

**Michigan State Chapter Board of Directors
January 19, 2013**

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.
Tony led the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Roll Call and Introductions

Present Region 1: Roger Shoemaker, Ken Buchholtz

Present Region 2: Pete Demos, Bob Garner

Absent Region 2: Herb Lorentz, Craig Meredith, Jim Szilagyi

Present Region 3: Tony Snyder, Gary Salmon, Jan Kuhtic, Dave Godley, Phil Kuhtic, Bert VanderWeele, Ron Hopkins, Hugh Marx, Art Pelon, Dan Potter, Garry Biniecki

Patch Program: Troy Hopkins

NWTF Staff: Tom Karsten, Steve Sharp, Keith Rubin, Randy Showalter, Chris Eder, Shawn McWilliams

DNR Staff: Al Stewart

Guests: Mike Kennedy (Flat River), Bob Jack Paul (Elk Country), Sam Giese (Turkeyville Toms), Bernard Tobianski (Beards & Spurs), Al Bobrofsky (Turkeyville Toms, former NWTF National Board), Jon Gray, Ramey Lunceford (MI FFA), Samantha Engelhardt (MI FFA), Jaime Curth (MI FFA), Emily Calderone (MI FFA)

Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes (Tony)

There was no correspondence to report, but Tony received information on several hunting and sporting shows. We hope the NWTF is well represented at the Deer and Turkey Expo in Lansing Feb. 22-24 and the Woods and Waters Show in Cheboygan and Novi. Keith and Art Pelon are in contact already.

The agenda is accepted as written.

The minutes of July 21, 2012 are approved as written (Pete, Phil, carried).

Treasurer's Report (Gary)

The Winter Survival account is inactive. We will close this account (Roger, Dan, carried).
The balance (\$2,562.44) will be combined with the General Fund.

The beginning balance of the General Fund (July 21, 2012) was \$26,649.91. Deposits totaled \$11,716.52 and checks totaled \$13,839.81. The balance as of January 19, 2013 is \$24,526.62. We saw an accounting of the checks written. The Treasurer's report is approved (Pete, Dave, carried).

We will clarify the gift for the MI Conservation Officer of the Year to attend the NWTF national convention in February 2013. The Awards Committee will write a letter of congratulations today, include the gift amount (\$1,500), and request that all receipts go to Gary before the check is written (Gary, Garry, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports

Tom Karsten reports that the NWTF is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Thanks to the NWTF volunteers and staff for making this possible. Thanks also to the DNR and other partners who support our mission.

To solve the problem of aging committees, hold recruitment meetings to encourage new volunteers to handle specific tasks of their choosing. Each new committee member can get \$1,700 more for your banquet.

Show lots of energy at the banquet, and do a variety of things throughout the year, such as shooting days, gun bashes, golf scrambles, and poker runs. Pre-raffles before the banquets or events will boost income, or try additional raffle options like the "Big Spender". The Regional Directors have more ideas, just ask! Try for sponsor memberships often.

New chapter development is needed in these areas: Evert, St. Johns, Gladwin, northern Oakland County, and restart Macomb County.

Get your raffle permits at least 8 weeks ahead, and check your documentation carefully.

Steve reports that the average person at a banquet spends \$167 by history, but costs are up. Sponsor memberships help the Super Fund.

Some encouragement gained from the JAKES Take Aim, youth shooting events, and some chapters started at colleges. Hillsdale College has a facility for youth shooting. We are encouraged to attend the MSU banquet in March. Use social media, especially Facebook to announce banquets.

The NWTF gun policy requires that guns won at an event be picked up within 60 days, or they go back to the NWTF, so this should be in the program. The gun list needs to be publicized, including the pre-sale raffles.

Keith notes that we have seen more turkeys in northeastern lower MI, the benefit of some mild years.

Ken Buchholtz will receive the Roger Latham award at the NWTF national convention in Nashville, TN in February. He represents a model leader who supports youth shooting, disabled hunter opportunities, and habitat improvement.

Chapter challenges: need chapters in Iron River, Crystal Falls, Petoskey, and Gladwin.

Thanks to all for the hard work and support of the NWTF mission.

Shawn gave us a written report of banquets year-to-date for each Regional Director.

Recruitment is the key to better banquets, but start with fun activities (not a "meeting") and ask for help later, then follow up. We are 2 banquets down this fiscal year, so we need 2 more somewhere.

We are celebrating 40 years of accomplishments and the people who have made them possible. Now we will re-examine the needs of turkey habitat and ways to preserve our hunting traditions. Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt is our new initiative as we look toward the next years.

A national leadership conference will be held in Edgefield June 14-17, 2013. Each RD and RB and state board will select leaders to attend, learn, and bring back ideas to help the NWTF in their state.

The NWTF national convention is in February. Tony will attend, and several others, who take this new energy to their local and state chapters.

Chris Eder gives this report from the National Board. Thanks for the 40 years of NWTF. This is a time to celebrate, look back, and look ahead.

NWTF is expanding the Conservation Seed program to benefit members, enhance habitat, and to encourage more food plots.

The Super Fund process has been simplified. The purpose is to streamline reports, and focus more on memberships. The net dollars all count the same, no matter where they are generated. All members are counted at the chapter and state level. This is good for the Super Fund, and also gains partnerships and cooperators who look for membership numbers. We are encouraged to gain sponsor memberships whenever possible.

Give a membership with any cash donation over \$35, and a sponsor membership for any donation over \$250. All these numbers are beneficial in Washington when we try to influence lawmakers.

Randy Showalter retires on March 10, 2013. Congratulations for a great job as a Regional Director 10 years and Biologist 9 years for the NWTF.

The recent project focus has been in the Huron Manistee National Forest. The endangered butterflies benefit, along with all of wildlife. Heather Keough (US Forest Service) is new and excited, and does a good job of planning ahead. The first phase of this project has a value of \$200,000, and the second phase will be about the same.

As we focus on specific areas, we want individual chapter support. For every dollar we get from chapters (Super Fund), we gain more from the US Forest Service and we apply for National Forest Service grants. For the grasslands initiative, for example, we took \$10,000 NWTF dollars and will turn that into much more.

Our challenge is to raise dollars for the NWTF, and connect with as many other agencies as possible for the greatest possible benefit to all of wildlife.

The NWTF hopes to hire a Biologist for Ohio, and replace Randy (MI, IN).

Sincere thanks for the relationships and friendships, and thanks for all the work we do together.

MI DNR Report (Al Stewart)

2013 Spring Season MI Wild Turkey Hunting Digests are available now. Application deadline for permits is February 1, 2013. Note that mentored hunts are mentioned.

Regulations are in a 3 year cycle. Think ahead about this fall and next spring. The DNR welcomes comments pro and con. The state government is becoming more streamlined in their paper work.

This winter, turkeys will be trapped from southern lower MI to the Mio area. The birds transferred earlier are reportedly doing well.

Our focus should be on changes that will make us world-class. We need to leverage our dollars so our small projects can be transformed into larger projects.

The crab apple trees and shrubs that were planted previously were given to the northern MI and UP chapters for permanent planting. We asked to do hands-on projects, and help is needed again. We will pot 1,000 trees in Lansing this spring. This is a satisfying, very visible project. We should have a date announced very soon. A committee will be formed to maintain the plants all summer, transport the plants to the planting site, and do the planting next year.

The DNR personnel who worked on this previously are retiring.

A cake will be provided by the DNR at the banquet tonight as an appreciation for this organization's "doing good things" to support conservation, including contributing to the Pittman Robinson fund. Al nominated the NWTF for this award.

The DNR has a Youth Conservation Council to develop the interest of youth in the Natural Resources Commission issues. Can we find youth from the NWTF? Refer to www.michigan.gov.dnr and click "Education and Outreach".

We received a copy of the Wildlife Division Management Regions and Primary Offices with contact information.

The focus areas mentioned by Randy are cooperative initiatives to benefit all of wildlife, whose value increases with involvement by multiple groups. Even the grasslands improvement benefits many species. Super Fund dollars from multiple chapters should support the crabapple project.

We appreciate Al and our partnership with the MI DNR.

Conservation Seed (Dave Godley)

We have received all the orders from the chapters, we have the seed coming, and we expect to be ready for distribution April 1. Round Up ready corn should be available.

We have a hand-out of the orders received as of Dec. 21, 2012. We welcome comments on the green fire mix.

We are encouraged to feed our wildlife with multiple sources, both crops and feeders.

Thanks to Mike Kennedy for his work on this committee.

PR and Media (Dan Potter)

Dan and Tony, along with the DNR Director, DNR Past Director, MI DEQ and Ag representatives, and others, meet as a MI Conservation Committee. This group wants a list of NWTF goals, and will consider the goals of 23 groups and give a response.

The Huron-Manistee issue is still not closed. A response is expected in 30 days.

Dan has prepared a preliminary booklet of the state and national awards earned by the volunteers from MI. Please look at this information and help to fill in the few blanks. We are reminded of the rich history of volunteerism in MI. Thanks to Dan for initiating this project. Very few of us have filled in the forms with media information and returned to Dan. We are reminded that this information is used to communicate with our representatives and senators, as well as TV and other media types. This is how we can mobilize and communicate in fast response to current issues.

There has been lots of press about wolves being de-listed. We care about the scientific management of wildlife. It is the DNR that may determine if wolves may be hunted.

Note that our Constitution allows anyone with 250,000 signatures to get an issue on the ballot. Erin McDonough is trying to change the constitution to increase that number, and to disallow paying for signatures.

Steve will send us an email with a link to our legislative contacts.

NWTF is preparing a statement regarding our second amendment rights, emphasizing hunting firearms and our right to hunt.

Winter Survival (Pete)

Pete requests a name change for this committee that reflects its current purpose. The name will be Habitat Enhancement, since our activities focus on habitat improvement including trees and bushes for long-term all-season benefit.

Through time, we have discovered that the chestnut trees don't always survive winters, but the crabapple trees do well. For a longer term plant for mast and food, we will plant hazelnut bushes. These grow to be 6-10 feet tall, 6-8 feet across with a long life. They cost about the same as crabapple trees. Some have been ordered already. All northern and UP chapters are encouraged to consider this. These bare-root plants, 18-24 inches, bought from a nursery in MN for \$1 do need a fence to protect them from deer browsing until they are well established, and would benefit from 6-24-24 fertilizer. Ken Buchholtz suggests that other groups may be willing to help finance this project. The local biologist will cooperate with the planting.

Name changed to Habitat Enhancement (Pete, Garry, carried).

Money to finance this hazelnut bush project may be requested from either the moved Winter Survival money or the Super Fund surplus money.

Convention Committee (Jan)

The annual convention is underway. We enjoyed snacks and conversation last night. Today we have the calling contest with Dan Dumas, seminars at 2:00 with Al Stewart, Bob Garner and Heather Keough. The banquet starts with raffles and games at 4:00. Dinner is served at 6:00 with the awards to follow. We have the usual silent and live auctions showing the 2013 Core Package. This is the last year contracted with the price of rooms and the dinner unchanged. 20 chapters helped by donating money or merchandise. We have a new gun dealer, Jim Decker, from Reed City Firearms. We have 190 dinners sold, which is 30 more than last year. The Big Rapids chapter helped with the Core Package set up.

We will request this location for the next two years with the same room and dinner prices (Ron, Art, carried).

Patch (Troy)

Patch sales in 2012 were less than anticipated.

Expenses were \$8,117.00, including 8,000 patches, postage and supplies. Revenue is \$21,242.30, including 4,248 patches sold. Total profit is \$13,125.30.

The 2013 patch is available tonight. The artist will be present at the banquet. This patch should be promoted at all the banquets and sport shows.

From patch money, \$21,000 was spent on education and habitat last year. We have a good database of those who request patches, available to any chapter. These can be sorted by zip codes and used to invite participation at our events.

Thanks to Al Stewart for his cooperation, and thanks to the teachers that promote the patch creation.

Super Fund (Mike, Roger)

We were given a copy of the 2013 MI Super Fund Allocation record.

Several comments and observations:

- The funds for the Conservation officer to attend the national convention are from the General Fund, not Super Fund.
- Conservation Seed money goes through the NWTF, and eventually all is returned. We cover the seed cost, trucking, and handling from various sources, and storage. The state chapter pays Dave, and we settle up each year.
- It is still necessary for tracking purposes to use the green forms for all requests. Chris will ask NWTF about tracking requirements. Note that the green form has changed – the correct form is on the web site.
- We will not take the \$1 per member in 2013 (Dan, Gary, approved).
- The Emergency Fund is down to \$2,189 approvals, from \$6,040 requested.
- The state scholarship and the law enforcement award money comes from the General Fund.
- The Versamax is now called Potterfield and Outreach Fund. The RD requests these funds after the events are registered. Prioritized 1-2-3. The unused Versamax money (more than \$3,000) may be used for Outreach, or to send people to the Leadership Conference in June.

The Super Fund report is approved (Roger, Phil, carried).

Rules and Regulations (Hugh)

We have a printed handout with Wild Turkey Regulations for Consideration. The NRC requests feedback about regulations from us, the turkey hunters. 2013 is the third year of the three-year cycle regulation process. Generally, most hunters appear to be satisfied with the current regulations. Al Stewart has compiled a list of suggestions for discussion: Fall season, allow all turkey licenses to be sold OTC with no quota. Spring season, create a private land only hunt during the first 2 weeks for the entire state, allow Hunt 234 licenses to be sold OTC throughout the season, expand Unit ZZ to include Mecosta, Oceana, and Newaygo counties, create a special youth hunt on selected State Game Areas, and allow hunters with 234 licenses to hunt Muskegon County Wastewater lands with permission. For fall regulations, the discussions are now through May 9, and for spring regulations, the discussions are July through November. Comments may be directed to Hugh or Al.

MUCC is promoting a youth doe hunt in September. This is expected to pass in June.

Awards and Scholarships (Bert)

If any scholarships are not yet given to this committee, they are due now. From now on, this meeting is the limit.

For award nominations, talk to the RDs about deserving individuals.

Thanks to Dan who compiled a list of past state and national award winners.

Pete suggests that we consider adding a second place scholarship winner at the state level, keeping the first place winner at \$2,000. This will be considered by the committee.

Fund Raising (Ron)

Since there is no demand as yet, no new knives have been ordered. Some old knives remain, and are on sale tonight for \$65 (our cost). Steve and Bert will promote these knives on the web site.

Finance and Budget (Gary)

We have a handout of the proposed and actual 2011-2012 budget. A third column will be added for year-to-date expenses. The total budget for 2011-2012 was \$11,990 with actual expenses \$10,493.

Old Business

Our by-laws still need a few language changes, according to B. Marvin at NWTF. Tony and Dan propose the changes, given to us in writing. Briefly, these changes are:

- There is no need of a general membership meeting
- The past president does not serve on the board
- For a proxy vote, it is signed and witnesses
- The annual report has a specific due date, November 30
- The president cannot be the chair of the nominating committee
- The president creates committees as needed

These changes are approved (Dan, Bob, carried), and will be forwarded to NWTF for approval. We may expect an approved copy of the state by-laws in July.

Our web site has open advertising blocks available for an annual fee.

A National Leadership Conference is planned for June in Edgefield. 27 persons are committed to going, with 3 more possible.

Steve's trailer is rarely used. For now, he will use it for storage. Tom thanks Al Bobrofsky for the repair on his trailer.

New Business

Since Ron Wassom has resigned, we have a state board vacancy in Region 3. We have a letter to nominate Jon Gray to fill Ron's term. The nomination is accepted (Bob, Ron, carried). Congratulations to Jon, whose term will end in 2014.

Jon will accept responsibility for the state chapter web site, and will promote our youth programs and the patch program.

We saw the Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt overview. For now, we will need a sub- committee to start the conversation and develop a strategic plan. Our volunteers, not limited to board members, will work with biologists, US Forest Service, and NWTF. Ken, Roger, and Bob volunteered.

The Glasson Foundation has a youth shooting proposal involving the Potterfields and the state chapter. The state chapter would give \$2,500 to the Glasson Foundation; the Foundation would give \$12,500. This money will be matched by the Potterfields for youth events and youth shooting to introduce opportunities for youth the "save the hunt". This would include education, shooting sports, and hunting promotion. We will invest the \$2,500 and watch how this develops (Roger, Ken, carried). The formal proposal will be examined by Chris and Tony before the check is written.

Bays de Noc has scholarship money available for a chapter with a qualified applicant.

Ramey Runsford from FFA, along with state officers Samantha, Janie, and Emily, introduced themselves and gave a presentation on the FFA. They asked the state chapter to revisit our FFA partnership. FFA promotes agricultural leadership in Jr. and Sr. High Schools with state leadership from colleges. The FFA promotes the business of agriculture, the biology of plants and animals, and supervises agriculture experiences with raising animals, habitat work, wildlife management, and forestry.

Specifically, they request \$2,000 for sponsorship of Wildlife Production and Management Proficiency, which was further described. They also listed the multiple benefits of this partnership.

We noted that we previously funded the FFA, and not funding this year may have been an unintentional omission. Steve suggests that their membership be present at their local NWTF banquets. Keith requests names and local contacts. Ramey will give chapter locations to Tony. Mike suggests that this come from the General Fund. Art comments that we need to continue our partnership with this group of like-thinkers. The FFA leaders gave us a banner, and a collector tractor for the banquet.

Motion to support the MI FFA by giving a \$2,000 scholarship as requested (Dan, Ron, carried), from the General Fund now, and from the Super Fund in the future.

Tony thanks this board for their work, echoed by Sam.

The next state board meeting will be July 20 at Cadillac, starting at 9:00 am.

Motion to adjourn (Dave, Art, carried).