

Charlotte Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
July 23rd, 2019
Charlotte Children's Center
7:00 PM

Members in attendance: Amos Baehr, Roel Boumans, Derk Bergquist, Linda Radimer, Kevin Burget, Mel Huff, Mary Van Vleck and Susan Blood.

The Wildlife Camera Project (continued)

We need to think carefully about data management. We need a Deployment ID. Derk is working on a Sequence database – but that will take time. Maybe we need a working group to think about data management for this project. This is a huge project and more people would be great! Roel can help later in August. And Kevin has the data with volunteer landowners.

Right now the cameras (4 of them) are at Kristas and we have lots of people who have said we can put cameras on their land.

Derk brought copies of a sample Deployment Datasheet. He also made a Raw Data – Wildlife Camera Sheet. This would be a way to document the photos we get from each camera.

We could put a little plaque when we deploy them to let people know what we are doing and to please not disturb them!

Roel will still make his 100 random points – and then see if any of the volunteers are close to the random points. For analysis we would only use the ones close to the random points.

One thing we are not sure about is how sensitive the cameras are and is there a sensitivity setting? Derk had the idea that we could Learn about the camera by setting up at CCS and mark 25, 50, 75 and 100 feet. And then at 3 heights, in different quadrants. Derk will let us know when he has time to do a little testing at CCS and hopefully some of us can join him!

Critical that every camera is set the same! Otherwise we'll get different data from each camera. Protocols are hard to make and it may take more testing to get those protocols down.

How long do we keep it at each location? And when do we start this for real? When is hunting season? Deer season for Bow and Arrow and Muzzleloader goes until December 15th. The main season for deer ends Dec 1.

Thanks for Derk for all the work he's put into this project!

Conservation Currents

Kevin is still working on his article.

Let's aim for September. Besides wildlife we can also write about historical conservation. Could we get into the science more? What if our articles were a little more classroom like.

- Patterns of fragmentation
- tracking, wildlife corridors
- Giant yellow swallowtail butterfly is encroaching into our area.
- Bishops weed - another invasive to be concerned about - shade tolerant.
- Ticks

Susan will edit Roel's article!

Thorpe Brook – The brook is being used for irrigation by the hemp farmers off of Greenbush Road. They are using biodegradable plastic to control weeds and it will most likely be plowed under.

We are concerned because one must preserve the flow of the water and one cannot pump water out of a brook without a permit.

Corp of Engineers – they can evaluate the situation and see if they're doing what they need to to meet the minimum federal standards. Someone will contact the corp to see if they have more information.

We'll talk about the budget next time.

Minutes submitted by Susan Blood

