest. That the JCWMA co-op needs to know what is taken in order to work together to determine what should or should not be promoted to hunters and wildlife managers. Keith Reeves indicated that the JCWMA.org website would be an ideal place for everyone to report their data.

Jennifer Barrow said she would make landowner harvest data sheets available as a .pdf file for incorporation on the JCWMA.org website. She asked that the hunters pull the jawbone to determine the age of the animal harvested and that if multiple deer are harvested, the jawbones be numbered to correlate with the harvest record. She also observed that it would be helpful if neighboring landowners would work together in smaller groups for census counts because different parts of the county have different habitat conditions.

Also brought up in discussion was the importance of getting our youth involved – they are the future!

A question was asked regarding prickly pear density. Ricky Linex responded by saying that prickly pear provided good cover and that the apples or tunas provided a good food source. He said if you couldn’t walk through your pasture because of prickly pear, they were too close. Historically, prickly pear covered 5-10% of the prairie.

Ben Murray reminded everyone that this year’s rain has created a lot of tall grass which will be an extreme FIRE HAZARD after the first frost. Be careful with your fires!

A motion was made to adjourn & seconded.

Following the meeting, Jennifer Barrow reminded Leslie Hathorn that the TPW has several programs regarding various aspects of wildlife. Check out the TPW website (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/>) for ideas for future topics of discussion.