

# January 18, 2011

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

Tony led the Pledge of Allegiance, Alex Rutledge led a prayer.

## Roll Call and Introductions

Present Region 1: Roger Shoemaker, Ken Buchholtz

Present Region 2: Pete Demos

Absent Region 2: Craig Meredith, Jim Szilagyi

Present Region 3: Tony Snyder, Gary Salmon, Jan Kuhtic, Phil Kuhtic, Dave Godley, Troy Hopkins, Ron Hopkins, Bert VanderWeele, Hugh Marx

Absent Region 3: Gary Van Dyke, Frank Brazynetz, Sam Giese

Absent Past President: Herb Lorentz

Present NWTF National Board: Al Bobrofsky

Present NWTF Staff: Steve Sharp, Tom Karsten, Keith Rubin

Guests present: Ron Wassom (Turkeyville Toms), Garry Biniecki (Slate Stone Strutters), Jeff Bobrofsky (Turkeyville Toms), Dave Newhouse (3 Corners Habitat, Huron-Manistee National Forest), Alex Rutledge ("Bloodline" Radio and TV), George Bench (Beards & Spurs), Bob Jack Paul, Mike Orzol, Sen. Goeff Hansen, Sen. Darwin Booher, Jim Maturen, Pete Kailing (MI DNRE).

## Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes

Sam Giese and Gary Van Dyke have communicated to Tony that they will not seek re-election on the State Board, and Frank Brazynetz is unable to complete his term of office.

The agenda is approved as printed with one addition "MUCC Alert".

The minutes of September, 2010 were reviewed with 2 corrections: on the last line of the Winter Survival section, bird should read deer; under New Business, in the paragraph about sponsor incentives, these gifts will be received in 2012 only should read these gifts will be received at the 2012 convention. The minutes were approved with these corrections (Roger, Pete, carried).

## Treasurer's Report (Gary Salmon)

The General Fund balance on September 18, 2010 was \$28,523.07. Deposits were \$10,417.56. Checks were \$7,924.91 (Winter Survival, Sept. 18 lunch, US Sportsmen Sweepstakes, web page manager, Shiawasee hunt, Alex Rutledge, 2011 committee hats, Alex Rutledge airfare, State Chapter President to national convention, state calling contest, state convention start-up cash) for a balance of \$31,015.72.

The Winter Survival balance on September 18 was \$162.44. Deposit of \$2,500, and no checks written, for current balance of \$2,662.44.

The Treasurer's report is approved (Pete, Phil, carried).

## NWTF Staff Reports

Steve reports that NWTF has started sending invitations for banquets several weeks prior, including attendees for the past 2 years, like interest, patch purchased, over a 30-mile radius. This includes a return envelope. The cost to the

banquet is \$300.00. The RD has the list of who gets these invitations. The cost is considerable, so we will be watching the outcomes. At this time, it cannot be personalized, but the system will be capable in the future. Larry and Brenda Potterfield of Midway USA have made a major contribution (\$1.4 million) toward youth shooting sports. 1,000 Remington Versamax guns were purchased for the nation's top 1,000 banquets. These chapters will use this gun to raise funds for youth shooting. 100% of the proceeds go to NWTF, then 50% of the money raised goes to purchase trailers with shooting equipment for use in the states. The other 50% goes to national youth shooting programs. Steve advises that this is not part of the banquet, so use caution if you try to "sell" it at banquets, so it does not detract from your Super Fund money raised. It is better to use as a pre-affle or entirely separate from the banquet. The goal of this effort is to get many more kids shooting.

Tom thanks the board and all volunteers for a good year with lots of good work accomplished.

Keith thanks all of the volunteers for their hard work. Saginaw and Isabella now have chapters up and running.

Pete Railing, representing the MI DNRE, will help with today's seminar. The DNRE has experienced many staff reductions including retirements. As a staff biologist, retirements affect the remaining biologists as their own workload increases, but they are managing well. Al prepared a report that Tony read: the 2010 fall hunt went well including the second tag system. 25,000 had one tag, 1,728 had a second tag, 169 had a third tag, and decreasing numbers of persons had more tags, up to 12 tags. There were 45,000 total tags available. This was the first year of 3 for the revised fall regulations.

For spring, there are enough gobblers expected for all of us to hunt. The DNRE's goal is to maximize opportunities while maintaining a quality hunt. In the fall, the goal is to maintain or reduce turkey populations.

A turkey plan is being formulated for the next 10 years.

The spring turkey hunting rules are expected to stay the same as 2010. The 2010 hunts were similar to the 2009 hunts.

The NWTF and MI DNRE is considering the catch and release of turkeys from southern to northern MI with suitable habitat, with the cooperation of local chapters and landowners, as early as March. In Mio, for example, the turkey population is down, and they are hoping for a transfer. This population decrease continues to be studied and discussed by the DNRE and NWTF, and this turkey transfer is a welcome solution. Several of our membership (Pete, Keith) hope to be on the committee that makes the final transfer decisions.

## **NWTF Board (Al Bobrofsky)**

Al gives this last report as a NWTF National Board member. He is not seeking re-election, having served 3 terms of three years each. He relates that all these things happened during his terms: Since 2002, membership increased from 125,000 to 300,000; cash reserves were \$16 million in 2006, decreased to \$7 million in 2008 (courts to determine why), and back up to \$8 million in this tough economy; a new warehouse is built, paid by cash.

When Al started, only 5 on the national board came with chapter system experience, now 14 of 18 have this advantage.

A new board takes office in February. In June, a Leadership Gathering will happen in Edgefield with an emphasis on Outreach. We expect a memo later in January.

With strong leadership and a professional business model, with thanks to our first leaders, we expect a great future for the NWTF.

This MI State Chapter thanks Al for his considerable time, personal resources, and talents during his time in this volunteer position. We believe this has had a definite benefit for the chapters and volunteers in MI.

## **Conservation Seed (Dave Godley)**

Corn, soybeans, oats, and sunflowers are ordered. The corn is Round Up Ready. We hope for Round Up Ready soybeans, but that is unknown at this time. We will again have Michigan Mix #2. This year's order is similar to last

year. Minimal or no price changes are expected. Pick up will be in mid April, and chapters will be notified of the specific date. There is a 5-bag limit per person on the corn. The forms are necessary, as before.

## **Public Relations and Media (Tony)**

We have a new State Chapter web site live. Go to NWTF, click on MI. We will phase out the present web site by the end of March, with duplicate information until then. Updates will be added next week. We will have a photo gallery, 5 Star section, information for schools, patch program section, etc. We need a board member to work with Cliff at NWTF. The banquet calendar and outreach events will be automatically posted as NWTF gets the information.

Ideally, only a few persons will monitor the information given for the web page.

There are 7 boxes available for ads. The committee will decide how these will be used, and set the rates. The cost for this service is \$400 per year, so we hope the ads can pay for the site.

The board needs a chairperson for this committee since Frank is no longer in this position.

## **Outreach (Tony)**

No activity is reported.

Tonight at the banquet the first Jake of the Year will be honored.

We hope for more JAKES and Women in the Outdoors events in 2011.

The Regional Directors and the Executive Board will help decide who will go to the national Outreach event in June, and how they will be reimbursed. Those who attend may be expected to apply their knowledge to their events. In the past, board members received \$300 in reimbursement for attending.

For Outreach events, try to use other agencies, like DNRE, MI Trappers, fishing organizations, etc. to gain teaching expertise, gain volunteers, and increase attendance.

The MI Deer and Turkey Spectacular show is in Lansing in February. A continuous silent auction is possible. Since there will be an emphasis on outreach, a booth is offered free if there is a women's group to manage it.

## **Winter Survival (Pete)**

To request Winter Survival funds, the forms first go to a committee member. After the winter feeding, the tracking forms must be turned in to the committee. Remember that feed for turkeys from the store must be suitable for cattle.

Crab apple trees are available, and may be reserved now through Pete, with payment upon receipt. These are good 3-4 foot trees for \$.80 each, probably available in late March or April.

Thanks to those of us who cooperate with DNRE turkey counts in January.

Ken will not request funds in the UP because of the cooperation of Wildlife Unlimited, DNR, community foundations, NWTF, managed feeding with landowner cost sharing, and the planting of food plots and trees.

## **Convention Committee (Jan)**

We are pleased to be at the Big Rapids Holiday Inn again this year. This is the second of three years we contracted for, and they agreed to keep the meal rates and the room rates the same for 2012.

We sent out a mailing in December to two members of each chapter including an invitation from Tom, a donation request, a banquet information flier, information about Alex, and ticket forms.

Chapter contacts were made by phone in early January to encourage attendance and donations. All the information was given to the webmaster the second week of December, and special invitations were sent by the awards committee.

The menu is set, we will have greeters and name tags, the auctions are set up, the guns are here, and the band will play. We have 4 raffle games, and raffle packages for \$30 or \$100.

All board members who have not been assigned a specific job are asked to help with the live auction, blitz raffles, and clean up.

The committee will develop a convention budget based on expenses and income for the last few years.

## **Super Fund Committee (Roger)**

A copy of the Super Fund requests was given to the board for review. These have been reviewed and approved. If a chapter had requests that exceeded their allowance, and they were not granted, the chapter may request assistance from the emergency fund by contacting the Super Fund Committee.

Dave Newhouse thanks this NWTF group for a valuable partnership. He will meet with Randy Showalter to show the work in progress at the Huron-Manistee National Forest. Only with donations like ours can Dave obtain matching state funds. His workload and funds are also affected by staff cuts and budget limits.

Al Bobrofsky (Turkeyville Toms) has extra JAKES Education boxes which may be used by another chapter.

## **Patch Program (Troy)**

The Patch Program had another good year in 2010. The proceeds helped with tree purchases, Conservation Seed for northern MI land, and many habitat projects.

In 2010, 8,000 patches were ordered for \$5,120.00. Postage and other supplies cost \$3,738.32. Total expenses were \$8,858.32. 6,203 patches were sold for \$31,015.00. 202 patches were given to youth and 550 patches were given to DNRE and dignitaries. Total revenue is \$31,015.00. Total profit is \$22,156.68.

This patch financial report is accepted (Roger, Gary S., carried).

The new patches are not ready yet. A different company was used, and many times it was sent back to be re-worked. A picture of the final patch design was shown.

From the patch money, \$28,675 can be requested for habitat projects. Patch money should also be used for the MI trap and transfer.

The board thanks Troy for his volunteer work on the patches.

The Turkey Patch funds will be a NWTF sub account of the State Chapter checkbook. Gary holds the administrative checkbook, and Troy holds the Patch/DNRE. The use of funds will be by request and approval, similar to the Super Fund request process. This is compliant with our 501c.3 status, and will show the money available and used for habitat, as well as provide a paper trail for obtaining matching funds (state and national level). Troy, Steve, and Al Stewart will work out the details for the request/approval process.

## **Rules and Regulations (Hugh)**

The spring turkey hunting regulations have not changed. The whole state is open for turkey hunting! For the fall hunt, the additional tag concept worked well, so no change is anticipated for 2011.

The committee is pleased that the lower turkey population in northern lower MI is finally being addressed, and could result in the trap and transfer of MI turkeys.

## **Awards and Scholarship (Bert)**

Six scholarship applications were considered for the state award. The winner from 2010, from Grand Valley, will be announced at the awards dinner tonight.

This scholarship remains difficult to promote within schools. Chapters can share good candidates with other chapters, since some chapters have scholarship money designated from Super Fund and have no applicants. Consider 2 scholarships from your chapter, or consider giving a greater amount of money. Consider increasing the amount given to the state scholarship winner.

## **Fund Raising (Ron)**

We will have a 2011 state chapter knife, but it is not ready yet. We cancelled the Rapid River order. Bark River will make a knife with German steel, expected to be completed in 2 weeks for about the same price as the other company.

We will use two state chapter knives from previous years for our silent auction tonight.

We have 8 knives left from 2008 and 8 from 2010 which may be purchased by chapters for the cost of \$80 each.

The 2004 Browning Gold Fusion gun with chokes and case will be offered at the live auction tonight. This will not be available for Pick of the Litter, and will have a reserve bid of \$1,000.

## **Old Business**

Bill Marvin at NWTF prepared areas of the new by-laws that may be adapted for specific state's needs. Chapters have one year to make their final copy.

Mentor chapter changes due to changing board members will be done later.

Steve offered colorful fliers for the Grand Slam sponsor package which may be used at banquets, noting the incentive drawing in 2012 for all the 2011 sponsor members in MI.

The MI State Chapter will be represented at the MI Deer and Turkey Expo in Lansing February 18-20, 2011.

## **New Business**

Senator Goeff Hansen is on Michigan's Outdoor and Recreation Committee, which is responsible for the hunting, fishing, and firearm regulations. He asks that the conservation organizations in MI band together and work for our common interests, since there is strength in numbers. Be vigilant for those working against us, and give input to our legislators because we are the people using our natural resources.

Senator Darwin Booher is chair of the Banking Committee, Vice Chair of Agriculture and on the Appropriations Committee in Lansing. He welcomes questions or conversations on the DNRE, DEQ and Community Health.

Dave Newhouse informed us of a MUCC alert. A Federal Circuit court ruling on the Forest plan for the Huron-Manistee National Forest mandated that the Forest Service consider banning all firearm hunting on all or portions of 13 semi-primitive areas. Dave will present a reasonable range of alternatives for the use of wilderness, semi primitive, and primitive areas based on science. We need to share our preferences with our Senators in

Lansing. There are several public hearings scheduled in January and February. Become familiar with this appeal, and express your opinions to our state Senators, or give to Tony, so he can forward properly. Hand written comments are best with personal information, such as how this will affect your hunting or recreation. There will be a statement crafted which may be adapted and sent. Treat this as an affront to our access to hunting.

Annual State Board Elections: There are 4 positions to be filled on the board for the term 2011-2014 from Region 3. There is one term to be completed (Frank's) for 2010-2013. We reviewed the biographies submitted by the nominees. We used a ballot with our 5 nominees: Dave Godley, Bert VanderWeele, Dan Potter, Ron Wassom, and Garry Biniecki. The top votes took the 2011-2014 term: Dave, Bert, Dan, and Ron W. Garry was appointed by Tony to fill the 2010-2013 term. Congratulations to these volunteers willing to serve. Note that a vacancy remains in Region 2, Roger is reelected for Region 1, and Craig is reelected to Region 2. This election is approved and the ballots destroyed (Pete, Roger, carried).

In February, the DNRE/NRC will select the winners for the Pure MI Hunt. We will purchase turkey vests, turkey calls, and patches to be given to the 3 winners. They will get a license for hunting deer, turkey, bear, elk, and waterfowl. Pete suggests making a video, interview these recipient, get some positive press, and promote these MI hunts. This only costs \$4 a chance to apply. We will give this donation (Pete, Roger, carried).

Tony attends meetings as the State Board president. In the future, he will inform the board when he attends these meetings, and report back to us.

Ken Buchholtz and the Bays de Noc Chapter created a hunting blind/trailer outfitted for high quadriplegic hunters. This project involved the local school youth, an adaptive equipment company, and many volunteers. This unit may be used for turkey, bear, and deer hunting. He invites us to watch a DVD about it. In 2010, his Wheelin' sportsmen took 11 hunters, and harvested 4 turkey, 2 bear, and 13 deer. A hunt with Ken and this trailer will be auctioned tonight at the banquet.

Tony proposes a State Calling Contest to be considered by the board. We would need a state coordinator, sponsors, and sanction by NWTF. We would need several sanctioned events, probably at Cabela's, Gander Mountain, Jay's, the major sport shows, and the State Championship at the convention. The state champions could advance to national competition. This could start on the Friday evening of the convention and finish on Saturday during the day. We would start in 2012, decide how many divisions, and include women and children. Only the top 3 from each sanctioned event would compete at the convention. This would draw more people to the convention and attract sponsors. This proposal will be reviewed and planning will continue (Troy, Roger, carried).

Guest comment by Jim Maturen: The decline in turkey population in the northern lower peninsula has been a concern. This results in poor hunter satisfaction and the loss of hunters, notably since 2009. The MUCC and DNR should continue to examine best hunting area options, including the whole northern area as one unit, and how to improve our hunting experience.

George Bench suggests that we approach sportsmen's clubs as a way to increase scholarship participation. The web site deserves our compliments. With 90 chapters in the state, each must be accountable to the state chapter. To solve problems, break them down into simple steps. The present State Forest problem is a bad enemy, and we must identify and fight our true enemies.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (Bert, Roger, carried).

The next meeting of the MI State Chapter Board of Directors is July 16, 2011 at 9:00 am at the state park in Cadillac.