

**Michigan State Chapter Board of Directors
National Wild Turkey Federation
September 20, 2017**

Art Pelon, President, called this Conference Call meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Roll Call

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz

Absent Region 2: Pete Demos, Brian McPhail, Frank Darling, Evan Traynor

Present Region 3: Art Pelon, Gary Salmon, Tony Snyder, Jan Kuhtic, Phil Kuhtic, Bert VanderWeele, Hugh Marx, Jon Gray, Jonathan Edgerly, Zach Mulder

Absent Region 3: Dave Godley

NWTF Staff Present: Steve Sharp (R3 Coordinator), Tom Karsten (Regional Director), Aaron Shaughnessy (Regional Director), Ryan Boyer (NWTF Biologist)

Others Present: Al Stewart (NWTF Technical Committee, MI DNR), Al Bobrofsky (former NWTF Board)

Agenda, Minutes

Minutes of the July meeting were not approved due to many members absent, and little time to review.

The posted agenda is accepted.

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

Tony's verbal report follows. He will provide more detail by email. On July 14 the balance was \$14,803.19, the September 20 balance is \$14,993.17. The Treasurer's report is accepted (Phil, Gary, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports, DNR Report

Steve reports that Justin Mitchell attended the Partnering For Success workshop in Edgefield, intended for the Save The Hunt Coordinators. Many states sent members, and many came from Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and other wildlife management organizations. About 50 attended.

Steve arranged about 16 shooting events at State Parks this summer, some being more than 1 day. Placement in the parks and weather were factors. Total shooters 1,014!

The Wing Shooting 101 event was held at Rose Lake.

Multiple Learn To Hunt events are planned. Among them are: Upland birds with Ed Shaw in October, Rose Lake deer hunt with crossbows in October, Small Game by Beards & Spurs at Pontiac Lake in January, a Women's event in November, and a Wheelin' Sportsmen Freedom hunt at Ft. Custer.

In the spring of 2018, planning turkey hunts at Barry County, Pierce Cedar Creek, and Hofmaster. For the summer of 2018, at Grand Rapids River Days, multiple NGOs have an event with the NWTF doing BB guns.

Tom closed out the year good. He had a successful Wheelin' Sportsmen gun bash. The Thornapple WITO event is done.

Becky Humphries thanked the State Chapter for hosting their summer NWTF board meeting, the side trips and variety of activities and dinners.

NWTF staff goes in October to Edgefield to prepare for 2018 banquet season. Some chapters may be shifted among the RDs, and they will be notified in October.

Gary Van Dyke did registrations for turkey records in the past, but it is not done the same now. It is on the NWTF web site. Jon will look to move the information for MI back to our home page.

Ryan Boyer reports that all NWTF work is moving along great. DU gave \$18,000 to increase the Allegan project.

We are working on Camp Grayling wildlife plots with other NGOs. Volunteers will plant crab apple trees from Rose Lake, and more trees that have been bought.

Huron, Manistee, Flat River, and Barry work will finish next summer.

Ryan will attend the Wild Turkey stakeholders meeting. One topic will be the results of turkey population research.

The Karner Blue butterfly project will probably extend into the future.

The kiosks are done in Barry County and Flat River, but the Barry area needs more sponsors. Detroit News gave us good PR. According to the NWTF board, other states want to copy our successes.

We are exceeding our access acre goals for the Save The Habitat, Save The Hunt, and have conserved half a million acres.

Aaron reports a good banquet season, looking ahead to next year.

Al Stewart is thankful for help with the turkey tracts, and having them ready to show at the summer national board meeting. Fall turkey hunting licenses are available, season is open now, and we are seeing birds. We are happy with our many partnerships.

Old Business

The work is done on two JAKES trailers. Some Potterfield money can replace some equipment. The Glasson Foundation helped to fund a Learn to Hunt trailer for the NWTF, Pheasants Forever, and MSU extension. The graphics are being applied, and it will be outfitted with guns and clothing, with Cabelas Outdoors contributing. The primary focus is adult hunts. This replaced a 20-year old trailer, now available for another use (any ideas?).

Aaron needs a PA system for his banquets. Estimated cost is \$800. Aaron will check with NWTF about a used system, decide on the best product, make the purchase, and get reimbursed from the State Chapter. We will pay up to \$900 for this (Al, Gary, carried). The NWTF August board meeting was held in MI. We anticipated 60, but served 130, including senators, state representatives, people from PF, DU, DNR, and many NWTF chapters. The whole national board was here with some spouses and children. Many thanks to Art for hosting the dinner and the hayride/caravan on his property. Thanks to Troy and Jolene's food service. Several newspapers wrote about the Flat River project and kiosk.

The NWTF Convention is Feb. 15-18 in Nashville, TN. The State Chapter members are encouraged to attend. We declined the state table challenge at the convention.

The 14th National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses will be held in Traverse City on October 24-27. Many issues related to hunting, fishing, shooting, and trapping will be discussed. Ryan will attend, someone from NWTF (possibly Becky Humphries), and Al Stewart will speak on Turkey Tracts and GEMS. Many activities are planned for the legislators, including fishing, grouse hunting, clay shooting, waterfowl hunting, etc. If we can come up with funds, NWTF will match. Grand Valley Chapter will give \$500.00, Highbanks Chapter will give \$250.00, and Bays De Noc Chapter will give \$250.00. Ryan will communicate our \$1,000 donation to NWTF. The chapters will pay Tony, and one check will be written.

If there are any Roger Latham nominations, they should be submitted soon.

Al Stewart will recommend a Wildlife Officer of the Year for the state award.

The MI State Chapter convention is January 19 and 20, 2018. We still need to identify a speaker. We will request another 3-year contract, since we have not found another place that compares (location, price of meal and rooms). The committee will meet to discuss convention details.

Justin Mitchell went to Edgefield, SC for the Partnering For Success workshop. R3 ideas were shared, meetings about Save the Hunt gave lots of information, classes were held on targeting new audiences, using social media, recruiting new hunters, etc. Many NGOs are cooperating with the NWTF. This was a positive experience for him.

Are the Super Fund new guidelines communicated to chapters? The RDs will meet with chapter leaders, and every chapter will receive a letter (drafted by the Executive Board), explaining that as of 2019, Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt will take 50% of each chapter's Super Fund for the very well matched habitat projects.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn (Gary, Phil, carried) at 8:55 pm.

Our next meeting is January 20, 2018, 9:00 am at the Holiday Inn Big Rapids.

Submitted by Jan Kuhtic, Secretary

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