



**Wild Horse Advisory Board  
Agenda Packet**

**May 18, 2017**

**Call to Order**

- A) Approval of Agenda

**Approval of Minutes**

**Administrative Reports**

- A) Quarterly Report from the Corolla Wild Horse Fund

- 1) **Corolla Wild Horse Fund Quarterly Report**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- A) Advisory Board Member Comments

- 1. Corolla Wild Horse Fund

- 1) **Legislation Update: HR 2032**

- 2. Currituck County

- 3. North Carolina Division of Coastal Management

- 4. Currituck National Wildlife Refuge

- 5. Citizen

**Announcements**

- A) Next Meeting Date - August 17, 2017

**Adjourn**



**CURRITUCK COUNTY  
NORTH CAROLINA**

February 16, 2017  
Minutes – Regular Meeting of the Wild Horse Advisory Board

**CALL TO ORDER**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Daniel F. Scanlon	Board Chairman	Present	
Kimberlee Hoey	Board Member	Present	
Mike Hoff	Board Member	Present	
Betty Lane	Board Member	Present	
Kate Jones	Board Member	Absent	
Jennie Turner	Secretary	Present	
Jo Langone	Board Member	Present	
Meg Puckett	Herd Manager	Present	

Commissioner Beaumont joined the meeting.

**A) Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Hoey motioned to approve. Ms. Puckett seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Hoey motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Puckett seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

Ms. Hoey was unanimously elected Chairwoman. Mr. Scanlon was unanimously elected Vice Chairman.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**A) Quarterly Report from the Corolla Wild Horse Fund**

**1. Corolla Wild Horse Fund Quarterly Report**

Ms. Langone and Ms. Puckett reviewed the Corolla Wild Horse Fund Quarterly Report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Scanlon reported that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) declined to change the Code of Ordinances to require a person to move from an approaching horse and the BOC has directed County staff to draft language to expand the ordinance to include drones under harassment.

Mr. Hoff stated that the land exchange closed on the marsh portion of flyway tract which allows the realty division to focus on the exchange portion. The archaeological survey has been completed and USFWS needs to do sampling prior to finalizing the land swap.

Mr. Scanlon informed the Board of a letter from National Audubon Society that referenced State and Federal properties.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A) Advisory Board Member Comments**

#### **1) Corolla Wild Horse Fund**

Chairwoman Hoey stated that Jo Langone is the Acting Executive Director for the Fund. The Corolla Wild Horse Fund Board has advertised the position and will meet in February to form an interview committee and begin interviews.

Mr. Scanlon requested updates on the transition and asked if the Fund will continue to do horse tours.

Mr. Scanlon stated that a concern of the BOC regarding the Federal Legislation is the extent of Fund responsibility and a potential federal mandate.

Chairman Hoey reported that Ms. Langone sent a letter to Congressman Jones. Ms. Maggie Ayrea is spear heading the legislation in Jones' office and she will be visiting the Fund soon. Ms. Langone will advocate for a meeting with Ms. Ayrea and the County .

Chairwoman Hoey stated that it is important that the Fund and County have more dialogue, Ms. Langone agreed.

Chairwoman Hoey stated that the Fund would like to do more than one aerial count per year for better data.

#### **2) Currituck County**

Mr. Scanlon stated that the BOC directed staff to draft a change to the beach driving ordinance to require through traffic on the high beach from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The BOC also directed staff to explore a parking pass for the 4WD area beach.

#### **3) North Carolina Division of Coastal Management**

Not present

#### **4) Currituck National Wildlife Refuge**

Mr. Hoff reported that a few horses were in the Station Landing fence area and the fence on the west side has been repaired. A colt (red circles around each eye) has been hanging around outside the fence.

The Fund's Special Use Permit to operate on the Refuges expires in June; it will need to be renewed.

Mr. Hoff stated that Virginia and North Carolina have approved measures to shoot hogs from helicopters. USDA Wildlife Services hog removal one of their requests is to shoot from helicopter. In Virginia, the aerial hunt resulted in 25 hogs; during the hunt 30 hogs were spotted in the NC marsh. Aircraft will go out in April and USFWS would like to take advantage of the opportunity. There are many diseases transferred from swine to humans and some to horses. Mr. Hoff requested a letter of support from the Fund for the aerial shooting. The State is also interested in the aerial hunt.

Mr. Scanlon asked to be notified of the hunt so that emergency management staff may be notified in advance.

#### **5) Citizen**

Ms. Lane stated that she sees many infractions of the county ordinance.

Ms. Puckett is working on an FAQ for the Fund website. Mr. Scanlon stated that the county can help distribute information.

Commissioner Beaumont stated that the Fund operating tours is a concern because the Fund receives County funds and they are in competition with tour companies. He would like more information on Wild Horse Management.

Mr. Scanlon stated that if the Fund continues to do tours, there is a higher probability that it won't get public funding.

Chairwoman Hoey stated that the Fund Board would like to focus on the educational aspect.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **A) Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date is May 18th at 1PM in the Historic Courthouse Conference Room.

### **ADJOURN**

Ms. Lane motioned to adjourn, Ms. Puckett seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:38PM.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **A) Reports**



## COROLLA WILD HORSE FUND

INCORPORATED

1129 Corolla Village Road \* P.O. Box 361\* Corolla, NC 27927

Phone (252) 453-8002 Fax (252) 453 -8073

[www.corollawildhorses.org](http://www.corollawildhorses.org) \* [info@corollawildhorses.com](mailto:info@corollawildhorses.com)

Currituck Outer Banks Wild Horse Advisory Board  
February 16, 2017

### **Action 1D:**

Corolla horses offsite being supported by the CWHF: All offsite horses receive routine veterinary care and farrier care. Attending veterinary practice: Dominion Equine. Farrier: Nora Tarpley; Trainer: Nora Tarpley; Resident caretaker: Stacey Dailey; Herd Manager; Meg Puckett.

1. *Amadeo* – 19-year-old blind stallion. Health and body condition optimum. Handled and enjoys human interaction. Haltered and leading around farm, will begin trailer training so he can be used for outreach this spring/summer.
2. *Noel* – 8-year-old mare. Favors left hind leg. (Had a fractured femur). Noel is used for education.
3. *Buster Brown* – 9-year-old gelding. Body condition optimum. Used for outreach and education. Working under saddle.
4. *Felix* – 4-year-old gelding. Body condition optimum. Preliminary training started. Has had a saddle on his back. Companion to Noel.
5. *Roamer* – 12-year-old stallion in optimum body condition. Haltered and leading around entire farm. Vaccinated and had teeth floated at the end of December. Beginning trailer training and will be taken out for education the spring.

### **Horses in the wild:**

Population: 66 (2 colts (Zone 4); 2 fillies (Zone 2 and Zone 4) *Note: Although only 66 horses were observed during the aerial count, the CWHF is certain that the population range is closer to 85 – 95. There was significant flooding throughout the north beaches that we believe impacted the horses' normal travel patterns. In addition, a rainy summer created greater than usual vegetative cover.*

### **Deaths and removals since November 17, 2016 census:**

**Deaths: None**

**Removals: None**

**Removals between February 16, 2016 census and February 16, 2017 census:**

- 4 – 6 week old orphaned colt – July 2, 2015 (see August 18, 2016 WHAB report)

- 10 – 12 year old bay stallion, September 12, 2016. (see November 17, 2016 WHAB report)

**Action 1E:**

- Herd Manager has been consolidating and correlating wild horse records in an effort to have the most up-to-date herd information and dynamics readily available and easily interpreted. This includes harem associations, photographs of each horse, common locations, etc.

**Action 1H:**

- Nora Tarpley is working with the horses at the rescue farm 15 – 20 hours per week. Each horse has specific goals according to their age, size, and physical ability.
- Training equipment was ordered to fit the horses and they are all currently being worked under saddle. Each horse is also now standing politely in cross ties for grooming and vet/farrier procedures.
- Each rescue horse currently at BDEC is an excellent candidate for outreach and education. They are all being worked regularly in hand and also loading on/off trailer.
- Hay and grain are routinely purchased from local suppliers. Hay is being purchased 100 bales at a time. This amount lasts for approximately two months. Hay is being fed in slow-feeder nets to encourage natural grazing behavior and extend the length of time it takes each horse to finish their hay.
- The roof of the storage building was fixed and is now leak-proof. The shipping container on the property has also been sealed and is now available for hay storage as well.
- Land around the storage shed and house has been cleared and trees trimmed to prevent further damage from storms and to allow for better drainage. Driveway was recently graded. Sand was added to low spots around the farm as well as the run-in sheds.
- Klaudia South met all the requirements outlined in the CWHF adoption application and adopted orphaned foal Phoenix at the end of November. She also owns a 10-year-old Corolla gelding, Dune. Phoenix has settled into his new home and is doing great.
- Received a call on December 20, 2015 that filly “Orlanda” had been separated from her mother and was on the south side of the fence at the road terminus. KM was able to herd her back into the refuge and reunite her with her mother. Fence was then reinforced and repaired.
- For several weeks in December there were reports of two black stallions that had gotten through the fence at the state line. MP observed evidence of horses on the Virginia side (hoof prints, manure) but never saw the stallions. CWHF Sanctuary Patrol officers also monitored the area. No evidence of damaged fencing was ever found and two black bachelor stallions that frequent that area were later seen back on the North Carolina side of the fence. It is assumed they swam back around during low tide.

**Action 1K:**

- 46 mares were contracepted in 2016. 5 foals were born. 4 foals remain in the wild (2 colts and two fillies). In 2007, 24 foals were born.
- Meg Puckett will attend PZP certification class at Zoo Montana from February 28 – March 4. Goal for spring 2017 is to contracept all mares age two and three and all mares that have had at least two foals or are over the age of 10.

**Action 2A:**

- KM has sent two e mails to count attorney (January 2017 and June 2016), Ike Mcree regarding adding the use of drones as a form of harassment to the Wild Horse Ordinance and discussed it as an agenda item at the August 18, 2016 Wild Horse Advisory Board meeting. To date there has been no response.

**Action 4E:**

- The fencing at the road terminus was repaired and reinforced by MP and Roy Hamilton in December.
- The fence on the NC/VA line (beach only) is monitored weekly for any damage.
- The NCNERR fence is walked routinely to check for damage from fallen trees and limbs.
- Excess sand is routinely removed from the cattle guard at the road terminus.

**Action 6A:**

- MP is developing a FAQ to be posted on the CWHF website and social media accounts that will answer some of the most asked questions received from visitors during the summer. It will include information on what to do if there is an injured horse, who to contact for different scenarios, etc. This FAQ will be available for tour operators, rental companies (**Action 6E**), and the county to distribute.

**Action 6B:**

- MP will be taking an ambassador horse to Children at Play, the children’s museum in Kitty Hawk, on March 23 for a free public program.
- MP will be taking an ambassador horse to Museum of the Albemarle’s “Day on the River” program for 4<sup>th</sup> grade Pasquotank County schools.
- MP has been working with Black Pelican restaurant in Kitty Hawk to set up a series of “Meet A Mustang” programs on site for the spring/summer.
- CWHF Facebook page has nearly 73k ‘likes’ and each post reaches approximately 60k people. Page is updated at least every other day.

**Action 6D:**

- MP provided history and information about wild horses to Jennie Turner for tour operators training video.
- MP contacted Lori Meads, educator at Museum of the Albemarle, in regards to the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and offered any CWHF assistance or involvement needed/appropriate.

*The Corolla Wild Horse Fund is a registered 501 c 3 not for profit.  
All contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.*





## COROLLA WILD HORSE FUND INCORPORATED

1129 Corolla Village Road \* P.O. Box 361\* Corolla, NC 27927  
Phone (252) 453-8002 Fax (252) 453 -8073  
[www.corollawildhorses.org](http://www.corollawildhorses.org) \* [info@corollawildhorses.com](mailto:info@corollawildhorses.com)

Currituck Outer Banks Wild Horse Advisory Board  
May 18, 2017

### **Action 1D:**

Corolla horses offsite being supported by the CWHF: All offsite horses receive routine veterinary care and farrier care. Attending veterinary practice: Dominion Equine. Farrier: Nora Tarpley; Trainer: Nora Tarpley; Resident caretaker: Stacey Dailey; Herd Manager; Meg Puckett.

1. *Amadeo* – 20-year-old blind stallion. Health and body condition optimum. Used for educational outreach.
2. *Noel* – 9-year-old mare. Favors left hind leg. (Had a fractured femur). Noel is used for education. Being trained to pull a cart.
3. *Buster Brown* – 10-year-old gelding. Body condition optimum. Used for outreach and education. Working under saddle.
4. *Felix* – 6-year-old gelding. Body condition optimum. Preliminary training started. Has had a saddle on his back and is being trained to drive. Companion to Noel.
5. *Roamer* – 12-year-old stallion in optimum body condition. Haltered and leading around entire farm. Loading and unloading from trailer; ready to begin educational outreach.
6. *Tresie* – 10-year-old mare. Had been adopted out and living with a family in MD for several years but they recently came into circumstances that forced them to return her to us. She is saddle trained and easily handled and may be a good candidate for adoption again at the end of the summer.

### **Horses in the wild:**

Population: 67 (1 colt (Zone 4) *Note: Although only 66 horses were observed during the aerial count, the CWHF is certain that the population range is closer to 85 – 95. There was significant flooding throughout the north beaches that we believe impacted the horses' normal travel patterns. In addition, a rainy summer created greater than usual vegetative cover.*

### **Deaths and removals since February 2017 census:**

#### **Deaths: 1**

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**Removals: None****Deaths between May 2016 census and May 2017 census:**

- Colt born in late October not with dam Spring 2017; presumed dead. See report under **Action 1H**.

**Removals between May 2016 census and May 2017 census:**

- 4 – 6 week old orphaned colt – July 2, 2015 (see August 18, 2016 WHAB report)
- 10 – 12 year old bay stallion, September 12, 2016. (see November 17, 2016 WHAB report)

**Action 1B:**

- Herd Manager has been researching grants that focus on habitat/herd viability and hopes to apply for at least source of funding in 2018 to begin an updated land use/carrying capacity study.

**Action 1E:**

- Herd Manager has been consolidating and correlating wild horse records in an effort to have the most up-to-date herd information and dynamics readily available and easily interpreted. This includes harem associations, photographs of each horse, common locations, etc. Ongoing.

**Action 1H:**

- Each rescue horse currently at BDEC is an excellent candidate for outreach and education. They are all being worked regularly in hand and also loading on/off trailer. Each horse is now capable of doing educational outreach, both offsite and on.
- All horses have been taken off grain feed and are now on a grass diet that closely mimics their wild foraging behaviors. With the spring grass, we've been able to reduce our hay bill significantly (from \$160/month to \$160/every other month).
- In March a young stallion was observed limping with a swollen left knee, was severely underweight, and seemed disoriented. After discussing with the vet, it was decided that horse should be captured and examined, however we were unable to locate horse again. At the end of April/beginning of May, he was spotted again looking much healthier and now seems to have made a full recovery.
- An older mare, "Taka," who had been seen with a foal in November 2016 was spotted for the first time after the winter at the end of April. The foal was not with her, so it is assumed that he did not survive the winter. Taka is underweight and being monitored and could be a candidate for removal, or at least a veterinary examination in the field.
- A harem of approximately 10 horses was regularly coming around the south fence into the neighborhood of Ocean Hills, but did not seem inclined to move further south or establish territory. They were easily moved back onto the refuge each time and have not circumvented the fence since April. No weak spots were observed in the fence but it was heightened and reinforced at the road terminus just to err on the side of caution.
- First foal of 2017 spotted in Carova the first week of May, around mile marker

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22/23. Harem seems to spend most of their time on refuge land. Parents are very protective and foal is in optimum shape. Dam is thin but not alarmingly so.

**Action 1K:**

- 46 mares were contracepted in 2016 and five foals were born. One orphaned and removed, one presumed deceased, and three remain in the wild. In 2007, 24 foals were born.
- Herd Manager is now qualified to mix and administer PZP and has begun targeted (younger than 2, older than 10) darting. Since there is no set breeding season for the horses, it has been decided that darting in the winter months would present far fewer challenges and would not negatively impact the results of the contraceptive program. Herd Manager has reached out to other professionals in the field to discuss the best way to facilitate this change.

**Action 4E:**

- Boards were added to the fencing along the dunes at the road terminus.
- The fence on the NC/VA line (beach only) is monitored weekly for any damage. Herd Manager and Executive Director have meeting with Kyle Barbour from False Cape State Park on May 24, 2017 to discuss fence repair and maintenance.
- The NCNERR fence is walked routinely to check for damage from fallen trees and limbs. There are areas that are inaccessible on foot due to vegetation and water; these will be double checked during next aerial count.
- Excess sand is routinely removed from the cattle guard at the road terminus.

**Action 6A:**

- MP is developing a FAQ to be posted on the CWHF website and social media accounts that will answer some of the most asked questions received from visitors during the summer. It will include information on what to do if there is an injured horse, who to contact for different scenarios, etc. This FAQ will be available for tour operators, rental companies (**Action 6E**), and the county to distribute. Will go live on website before Memorial Day 2017.

**Action 6B:**

- Children At Play, Kitty Hawk, March 23, 2017 – Took stallion Amadeo for Science Thursday and discussed what horses eat.
- Outer Banks Center for Wildlife Education, Corolla, April 19, 2017 – Took Noel and Felix for Outdoors Day. Over 1k people in attendance.
- Currituck Extension Office, Maple, April 22, 2017 – Took Noel and Felix to Currituck Master Gardeners Plant Show & Sale.
- Kelly's Restaurant, Nags Head, May 7, 2017 – Took Noel to a children's cancer research benefit.
- BDEC, Grandy, May 9, 2017 – The Corolla charter school visited the farm to learn about the horses. They made treats, brushed the horses, and had a picnic.
- Ongoing – Meet A Mustang every Friday at the museum in Corolla.
- CWHF Facebook page has nearly 73k 'likes' and each post reaches approximately 60k people. Page is updated at least every other day.

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**Action 6E:**

- Preliminary discussions have begun with local real estate companies to get educational materials placed inside their rental packets.

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2032

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. JONES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Corolla Wild Horses  
5 Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WILD HORSES IN AND AROUND THE CURRITUCK**  
7 **NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.**

8 (a) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
2           rior shall enter into an agreement with the Corolla  
3           Wild Horse Fund (a nonprofit corporation estab-  
4           lished under the laws of the State of North Caro-  
5           lina), the County of Currituck, North Carolina, and  
6           the State of North Carolina within 180 days after  
7           the date of enactment of this Act to provide for  
8           management of free-roaming wild horses in and  
9           around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge.

10           (2) TERMS.—The agreement shall—

11           (A) allow a herd of not less than 110 and  
12           not more than 130 free-roaming wild horses in  
13           and around such refuge, with a target popu-  
14           lation of between 120 and 130 free-roaming  
15           wild horses;

16           (B) provide for cost-effective management  
17           of the horses while ensuring that natural re-  
18           sources within the refuge are not adversely im-  
19           pacted;

20           (C) provide for introduction of a small  
21           number of free-roaming wild horses from the  
22           herd at Cape Lookout National Seashore as is  
23           necessary to maintain the genetic viability of  
24           the herd in and around the Currituck National  
25           Wildlife Refuge; and

1 (D) specify that the Corolla Wild Horse  
2 Fund shall pay the costs associated with—

3 (i) coordinating a periodic census and  
4 inspecting the health of the horses;

5 (ii) maintaining records of the horses  
6 living in the wild and in confinement;

7 (iii) coordinating the removal and  
8 placement of horses and monitoring of any  
9 horses removed from the Currituck County  
10 Outer Banks; and

11 (iv) administering a viable population  
12 control plan for the horses including auc-  
13 tions, adoptions, contraceptive fertility  
14 methods, and other viable options.

15 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION OF HORSES  
16 FROM CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE.—During  
17 the effective period of the memorandum of understanding  
18 between the National Park Service and the Foundation  
19 for Shackleford Horses, Inc. (a non-profit corporation or-  
20 ganized under the laws of and doing business in the State  
21 of North Carolina) signed in 2007, no horse may be re-  
22 moved from Cape Lookout National Seashore for intro-  
23 duction at Currituck National Wildlife Refuge except—

24 (1) with the approval of the Foundation; and

1           (2) consistent with the terms of such memo-  
2           randum (or any successor agreement) and the Man-  
3           agement Plan for the Shackleford Banks Horse  
4           Herd signed in January 2006 (or any successor  
5           management plan).

6           (c) NO LIABILITY CREATED.—Nothing in this sec-  
7           tion shall be construed as creating liability for the United  
8           States for any damages caused by the free-roaming wild  
9           horses to any person or property located inside or outside  
10          the boundaries of the refuge.

○