

Charlotte Conservation Commission  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
November 26th, 2019  
Charlotte Town Offices  
7:00 PM

Members in attendance: Mary VanVleck, Linda Radimer, Krista Hoffsis, Derk Bergquist, Roel Boumans, and Susan Blood.

7 pm - meeting begins

**Wildlife Cameras - how we will use them:**

Derk brought a pile of documents he put together - Deployment and retrieval protocols, deployment and retrieval data sheets. Thank you, Derk!

Deployment Protocol - we're going to need a deployment kit that we leave at the library.

Assume people will use GPS on their phones. Or should we buy an inexpensive GPS unit?

We need a coordinator for this project so if someone has a question there is someone knowledgeable to go to.

Deployment Schedule - a spreadsheet so any of us can see what is happening. Once a camera is deployed, the kit needs to go back to the library

Roel deployed 3 cameras for a month at 3 heights. One thing he learned is that it's important to clear the SIM card because one card was full. The other 2 cameras which were about a foot apart and they both captured the same deer.

Derk learned that knee height is a good height for getting a wide range of animals.

Also it's important to bathe, wear latex gloves and then use a scent masker. Also good to not break branches. Roel thinks maybe this isn't critical. Some species are more sensitive than others. We will have to decide how careful we are going to be.

We'll need to note what kind of habitat the camera is being put into. Hardwood forest, softwood forest, mixed, agricultural land, edge of woods. We could ground truth the land use data.

Roel will take the cameras and try out the protocol on Friday.

How many cameras per site? One.

We can contact 4 of the people who said it was ok to put cameras on their land. Roel will put 1 camera out then retrieve it to test the protocol So then we'll have all 4 cameras available. That information is in the CCC email

we created. Maybe one person can manage this email. Linda will email Kevin and ask him for 4 people who said it was ok.

Aim the camera north - glare from the sun can set it off!! You can aim it NE or NW if need be.

Might need to add a small saw or clippers to the kit to clear branches that might move in front of the camera and lead to hundreds of unwanted pictures.

Can we choose a random point on the property? Landowners may know where they've seen animals. But is that where we want to put the cameras? How many animals do you need to see to establish that it's a hot spot. We need a baseline data set to measure everything else off of. Snow cover could help us determine where to put the camera. So we can put cameras out on the properties that are close to the random points Roel made. And then we can look at the other properties.

Linda will call landowners.

Photos - we don't need to keep all of them - just the ones with wildlife on them. But we should have 2 people look through to make sure they are agreeing on what they are seeing.

The kits seem big! How many kits do we really need? Where will the 4 foot poles be stored? At the library. Maybe there will be small kits for the cameras and a few bigger backpacks for the actual deployment.

How expensive are the sim cards? How big do they need to be? 32 GB.

There are 5 different settings on the camera for how big the picture is. Let's start with 4 mega pixels. What are they set with now? Nice pictures would be good for engaging the community. Maybe we start with low resolution and then if we find a place that has lots of animals we can set up a few cameras to take nice pictures.

Linda will get 4 Bushnell cameras. We have Browning cameras now. Browning dark ops extreme trail cameras.

**Thank you to Krista!** We thanked Krista for being on the commission! Hopefully we will work on projects together again in the future!

**8:10 - October minutes approved.**

**8:12 - Meeting Adjourned.**

Meeting minutes submitted by Susan Blood