

MI State Chapter Board of Directors

January 16, 2010

Herb Lorentz, President, called the meeting to order.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of August 29, 2009 were approved (Pete, Gary, carried).

Introductions and Roll Call

Present Region 1: Roger Shoemaker and Ken Buchholtz

Present Region 2: Herb Lorentz, Craig Meredith, and Pete Demos

Present Region 3: Jan Kuhtic, Troy Hopkins, Dave Godley, Frank Brazynetz, Gary Salmon, Phil Kuhtic, Tony Snyder, Sam Giese, Bert VanderWeele, Ron Hopkins, Hugh Marx, and Gary VanDyke

Present NWTF National Board: Al Bobrofsky

Absent: Past President Mike Kennedy

NWTF Staff: Steve Sharp, Tom Karsten, Keith Rubin, and Randy Showalter

Guests: Dr. James Earl Kennamer, NWTF Chief Conservation Officer, Al Stewart, MI DNRE, Jim Maturen, Randy Vlier, Anthony Decker, Dave Newhouse

Treasurer's Report (Troy)

The General Fund has \$27,480.93 in the checking account, \$2,958.42 in the savings account for a total of \$30,439.35. \$5,537 of this is allocated to the seed program. Winter Survival has a total of \$677.24. The Patch account has \$57,921.91, with \$51,618.42 allocated to State of MI Gift Fund for turkey habitat, habitat projects for chapters, and symposium money, making the available funds \$6,303.49.

The Treasurer's report is accepted (Sam, Tony, carried).

National Board Report (Al Bobrofsky)

Priorities of the National Wild Turkey Federation Board of Directors include memberships, bylaw revision (expected to be approved in Feb., to be required by all chapters), return to conservation and hunting heritage roots, and the value of the volunteer (local, state, national).

The IRS requirements of the NWTF include an annual audit and access by NWTF to all accounts.

NWTF Staff Reports

Dr. James Earl Kennamer reports that MI has achieved the \$3 million mark, and is to be applauded. The NWTF is in good shape, in the black at end of the fiscal year.

The National Board and NWTF staff recognizes that these are trying times, but we have a strong board

leading us. Project TOM (Target Our Membership) will feature internet improvements in records and some methods to improve income. Money will be managed responsibly. The future is bright!

Steve Sharp reports that the logo has changed. Now it features the 3 walking turkeys, with the words "Conserve, Hunt, Share" or "Wheelin' Sportsmen", "Women in the Outdoors", etc. under the turkeys.

Our mission statement remains the same "The conservation of the wild turkey and preservation of hunting tradition".

The chapter president weekend in July will coordinate with the next State Board meeting, both at the Carl Johnson Center at Mitchell State Park. Campers are welcome. There is the potential for a state JAKES event, since there is a pellet gun range and archery.

The State Chapter should consider a presence on Facebook for more exposure using modern media. We could post photos, notices, and reminders.

Many chapters are participating in the JAKES Of The Year recognition for 2010.

Project TOM, will make online tickets available for banquets, and have local participant's names at hand with address, and a record of their expenditures. When a banquet is planned, we can pull up names in our area with similar interests in addition to past attendees. We will be able to initiate mailings with bulk mail rates. We can sort patch buyers in our own area, and many other options.

The chapter treasurers will have to sign a signature card for NWTF, to protect our funds from taxing by the IRS.

All JAKES memberships are \$10. Our insurance covers members at events. Memberships are required at all JAKES events.

In the future, Golden Gobbler status will be revisited, cash contributions will be moved into gross income figures, and possibly requirements will change for the old 70% club.

Note that we continue our support for the U.S. Sportsmens Alliance.

Randy reports that conservation staff and professional staff have been added, thanks to 77% pay from outside financial grants. Of course, these grants require productivity and reports. More emphasis is evident on conservation. Our goal is to get grants and hire more help in MI in order to cut down the territory of each biologist.

Thanks to his Regional Director background, Randy helps at banquets in 3 states.

Keith and Tom have no report.

DNRE Report (Al Stewart)

Apply or buy your spring hunt turkey license now.

This is the end of 3-year cycle, so now turkey regulations are being discussed.

The NRC meets April 8 with interested parties, and then votes on May 6 on any changes starting with the fall regulations.

Spring regulations are discussed now, presented in October, and acted on in November.

Thanks to the MI State Chapter and local chapters for supporting habitat projects through Super Fund.

Fundraising Committee (Ron Hopkins)

This is our 10th year of knife sales. We have a few left of 2008 and 2009, so chapters are encouraged to buy at discount prices for their banquet or raffles.

This year's Hess knife is made locally. Only 40 were ordered.

This committee welcomes ideas for fund raising projects, appreciates collectors, and always keeps costs low with little profits.

The #1 Hess knife is available for auction tonight.

When we run out of patch sets for 5 star awards, consider using knife collections.

Ron keeps records of collectors and this information is available upon request.
We have one gun still in inventory.

Winter Survival Committee (Pete Demos)

\$1,425.00 has been processed this winter so far. The buyer pays 50%.
Some requests made by phone still need paper application.
Chapters are doing less fund raising, which is a concern.
Winter Survival has been trimmed down a lot in the last few years. Requirements are tougher, co-pays are in place, and grain vendors have cut costs.
We are cooperating with Wildlife Unlimited by paying 50% of costs for feeding.
Guns are available from the State Chapter for fund raising, with the understanding that profits are saved out to buy the next gun.
We promote habitat planting and long-term solutions, such as crab apple trees. The DNRE and Wildlife Unlimited cooperate to buy and plant trees and apply for grants. Fencing, good soil, tree guards, and fertilizer are required for success. This benefits all wildlife, not only the wild turkey.
When using corn for turkey feeding, remember that deer feed is considered contaminated, and standing corn can be moldy. Use only corn that can be used for cattle feed.
The feeder design was on the website, and needs to get back on the web site. Pete has improved the feeder to keep squirrels or rodents out.
To avoid damage, take the feeders inside after the feeding season. Be sure to spray with Lysol, dry the inside or at least tip to the side. Craig's area has a problem with avian bird pox, easily identified with the help of DNRE and NWTf web sites.
January is turkey-counting month, with reports to DNRE management units to help biologists plan ahead for future seasons.

Rules and Regulations Committee (Hugh Marx)

This is the end of a DNRE 3 year stabilized plan. Suggestions for fall hunting are welcome now. We support open season for turkey starting September 15, and the expansion of area M to include the entire UP.
More hunter recruitment is necessary for all ages.
We support the increase in youth hunting opportunities, including a tag for one bird, used in any open zone for \$3.
We do not support OTC licenses except leftover tags, and no increase in hunting where birds are scarce. In the northern MI Lower Peninsula, bird numbers are showing a downward trend. Deep snow and the deer-feeding ban have hurt us. We are down to 1987 levels. Is this correctable? Is there a creative way to feed turkeys where deer feeding is banned? Fewer birds mean unhappy hunters and possibly a loss of NWTf members. We need input and solutions. Southern MI Lower Peninsula has more hunter satisfaction. The Rules and Regulations Committee will meet with the Winter Survival Committee to discuss this.

PR and Media Committee

The State Chapter has a booth at the Deer and Turkey Spectacular Show on February 12. Frank, Steve, and other volunteers will work selling patches and knives. The State Chapter will reimburse the entry fee for the workers (Phil, Gary V., carried).

Web site management can be done by NWTF. Cost, convenience, and other considerations will guide the committee, and they will make a recommendation in July.

Super Fund Committee (Herb)

Note the totals requested and approved on line 486 of the spreadsheet, and note the allocations and percents in lines 490-492. The percentage of Super Funds dedicated to JAKES and education are emphasized due to 5 Star requirements.

Electronic forms are a great improvement. With electronic signature approval, the process is streamlined. Thanks to Mike for the good job compiling. Mike sends each request to NWTF.

Some of the outreach minimums are lowered, but every attempt was made to honor chapter requests, especially habitat. Some projects are listed under patch monies now. We suggest that all chapters emphasize habitat, realizing that habitat funding may be shared with other groups.

NWTF likes a record of our outreaches, because it shows supporting agencies where our priorities are, and grant money or matching funds may be available.

NWTF staff is paid to help us keep good records, and good accounting for all Super Fund money is necessary.

Approval is automatic (see August 2009 decision).

Outreach (Sam)

Regional Directors ticket all events. This is needed for insurance and scheduling.

NWTF has an agreement with the Boy Scouts of America, with a trial program in some eastern states. Boy Scout projects can interface with our JAKES for joint events, which increases exposure, and may gain more urban youth. Boy Scout merit badges/patch can be gained with a hunting tag or hunter safety course. Everyone gains with groups coming together, such as FFA, 4H, and Boy Scouts, and each group benefits the others. Costs and resources are shared. Each chapter is invited to choose a JAKE Of The Year, to be honored at next year's banquet.

Convention Committee (Jan)

We are happy to be at the Big Rapids Holiday Inn for the second year. We enjoyed the hospitality room last evening. Today Dr. James Earl Kennamer, NWTF Chief Conservation Officer and Al Stewart, MI DNRE will give a workshop/seminar of the MI wild turkey and the return of the wild turkey and its future. The banquet starts at 4:00 with welcoming and registration, silent auction and raffles. Dinner is at 5:30 with pork loin and chicken. The Awards Committee is prepared to announce the individual and chapter awards. The live auction follows, then the raffle winners will be announced. This year we have a live band to entertain until midnight.

Thanks to the Big Rapids chapter for their set up help, and more than 25 chapters that donated money or merchandise. Thanks also to Ron Hopkins, our gun dealer, and Auctioneer Darrel Holmes. Thanks to the volunteers who will help with games, the WITO table, and raffles.

We are considering a location around Grand Rapids for 2011, and welcome input.

Awards (Bert)

The individual and chapter awards are ready for presentation tonight. Each recipient deserves our applause for his or her hard work and accomplishments. Eight scholarship applications were received. It is not always easy to make our scholarship known in the schools. Chapters should make a good effort to talk to the counselors and provide the applications for students that are eligible.

Conservation Seed (Dave)

About the same numbers of orders placed as last year.
2,750 bags of seed are ordered, or 4,000 acres at \$9/acre to plant.
The corn is round up ready.
The pick up date is tentatively April 10.
Seed Subsidy is not done through the state chapter/???NWTF. We are not doing anything with perennials as a state chapter, and this is not funded through Super Fund. For the general membership, orders are placed directly with NWTF, and 1/3 of the cost is for shipping.

Patch Program (Troy)

The new 2010 patch is passed around. Post cards have been sent to previous purchasers by bulk mail. The patch winner will be acknowledged tonight, and will go to the NRC meeting. Students design these patches. D. Elshof promotes this activity in schools and the rules are posted on the internet. The DNR and NWTF patches are on display at MSU, thanks to everyone's great cooperation. Our Educator of the Year, here tonight, has had several students from his classes win the patch contest.

Elections for Executive Board

Nominations for President: Tony Snyder (Sam, Ron), Herb (Pete) declined.
Nominations closed (Craig, Pete, carried). Tony carried, congratulated.
Nomination for Vice President: Roger Shoemaker (Pete, Troy).
Nominations closed (Craig, Pete, carried). Roger carried, congratulated.
Nomination for Secretary: Jan Kuhtic (Herb, Troy).
Nominations closed (Craig, Pete, carried). Jan carried, congratulated.
Nomination for Treasurer: Gary Salmon (Roger, Herb).
Clarification on Patch Program manager with Patch checkbook: Troy will continue to manage the Patch Program and will be responsible along with the new Treasurer for money and accurate reporting. (Bert, Pete, carried).
Nominations closed (Craig, Pete, carried). Gary carried, congratulated.
The new officers commit to be accessible by email and phone at any time.
Terms of all board members must be considered subject to NWTF bylaw changes.

Old Business

Dates have been set for the 2010 board meetings: July 17 at the Carl Johnson Center, September 18, tentatively at Jay's in Clare, and January 15, 2011 at the convention location. All meetings start at 9:00 am. Jan asked for a response to the newsletter. Response was positive. A newsletter will be sent after each

board meeting if possible with a calendar and highlights from the meeting. Members are invited to contribute articles.

Craig congratulates everyone involved with our turkey patch program, and comments that other patches are not as well done.

Finally we have a map of chapters and regions, with board members assigned to each chapter in the state. Phil handed out sheets with each board member listed with 3-7 chapters. The purpose is to keep every chapter in touch with their Board of Directors. After telling the chapter contact we are from the State Board, we will give them any pertinent information and invite communication, or visit the chapter. The Regional Directors can provide phone and email information. Changes to this list are made with Phil. This information will be put in the next newsletter.

New Business

Rebecca Humphreys thanks the NWTF for their support of her position as Director of DNRE (DNR combined with DEQ).

Gary VanDyke suggests we offer a turkey hunt as part of the "Pure Michigan Hunt" program. Three hunts are offered now, not including the wild turkey.

Ron encourages us to keep up with our legislators about gun rights. There is an attempt now to push out the small gun dealers. Don't take our rights for granted.

Keep up with the current news. Ron offers to keep us up to date by email. James Earl reminds us that the NWTF also monitors legislation on this topic, and will not compromise our rights.

Other Business

Dave Newhouse, US Forest Service, thanks us for the NWTF Making Tracks award given at the NWTF convention in January 2010.

Al Bobrofsky thanks EVERY volunteer on behalf of the NWTF.

Barry, from the Elk Country Gobblers, would like to plan a Golf Tournament with local chapters of NE Lower MI to participate. This could be a statewide tournament for 2011, with a goal of funding education, habitat, Winter Survival, JAKES, or WITO programs. He will chair and organize, but needs committees for corporate donations, registering up to 36 teams of 4 persons, and local chapter assistance. There are 2 courses, and a hotel on site with others nearby. Dates will probably be around Labor Day weekend. NWTF members will be invited, with many potential members for NWTF. We support this statewide project (Gary S., Roger, carried) and will discuss in July when more details are available.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm (Pete, Phil, carried).

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Kuhtic, Secretary