

Michigan State Chapter Board Minutes

September 18, 2010

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:24 am.

Tony led the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer.

Roll Call and Introductions

Present Region 1: Roger Shoemaker

Absent Region 1: Ken Buchholtz

Present Region 2: Pete Demos, Jim Szilagyi

Absent Region 2: Craig Meredith

Present Region 3: Tony Snyder, Gary Salmon, Jan Kuhtic, Dave Godley, Phil Kuhtic, Troy Hopkins, Gary Van Dyke

Absent Region 3: Frank Brazynetz, Sam Giese, Ron Hopkins, Hugh Marx, Bert VanderWheele

Absent Past President: Herb Lorentz

Present NWTF National Board: Al Bobrofsky

Present NWTF Staff: Steve Sharp, Keith Rubin

Present MI DNRE: Al Stewart

Guests present: Brad Van Loon, Dan Potter (Beards & Spurs)

Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes

The minutes of July 17, 2010 were reviewed and approved (Roger, Dave, carried).

The agenda was approved with one addition; Habitat Project (New Business).

Ken, Pete, and Roger thank the board for their hotel allowance for meetings, which allows them to travel from the UP and get a night of rest before meetings.

Treasurer's Report (Gary Salmon)

The General Fund had \$16,274.11 on July 17, 2010.

Deposits \$26,235.57, checks/debits \$13,986.61, and current balance \$28,523.07.

Winter survival balance July 17, 2010 and current balance is \$162.44.

The Treasurer's report is accepted (Roger, Pete, carried). We appreciate the detail in the report. We are willing to reimburse Phil for the materials used in the 3 new bow boxes he made to hold the bows and arrows used for outreach events.

NWTF Staff Reports

Steve reports that these are tough, lean years for the NWTF. Super Fund dollars are down and national staff has been reduced. However, the bottom line is in the black.

The Core Package for 2011 has been chosen. We will preview this during lunch.

Since Quail Unlimited no longer exists, the NWTF has initiated the Upland Game Bird segment with the first chapter in Kansas. This is considered an outreach similar to Women in the Outdoors, JAKES, and Wheelin' Sportsmen. We can do joint projects with other game bird organizations, or even have a banquet featuring upland game birds, such as quail.

Chapters must follow the IRS regulations. Some of these regulations are in our banquet financial reports, such as the starting and ending bank balances and the need to show all receipts. We also report the non-banquet dollars raised, as other fund-raisers.

Our mission statement holds true for all activities, including our efforts to raise funds.

Dick Kirby, former NWTF National Board member, founder of Quaker Boy, is gravely ill after complications from surgery.

Keith thanks his region's chapters for their good work. We are seeing positive changes in Saginaw and Mt Pleasant. Upland Game should be very good for the northern chapters. Some chapters will probably mix activities with Upland Game.

Al Stewart, MI DNRE reports that the fall turkey season is underway, with plenty of opportunity for hunting across the state. Note that this reflects recommendations of this NWTF board.

For the fall hunt, 16,000 licenses have been sold, 12,000 for unit YY. Of the 55,000 licenses offered, 39,000 are still available. A second tag is allowed, so a hunter can bag another turkey on another day.

The DNRE Rules & Regulations committee is considering turkey hunting in the entire UP for spring. It is time to update the long-range turkey plan, so they are looking ahead to the next 10 years. For the next spring hunt there are no major changes. Junior licenses are possible in the future, as recommended by our Regulations Committee. Whether hunt 234 will be "over the counter" throughout the season is still undecided. Possibly, licenses will be sold through May 1. Still under discussion, having the whole northern Lower Peninsula open for the spring hunt.

The usual process for the rules published in the hunting guidebook is this: In October and November, information is gathered at the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). In November, the Commission makes decisions and writes the hunting guide, which is available to the public in December. NWTF input is welcome at the NRC meetings.

If you want your workshop listed in the hunting digest, email the information to Tony, who will forward to Al by October 20. Tony has the form for workshops available to all chapter presidents.

Meijer Inc. is offering a free junior license on Sept 17 and 18, in partnership with the MI DNRE. Look for the coupon in newspapers, which shows a web address. Sincere thanks to Meijer Inc. for this offer.

MI DNRE plans to unveil a pheasant initiative in October, hoping to recover the pheasant population in MI.

The Embridge oil spill in Marshall/Battle Creek had a huge impact on the wildlife in that area. Our DNRE was on the front lines, especially wildlife, fisheries and environmental personnel. This spill negatively affected geese, swans, turtles, frogs, and fish. Crude oil is very caustic, and requires protection equipment for the workers. A million gallons of crude oil spilled from the Embridge pipeline into the Kalamazoo River. With rain, it spread into area wetlands. This spill makes us aware of the potential for spills in other areas in MI, with the impact on Lake Michigan, as well as other natural resources.

NWTF Board (Al Bobrofsky)

The ballots for the NWTF National Board of Directors will be in the October issue of Turkey Country. Please vote.

Al's term on the National Board will expire in February 2011 after 9 years. We acknowledge his value to MI and the nation during his term, and thank him for his outstanding service to this organization.

The NWTF Bylaws are passed. Each chapter has a copy. Any changes to this must be sent to NWTF.

For this fiscal year, the NWTF is \$256,000 in the black. After some doubts, the 401k contributions have been funded for employees.

Al served on the Audit Committee. He reviewed policies for our insurance carriers. It is imperative that outreach events must get memberships in order to be insured. The 501(c)3 status requires financial statements, as on our event report forms.

In the nation, 200 banquets were cancelled due to low performance. All of us should help in any way we can to support our MI banquets.

Outreach events (WITO, Wheelin' Sportsmen, and JAKES) has \$200,000 budgeted for underwriting. These events must become successful.

In November we will know details of a new NWTF youth shooting program, funded by a foundation. The foundation will supply a raffle gun for the top 1100 chapters, with a 50/50 money split with the foundation (half back to chapter). This is an attempt to teach shooting to large numbers of school-aged children, similar to the Archery in the Schools.

Thanks to Al Stewart for his contact with the NWTF on the oil spill. Some NWTF help was received.

Conservation Seed (Dave Godley)

There is a new "Oat Mix" for use in the UP, which includes oats, winter peas, and 2 kinds of turnips. This is available for \$25 a bag (40 pounds), and plants ½ acre. This may be planted from April to Labor Day. The oats can reseed. This is not cost shared.

Only the corn is Round-Up ready. Corn has a 5-bag limit.

Note the order form, which eliminates the MI mix with corn.

The NWTF is trying to buy discard corn, soybeans, and sunflowers. They may be looking at our example for a very successful habitat improvement concept.

The Conservation Seed form is updated and ready to use. We should change the letterhead to reflect the MI State Chapter, not NWTF's seed program. Super Fund dollars may be used for this seed cost share.

NWTF legal counsel has reviewed the bylaws related to Dave's conservation seed activity, and found him exempt. Dave will abstain from voting on MI Conservation Seed issues. To eliminate confusion, we will rename our conservation seed program "MI State Chapter Habitat Seed", and this will be on the order form.

Tracking has been done for Round Up ready corn, and this will continue.

Public Relations and Media (Tony)

Our State Chapter web site is in transition, changing over to NWTF management. Clifford Williamson at NWTF has the initial work done. Frank and Tony will make decisions on some details. They will announce to us when the changeover is complete.

We need to be represented at the Michigan Deer and Turkey Spectacular booth in February of 2011. Steve usually is present, but will not be there this year. For now, we will buy the booth space. The persons working in this booth will be decided at the January meeting.

Ray Eye will be featured at the Showspan Outdoor Expo in Grand Rapids in March. In-room raffles are possible, as is a continuous silent auction. This can be discussed in January.

Outreach (Tony)

There is no report.

Sam, Outreach Chair, has notified the board that he will not seek reelection in January. This committee will appoint a committee chair at that time.

Winter Survival (Pete)

Remember that tracking forms are needed if any money is received for turkey feeding.

If a gun or other merchandise is requested for a raffle, this request goes to the Winter Survival Committee first.

We discussed turkey feeders and the reasons that some Conservation Officers cited residents for violations. We are reminded that screens must be in place, and the feeders must be checked frequently. Dean Molner is a good resource who can advise residents on proper feeding and he communicates with other law enforcement personnel. We need to uphold the law, continue our feeding once we start, and keep our good relationship with our Conservation Officers.

The currently recommended wire around turkey feeders is better than in the past. Refer to Pete, who will put this new information on the web site. Pete recommends that a bolt be used to secure the feeder to a stout base so the unit cannot be tipped with seed inside. Take care to clean out the feeder in spring, and tip the feeder.

Be careful with Round Up Ready corn in state forests, even if purchased at retail prices. Work with your local biologist and be aware that they may not allow genetically altered seed to be used on state land.

When will chestnut trees be available from NWTF? They are available only in West Virginia and Virginia now. Randy will help us with the chestnut trees when they become available. We are proud of the over 18,000 crab apples that are planted in MI already. We will add tree options that are available to banquets in the northern chapters. These trees are of great benefits to all game.

Pete reminds us that turkey feed must be suitable for cattle, and not purchased as bird feed from local stores.

Convention Committee (Jan)

We are still waiting for Michael Waddell, NWTF spokesman, to confirm that he will come for the state convention. We have our mailers ready for the convention except for the publicity related to the speaker. This mail will go out mid December.

Under consideration – non-members will have a charge for seminar, since this is exclusive, and memberships will be made available.

MI State Chapter Convention date is January 14 and 15, 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Big Rapids.

Super Fund Committee (Roger)

The green forms for Super Fund requests are due online by December 1. Green forms are not needed for MI Habitat Seed. The committee meets in December.

Patch Program (Troy)

No written patch report. The 2010 patches might possibly sell out by Dec. 31.

The 2011 patch design winner has been chosen. The prototype will be prepared next week. Bids are out for patch production. Troy sells the patches only for one calendar year, then they become unavailable except for awards.

K-12 school students create patch designs, which enter a state competition. The necessary information is available on the DNRE web site. Please inform your local schools of this activity. We are seeing several winners from certain school systems that participate every year in this turkey patch design competition.

Rules and Regulations (Gary V.)

The committee continues to discuss how new regulations for guide fees on public land will affect turkey hunter mentoring.

Awards and Scholarship (Tony)

Award Nomination forms are handed out. Dan Potter and the Awards Committee formulated specific guidelines for each award. Nominations are due on October 15 to Bert. All nominations at the state level will use these new guidelines (Pete, Troy, carried).

Two new awards will be initiated at the 2011 convention: Conservation Partner of the Year, and Jake of the Year.

Note that nominations for national awards have a different timetable.

The MI Law Enforcement winner will be sent to NWTF by Oct 20, so this information goes to the state Awards Committee by Oct 1.

The state chapter wishes to nominate Ken Buchholz again for NWTF's Roger Latham award. Roger will compile Ken's past and recent accomplishments and send this to the NWTF.

Fund Raising (Troy)

A few knives are still available from 2008 and 2010. Ken is working on the MI State Chapter knife for 2011. Rapid River had the knife order, but Ken recently cancelled it. Bark River make a successful offer, and is making 40 knives for 2011.

Our State Chapter pins are running out. Phil will order new ones with the three walking turkeys on a MI state outline. The state chapter will buy 300 new pins (Roger, Dave, carried). Phil will decide the prototype with Tony before making an order.

Old Business

Committee changes may be made after the January 2011 elections.

We updated our chapter mentor list.

We discussed the new NWTF bylaws at the July meeting. These were accepted at NWTF in August. This MI State Chapter accepts these bylaws as written, aware of the need to make amendments unique to MI, such as 3 zones for representation (Pete, Troy, carried).

The State Board is willing to pay overnight lodging for the UP board members if they make this known to Gary prior to arrival. They are eligible for this benefit at the July and September meetings.

New Business

Every chapter will be notified by web page and email of nominations and elections.

The nominating committee consists of 5 members, the executive board plus one. This committee is chosen after elections in January by the new board.

We agreed that this committee should consist of the executive board plus the past president (Troy, Pete carried).

In our bylaws we need to make a clarification of our three regions. We have 3 areas of MI with board representation according to member population. We will quote the old bylaws into the new. We have 18 elected members on the board plus the past president.

Motion to retain 3 regions, and keep 19 members on the board, to be written into the new bylaws, in writing for approval in January (Pete, Roger, carried). After our January meeting, the amended bylaws for the MI State Chapter will be forwarded to NWTF.

(Since Herb is past president, we still have a vacancy in Region 2.)

For the election to the board, these current members wish to be considered: Gary V., Dave, Bert in Region 3, and Craig in Region 2. We have requests for nominations from 2 men in Region 3 with the required signatures: Dan Potter and Ron Wassom. In Region 2, current member Craig will run again.

To clarify according to the bylaws: Every chapter can nominate a candidate for the Board with the required signatures, and the nominating committee can accept or reject any nomination, subject to over-rule by the Board. This is not a general election for all state NWTF members. The existing Board votes at the end of the January meeting for 4 positions (there are 5 eligible candidates for Region 3 named above).

At the end of the January meeting, the re-elected or new members assume their positions, then their Executive Board is elected (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer).

Some of our turkey hunters cooperated with a Wayne State University turkey heart research project this spring. They studied 185 hearts, one of which had a mutation (from Howell, MI). The report will be available from Wayne State. Another similar study is planned for the fall turkey hunt. Anyone interested in participating may contact Tony, who is willing to collect the hearts. Basic instructions: Take the heart out, leave the large vessels at the top, do not wash, put in a bag, write date, sex, weight, and location harvested on the bag.

Steve challenged each chapter to increase their memberships. Each chapter should add a new sponsor, 5 new members, and 12 new JAKES for 2011. A suggested incentive for 2011- enter all sponsors into a drawing, hold a drawing for a gift card or cash for the winner and a gift card or cash to the committee member who encouraged the sponsor. On the state level, we will enter all sponsors of 2011 into a drawing for a \$1,000 gift card with two winners, plus \$500 each for the recruiters of those winning sponsors. If the sponsor membership comes by mail or

the recruiter is not clear, the chapter will receive the \$500. These gifts will be received in 2012 only. Motion Gary S, second Phil, carried.

Jim requested help with habitat improvement in his area. His area biologist contacted NWTF and the DNRE for help, not just with money (estimated at \$3,000) but physical work for spring clean-up at Shiawasee, Crow Island, and other areas, including state land. Al Stewart will review the clearing and habitat plan next week, then he will suggest to the biologist and NWTF members how to obtain funding from WHIP or Emergency Super Fund (with green form).

NWTF members received a letter from the US Sportsmen's Alliance offering a sweepstakes for a Ford truck or \$10,000 cash. The State Chapter will donate money for 8 tickets, with any winnings to go to the State Chapter (Gary V, Pete, carried). Chapters and individuals are encouraged to support this sweepstakes.

Jan welcomes any suggestions or information for the next State Chapter newsletter.

Adjournment

This meeting is adjourned at 3:38 pm (Roger, Pete, carried).