

**Michigan State Chapter Board of Directors
National Wild Turkey Federation
July 15, 2017**

Art Pelon, President, called the meeting to order at 9:10 am.
Gary Salmon, Vice President, led the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer.

Roll Call and Introductions

Absent Region 1: Ken Buchholtz
Present Region 2: Evan Traynor
Absent Region 2: Pete Demos, Brian McPhail, Frank Darling
Present Region 3: Art Pelon, Gary Salmon, Tony Snyder, Jan Kuhtic, Phil Kuhtic, Hugh Marx, Jon Gray
Absent Region 3: Dave Godley, Bert VanderWeele, Jonathan Edgerly
NWTF Staff Present: Steve Sharp (R3 Coordinator), Lloyd Edwards (Regional Director), Tom Karsten (Regional Director), Aaron Shaughnessy (Regional Director)
Others Present: Al Stewart (NWTF Technical Committee, MI DNR), Al Bobrofsky (Former National Board member), Mike Kennedy (Super Fund Committee)

Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2017 board meeting were approved (Jon, Gary, carried).

Correspondence included appreciation from Rachel (DNR) for the Pure Michigan Hunt. She noted that \$259,000 has been used for wildlife related restoration.

MUCC proposed resolutions for 2017 are available, including a proposal to open ZZ on Saturday after season opened, including the 234 hunt. Our MUCC rep is Pete Demos, but we all need to be aware of MUCC proposals.
Macatawa bank account closed.

The agenda is approved with one addition: New Business, Maple River habitat project.

Noting that we do not have a quorum present, Art Pelon, President appointed Al Bobrofsky to fill the Region 3 vacancy temporarily.

President's Report (Art)

Art reported that he attended the Sportsmen's Caucus Breakfast, several March banquets, the Legislative breakfast, met with the DNR Director, attended an MRC meeting, an MUCC Coalition meeting, and the Ft. Custer Legislative hunt. He hosted Doc Dettmer from the NWTF National Board for turkey hunting. He found sponsors for the Turkey Tracts kiosks, and hosted a youth turkey hunt. He is planning with NWTF CEO Becky Humphries a National board meeting in MI in August.

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

The Macatawa Bank checking account had a balance on July 1, 2017 of \$1,950.03. As of July 15, the balance was transferred and the account is closed. Since January, the Kellogg Credit Union account had deposits of \$62,120.37 and expenses of \$47,317.18. The deposits and expenses were listed for our review. The Treasurer's report is accepted (Al, Gary, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports

Ryan Boyer reports that MI DNR projects through the State Wildlife Habitat Grant Program are underway. Seed and fertilizer are ready for Grayling's 150 acres. 175 additional acres will be completed in August on Camp Grayling. The SW MI Oak Enhancement Project is getting a contractor for the timber cuttings.

The Flat River Turkey Tracts kiosk is cemented in place and sponsors are secured.

Working on the 40 acre Huron Manistee butterfly project.

The Hayes Road parcel transfer is in process in Newaygo County.

Daron Bohn reports that he has 4 active chapters. Banquets are down. Iron Mountain is a target area for a new chapter. Some R3 work has been done.

Tom Karsten reports that in the western MI area net dollars are down, but gross is up. We are excited that Becky Humphries from MI is the new NWTF CEO. Gaylord is a target area for a new chapter.

We need to increase our scholarship applicants.

Thanks to Al Stewart for speaking at our January convention.

The Regional Directors have purchased guns for next year's banquets. Please book your banquets early. We will offer some new ideas, such as vacations.

Lloyd Edwards thanks the board and Steve for helping him get started in MI. Some banquets were good, some not. One banquet lost power. Some weekends had multiple banquets. Flint River has new officers. Macomb is very much better with new help. The Huron Valley group has new officers and committee members.

Aaron Shaughnessy had 2 new banquets this year. Black Mountain might change their name to Presque Isle Turkey Trackers, and the banquet will move to Posen. Three banquets were worse, but total net dollars better. Hoping for more new chapters, and may transition some chapters from Lloyd. When multiple banquets are the same night, we do not have enough equipment, especially sound systems and credit card machines, or we have aging equipment. Steve will recommend equipment purchases, and will explore updates to credit card use.

The Department of Defense is watching the NWTF work in Grayling as a possible example for other projects. Jonathan is now in Lansing covering all the National Guard activities in the state.

Steve Sharp reports that multiple partners support his position in addition to the NWTF, such as MSU, DNR, PF, etc. Cabela's grant was used for shotguns for use at events. Camo clothing was bought, hearing protection, blinds, and decoys for event use. The group is also paying for an R3 trailer. We are always looking to recruit from new audiences, different ethnic groups, new demographics. Retention takes multiple events over time to keep hunters engaged.

Reactivation might look at retirees.

We need a mix of mentors to match with our new hunters.

At the State Parks we meet outdoors-loving people, offer shooting, turkey seminars, often geared to non-hunters and whole families.

The spring Learn to Hunt (LTH) mentored hunts were successful, including the UP. Four dates are offered for learning to wing shoot.

Other states are watching MI and want an R3 in their state.

At LTH we teach processing game, preparing and eating game.

The challenge is the need for more volunteers as we expand and offer more events. Steve handles the new events, volunteers manage the repeat events.

P.J. Hofmaster State Park is a great location for turkey teaching, since deer and turkey are local. For their multiple day youth event several chapters are needed.

At state parks, 4 persons should be with the shooting trailer. Many parks are requesting this activity.

Learn to Wing Shoot still has some spots left. Previous shooters are invited on Wednesdays at the Capital Area Sportsmen's Club.

On September 15 and 16, a Partnering For Success workshop is offered especially for Save the Hunt coordinators. Since Jon is not able to go, we hope to send someone else and pay the \$400.

DNR Report (Al Stewart)

Fall turkey hunting permits are available now, one license per day.

For the spring season, feedback was favorable, hunter results same. For the future, many groups are considering possible changes. Anyone can give opinions to Al, Ryan, Art, or NWTF staff.

Turkey Tracts successful with Ryan, Art, and field staff.

WHIP proposals up north, Barry State Game Area, and UP all consider NWTF needs. Working on grants with Ryan, especially in the UP.

The Outdoor Channel, Flush TV program, promotes the GEMS program.

The DNR is involved with the Ft. Custer Legislative Hunt.

The NWTF national technical committee is meeting in Iowa with all the turkey biologists in the Midwest.

The MI DNR is helping with the August NWTF national board meeting in MI.

The National Sportsmen's Caucus is meeting in Traverse City.

The DNR is making a land acquisition near Augusta.

Ryan is working with the DNR to identify sites for transplanting the trees from Rose Lake.

Board of Directors (Art)

Zach Mulder was nominated to a Region 3 state board position. He is from the Highbanks chapter, came up through the JAKES program. His nomination is approved (AI, Evan, carried) to fill the vacant position. Will check the term dates and add his information.

Web Site, Media (Jon)

Our web site is updated. We request an electronic version for the web site.

Outreach (Tony)

Eaton County chapter supports a high school trap shooting team at Olivet. We all should encourage high school teams.

For outreach events, reserve the trailer with Steve. 3 of the 4 trailers are in good shape. We have 2 trailers plus 2 shooting ranges. One is stored at Elk Country.

Habitat Enhancement

No report. Tony says the habitat Enhancement money is exhausted for this year.

State Convention (Jan)

The 2018 State Chapter convention is January 19 and 20 at the Holiday Inn Big Rapids. We are taking suggestions for a speaker. Since our 3-year contract is up, we need to decide if we want to continue having conventions at this location. We agreed to request another 3-year contract (Gary, Hugh, carried). The Safari donor offered to come to meet us on Friday January 19.

Rules and Regulations (Hugh)

We are reminded to watch MUCC proposals, and make our opinions known when regulations are discussed. Our wildlife populations have not rebounded since 2008 for multiple reasons.

Hugh attended a public meeting on ORV trails, and did not see anything harmful. Can be seen as more access for hunters.

Awards and Scholarships (Bert)

No report. Discussion about national Educator award. Tom will check, but we believe it still exists.

We received an Award Nomination Form, and we all should consider making nominations.

Budget (Tony)

We received a copy of the 2017 budget year to date.

We need an R3 column, and move the related numbers out of Awards and Scholarships. State Convention should move into the same column as State Banquet Expenses.

Conservation Seed (Mike)

No outstanding bills for seed. The seed distribution went smoothly. We have \$8,833.50 left, which will be transferred to NWTF for MI Focus Initiative.

Super Fund (Mike)

The Super Fund Committee considered the amount of money used for Conservation Seed, and offered some suggestions for 2018.

Considerations: Of the \$108,000 available, \$127,000 was requested. No money went into or out of the Emergency Fund. The Outreach Fund is depleted, so cannot fund outreach events. Other states enforce a cap of Super Fund expenses. No other state funds seed like MI, since the seed deals are so good. About 5 chapters use a lot of Super Fund money for seed. Suggest we step down the seed allowance 25% in 2018, then discontinue in 2019. Other options for Super Fund, like Turkey Hunters Care, Sportsmen's Alliance, and Hunter Safety, do not contribute directly to our mission, and could be taken off the list. Without these, about \$18,000 could be used for R3 and Outreach, our current focus. If we took \$1 per member for the General Fund, we could fund the now un-funded expenses. The chapters now designate 20% of Super fund to Focal landscapes. Maybe increase to 25%? The State Chapter has no fundraisers, so relies on chapter support. The RDs advise chapters on their priorities for Super Fund, and they recommend habitat projects. Better attendance at the State Convention would raise more money for our habitat projects. If we claim 10% from the State Super Fund, the state projects would be funded. NWTF acknowledges the chapter system, local volunteers, and their right to designate funds for chapter use. In the end, we need to keep the 20% as before for focus projects, and 30% more to accomplish the goals we have set.

If we expect chapters to cut and prioritize, the State Chapter needs to do the same. Can we cut our expenses from \$24,000 to \$20,000? After that, we can better justify the chapter money that we use for state projects. We can cut from scholarship money, since that doesn't contribute directly to our mission.

Motion to allocate 50% of each chapter's Super Fund for the State budget (MI Focus Initiative funding will be included in the State budget) and cut the State Chapter Super Fund expenses by 20% (Jon, Phil, carried).

Consider re-starting some fundraising at the state level, such as a gun bash. Start removing some non-mission options from our Super fund forms.

Old Business

Regional Directors will update the chapter president list, and Phil will match current board members with chapter presidents in their area. This will serve as a communication tool when we make changes. This will be posted on the web site.

Gary thanks us for help on the State Calling Contest. The turnout was disappointing. \$1,375 was spent, the State Chapter covered \$950, Grand Valley paid the rest. The prize for each division was an air rifle. Six turkey callers competed. If this activity is done again, a cash payout can be used based on

participants or custom made slate calls. We get a \$1900 booth for free because of the calling contest.

The MI Turkey Tracts kiosks for Flat River and Barry County are ready, thanks to the local high school in Flat River. The Allegan kiosk site will be decided and the kiosk replaced.

New Business

We will fund a tire and brakes for one of the JAKES trailers for \$200 (Gary, Evan, carried).

We will renew our Sportsmen's Caucus membership for \$750 (Gary, Tony, carried). We will offer a MI Sportsmen's breakfast for \$500 (Al, Evan, carried).

We will support a Landowner Habitat Day at Maple River State Game Area for \$500 (Tony, Jan, carried). Many others (PF, WDMA, DU) contribute and support this event.

On Thursday, August 10, the NWTF national board is planning to come to MI for their meeting. They will stay at De Vos, and use 3 mini busses. Plans include fishing on Lake MI, Turkey Tract showcase at Flat River, Pelon Farm tour and picnic, Al Stewart presentation, and hay rides. All state board members and their spouses, Regional Directors and their spouses are welcome. Dinner will be served, and a bar available on the grounds of a Victorian style farmhouse built during the Civil War. Starts at 5, expect about 60. Talk to Art if you can attend.

Aaron has an immediate need for a sound system. Steve will help price a new system. We can vote for purchase in September.

We would like to pay registration (\$400) for someone interested in the Edgefield partnering for Success Workshop September 15 and 16, up to \$1,000 including transportation (Phil, Evan, carried).

The Glasson Foundation appreciates our support of its new building. We paid for the tables and chairs.

Adjournment

Adjournment at 3:45 pm (Jan, Evan, carried).

Instead of a meeting in September, we will arrange a conference call on September 20 at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Jan Kuhtic, Secretary

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