

Michigan State Chapter Board of Directors September 17, 2011

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.

Tony led the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer.

Roll Call and Introductions

Present Region 1: (none)

Absent Region 1: Roger Shoemaker, Ken Buchholtz

Present Region 2: Jim Szilagyi

Absent Region 2: Pete Demos, Craig Meredith

Present Region 3: Tony Snyder, Jan Kuhtic, Troy Hopkins, Phil Kuhtic, Bert VanderWeele, Hugh Marx, Dan Potter, Ron Wassom,

Absent Region 3: Gary Salmon, Dave Godley, Ron Hopkins, Garry Biniecki

Present Past President: Herb Lorentz

Present NWTF Staff: Tom Karsten

Guests: Chris Eden, NWTF Area Manager, Al Bobrofsky (Turkeyville Toms), and Al Stewart (MI DNR)

Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes

Bass Pro gives a donation to the NWTF when members make purchases from Bass Pro in October.

Wal-Mart and Daisy are suppliers for the Take Aim trailers.

Keith Fisher, MI DNR Biologist, reports the turkey transfer to the Mio area was welcome, and he is pleased that the turkeys are settled.

Jennifer Kleitch, Biologist, also reports satisfaction with the turkey release.

Jonathan Knieper is representing the NWTF as a partner with the DNR and NRC youth program.

The agenda is approved as written.

The minutes of July 16, 2011 are approved with the following changes: Under MI DNR, “We as a group should have regular conversations with Russ Mason, Chief of the Wildlife Division, and the biologists, as well as local hunters.” will be changed to: “We as a group should have regular conversations with DNR representatives and the biologists, as well as local hunters.” to avoid misunderstanding, since our first contact is not Russ Mason but Al Stewart.

Also under Rules and Regulations, about an accounting of the use of the restricted turkey funds, strike the words “but this information has been difficult to access”. (Dan, Bert, 5 support, 4 oppose, 1 abstain, carried).

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

The General Fund balance on July 16 was \$25,082.50. Deposits totaled \$3,921.43, including \$3,184.82 in checks (Snyder, Kuhtic, and Wildlife Seed Supply). With one check not cleared, the checkbook balance is \$25,853.93.

The Winter Survival balance is unchanged at \$2,662.44.

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

Gary prepared a state chapter budget based on past experience (June 2010 to June 2011).

NWTF Staff Report (Tom, Chris)

Over this past fiscal year, JAKES events showed an increase in attendance, and WITO about the same numbers. A certain excitement is observed at the Outreach events.

Chapters are encouraged to have fundraising events outside the banquet season, such as gun bashes, which have been successful. Gun bashes target the "country boy" with a barbecue meal, games, raffles, minimal merchandise, and at least 40 in attendance.

NWTF staff are pleased to see profitable year-end results. There is an upward economic trend noted. Successful banquets have big committees, and for every new committee member, there should be an increase in attendance and dollars raised.

The new 2012 banquet books are out. For our 2012 banquets, some Regional Directors chose the Western package which includes a black bear and moose prints.

Thanks to all our volunteers who work hard to keep our mission. We should praise each other and act as a family, keeping our core values and promoting hunting activity at every opportunity.

The Take Aim trailer for MI is due to be delivered. The necessary forms are ready. Jim will store the trailer, and Troy and others offered available space for convenience. The Regional Directors are the coordinators. The manual is on the Outreach/JAKES website to download. Inventory and ordering details will be worked out before its use. Each chapter should plan to use this trailer for their JAKES.

Chris thanks this board for its years of service to NWTF. He has lived and worked in MI, including volunteering for conservation, working for the DNR, and in a small business. He sees the NWTF as an organization with a clear mission that can pass on the hunting tradition. The NWTF and turkey conservation efforts have been successful, and will continue to be. We need to turn to conservation ethics while keeping the NWTF mission clearly in view. The membership gains and net dollars show that we have done some hard work.

MI DNR (Tony, Al)

MI will host the Biologist's Deer and Turkey meeting on September 26-28 at the RAM Canter. One topic of interest is the decline in turkey population.

Ken Buchholtz received the Partners in Conservation Award.

Another turkey release is being planned for northern lower MI in March.

J. Knieper, JAKE of the Year, may be useful to the NRC for hunter recruitment and retention.

Al gave an update of the turkey regulations.

Conservation Seed (Herb)

The order form for seed is on the web page. No changes, except the MI mix is \$26. The MI Mix with soy beans is eligible for Super Fund money. Use the line item "habitat improvement". The Conservation Seed (sunflower, corn, soy beans) needs a separate form. The newer mixes may be ordered from Dave now. The Regional Directors can assist with these orders. Note that green form requests are due Dec. 1, 2011.

Public Relations and Media (Dan)

Ron Wassom and Dan developed a questionnaire which will be sent to each chapter. This form will identify elected officials, news media contacts, and active conservation groups throughout the state. Completed forms will go to Ron. Each chapter should become familiar with their representatives in Congress, and inform them of our mission. With cultivated relationships, information can more easily be shared. With good organization we are more likely to have an impact on our politicians and the media and promote our mission. The committee is looking for writers. Hopefully, the committee will have a master map with overlays for Congressional areas, DNR areas, Regional Director areas, etc.

Tony is adding forms to the web page, including Super Fund request forms. Any changes to the web page go first to Tony. Cliff at NWTF will help to get rid of the old web site. There is still advertising space available at \$120.00 per year.

Outreach (Tony)

Peter Wycoff is talking with Tony about a united event involving several conservation groups.

Winter Survival (Pete)

There were no requests for funds.

Convention Committee (Jan)

The MI State Chapter Convention is January 20-21, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Big Rapids. This is the third year of the price freeze on rooms and meals. Our featured speaker is Eddie Salter, final confirmation pending. In the future, we will look for more local speakers.

The ticket price will remain at \$40.00.

Chapter donations will be requested, either money or a local feature (outings, hunts, adventures). We will order custom turkey calls. Box call winners will have a 1/12 chance at the NSSF gun.

We have been looking at other locations for the 2013 banquet, and cannot find any even close to the price that Holiday Inn Big Rapids gives us. They have offered us the same prices in 2013 that we have enjoyed in 2010, 2011, and 2012 (\$89 rooms, \$19 for 2 meat buffet). We will take the offer (Bert, Troy, carried).

Super Fund (Tony)

The committee will meet December 10 to review the requests. Electronic forms are due December 1, 2011.

The Versamax forms are also online. The money raised must be used before December of 2012. The Versamax guns are donated, but should raise at least \$1,500 each with the purpose of promoting youth shooting. These are available from Chris or Tom. Consider seeking a \$2,000 donation for the gun, then making the buyer an event donor with lots of publicity. Since these guns are like a grant, the paper trail is required.

Patch Program (Troy)

No written financial report at this time. A deposit of \$1,965.50 was made for 193 patches sold. The checkbook has \$17,410.60. The 2012 design is being perfected for the patch.

The patch entries are received at the post office, taken to an art department for panel review and judging, and a decision is made on the winning design. A prototype is made, price bids taken, quality checked, then the order goes out for early January delivery.

We heard the complete patch inventory. We discussed the use of left-over patches, especially when they are plentiful, and the need to increase the number of patches for the “light” years. We want to continue the gift of a complete patch set for 5-Star chapters as long as possible. We will give Troy the discretion of giving old patches to Regional Directors for fund-raising, establishing a minimum amount of inventory to keep, and trading or buying patches to increase the inventory for some years (1990, 1998, 1999, 2001) (Herb, Phil, carried). We acknowledged the purpose of patches is fund-raising for the wild turkey more than collectability, and the Super Fund is increased with patch sales at banquets.

Rules and Regulations (Hugh)

Our spring regulations are in year 2 of 3.

The impact statement on the Huron Manistee National Forest has been completed. No change is likely for semi-primitive and primitive areas. The final decisions will be made in October.

On SB412, the use of turkey funds was reviewed. Dan has studied this bill and conversed with J. Maturen of the MI Turkey Hunters, and reached a satisfactory compromise. The land purchase, the disease research, the counts, and the habitat work were discussed. We observed that very little management was done in the northern lower areas where turkey population declined. We were given details of the DNR reports on turkey fund use for 2007, 2008, and 2009, Dan’s correspondence to Sen. Booher, MDNR Upland Game Strategic Plan, MDNR memo on “Restricted Fund Use”, some of 2008, 2009, and 2010 DNR spring turkey hunter survey results, MDNR and USFS memos, DRIP expenditure reports, a memo from Tony, and J. Maturen’s notes on the 2002 Turkey Fund Expenditures.

With changes to line 11 on page 2 (“...creation and management of wild turkey habitat on state, national forest, and private land, annual wild turkey population surveys, annual random disease testing across the wild turkey range in this state, and other...”) and line 22 (“The department shall, to the extent possible, use the money from subsection (3) to create and manage wild turkey

habitat on state game areas, state forest lands, national forest, and private lands, where appropriate.”), we agree to support this bill (Dan, Herb, carried). We will work to promote a good relationship with MI Turkey Hunters. Dan will make sure our NWTF biologist is aware of this bill and our intent. Ron and Dan will send J. Maturen and MI Turkey Hunters a note of appreciation for promoting the wild turkey and our common causes.

For the second year in a row, a MI teacher was chosen for the NWTF National Educator of the Year. Congratulations to Janine Kopera from Huron Valley.

Awards and Scholarships (Bert)

Now is the time to get scholarship applications to schools and talk to the counselors and principals. The forms are available online under NWTF, MI. These are due by January 1 for state competition and March 1 for national competition. We should approach 4H, FFA, and shooting sports groups to gain applicants.

Fund Raising (Troy)

There are 5 knives of 2008 left, 5 of 2010 left, and 17 of 2011 left. After some discussion, we agreed to continue to offer a State Chapter knife each year. The 2012 knives are here, for sale at \$70 to chapters and \$100 to individuals. This needs to be promoted on our web site, including a picture and detailed information.

Old Business

The MI State Chapter Constitution and Bylaws were distributed. The changes were noted on our copy. This document is accepted (Dan, Troy, carried). Dan will ask Mr. Marvin at NWTF whether it should be retyped with the changes.

A budget committee consisting of Dan, Tony, Gary, and Tom will continue to work on state and committee budgets (Dan, Jan, carried). We appreciate the budget Gary prepared to show expenses in the last 2 years.

The State Chapter is not a member of MUCC. It would cost \$150 for membership, and then our 19 member board could receive the email magazine. For an additional \$20, paper copies would be sent (need clarification on who gets paper copies). We acknowledge that a central communication network is needed, and MUCC supplies that. We need to support and contribute to this publication. We will renew our membership (Herb, Ron W., carried). Pete continues to represent this organization at MUCC.

New Business

For many years, we have paid for the state Conservation Officer of the year to go the NWTF convention. We want to pay for 3 room nights, travel expenses, and convention registration. Dan will check costs and prepare a package and pricing to be considered in January.

Pure MI Hunt winners will receive turkey hunting vests, a personalized box call, and a patch. Tony will get these gifts for the 3 winners and present them personally.

There will be a national leadership conference in June 2012 in Edgefield. The State Chapter will send 10, chosen by the board by application process, to be paid out of the state 2012 Super Fund. Those previously sent by the state chapter are not eligible. The application will be on the state web site. The cap is set at \$5,000.00 for all 10 persons (Phil, Hugh, carried).

The forms are online for many different awards and applications, but emails do not reach every member or even every president. A letter will be sent to each chapter with this information.

The sponsor member incentive for 2011, the sponsor member \$1,000 shopping spree with an additional \$500 shopping spree for the member who signed him/her up, will be presented at the 2012 convention. If the sign-up person is not identified, the chapter will receive the \$500. The NWTF 2011 sponsor list for MI will be used.

For the 2012 election, the Nominating Committee is the Executive Committee. Tony, Troy, Gary, and Hugh are eligible for another term. Tony, Gary, and Hugh would like to be re-elected, and Troy declined. Troy would like to keep running the Patch Program, however. There is still a vacancy in Region 2, so we need 1 nominee from Region 2 and 1 more nominee from Region 3. We have one interested man from Region 3. Jim is willing to change his election rotation to be eligible for election in January, but we will not change it at this time. Since Tony and Gary are eligible for re-election, they will not serve on the nominating committee for the January elections. The committee will consist of Roger, Jan, Herb, and Phil (Troy, Tony, carried).

Chris gave some information from the NWTF board meeting. Some membership costs will increase, and there is an added category for college students. Sponsor memberships will be Bronze, Silver, and Gold. He noted that memberships are higher in other similar organizations. The NWTF is aiming for membership growth at all events, especially in upper level donors. The college membership bridges the time between JAKES and adult memberships, and may result in new memberships.

The Super Fund calculations will be simplified, and will calculate memberships the same way for all events. The Regional Directors may consider area situations to establish ticket prices. With financial simplicity, open books, cooperation, and good financial planning and reporting between the volunteers and NWTF staff, the NWTF 501c(3) status will remain protected. These changes will be developed over time, and the Regional Directors will give the chapters the information and explanations they need. We are invited to approach the NWTF board with our reaction.

Adjournment

This meeting is adjourned at 3:45 pm (Dan, Bert, carried).

Submitted by Jan Kuhtic, Secretary.