

This is a draft copy of minutes, subject to change and approval at our next meeting.

**MI State Chapter Board of Directors
National Wild Turkey Federation
January 16, 2016**

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:12 AM.
Tony led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

Roll Call and Introductions

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz
Present Region 2: Brian McPhail
Absent Region 2: Pete Demos, Jim Szilagyi
Present Region 3: Tony Snyder, Art Pelon, Gary Salmon, Jan Kuhtic, Dave Godley, Phil Kuhtic, Bert VanderWeele, Ron Hopkins, Frank Brazynetz, Jon Gray
Absent Region 3: Garry Biniecki, Hugh Marx
Guests: Pat McFadden (IN State Board, Habitat Coordinator), Gladys St. James (Elk Country), Martha and Frank Darling (Elk Country), Jonathan Edgerly (Turkeyville Toms), Michele Pelon, Al Bobrofsky (Former NWTF National Board), Ann Bobrofsky, Lee Riley, Ryan Longanback (Conservation Seed), Dane Longanback, Dirk Longanback
Present NWTF Staff: Phil Ferrare (DFO Atlantic), Tom Stuckey (Sr. Vice President Development), Tom Karsten (Regional Director), Ryan Boyer (Regional Biologist), Steve Sharp (Hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation [R3] Coordinator)
MI DNR Present: Pete Kailing, Al Stewart

Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes

MUCC sent an announcement for its annual convention on June 7 in Big Rapids.

The Board members were given a copy of the 2015 NWTF annual report.

The agenda is approved with one addition: September meeting date.

The minutes of September 19, 2015 were approved (Dave, Gary, carried).

Treasurer's Report (Gary)

The Habitat Enhancement account had a balance of \$1,612.44 in September. One check for \$290.00 was written. The current balance is \$1,322.44. The General Fund had a balance of \$12,788.06 in September. Deposits for R3 and Conservation Seed totaled \$11,033.41. Checks totaled \$2,518.33. Details of checks written were provided. The current balance is \$21,303.14. The Treasurer's report is approved (Jan, Dave, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports

Steve reports that he has accepted a new position for the NWTF, starting soon. He is the Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) Coordinator. This is one of three pilot positions in the U.S. (Michigan, Nebraska, and Georgia). He will work with our Hunt Coordinator, Jon Gray, and many volunteers. A system is being designed to record

mentoring and track progress. Hopefully, each chapter will have a certified mentor. A handout is provided to record event details more accurately, so we can better track progress in our mentoring.

As mentioned before, we will work to make all the Hunter Ed. instructors NWTF members, and count 60% of the class as new hunters. When we have mentors, we still need access, so we will develop Learn to Hunt days including adults and children.

JAKES events are good, but we are not reaching outside our sphere of influence. Using the JAKES Take Aim trailer at State Parks may create interest in hunting for families.

R3 primary partners are DNR, Pheasants forever, and the Glassen Foundation. The data collected by R3 will help tell our story, and we need to do that more.

The JAKES Take Aim trailer will be used at the Deer & Turkey Spectacular the week of Feb. 14. Steve needs help at the show. The State Chapter will pay for additional tickets for volunteers. The next week, Feb. 21, help is needed for Outdoorama, and in March help is needed for the Sport and RV show in Grand Rapids.

Phil reports that the Regional Director position vacated by Steve may be filled soon.

Tom thanks Jan and Phil, and all who help with this state convention. We welcome Tom Stuckey and Phil Ferrare from NWTF.

Successful workshops have been held for Save the Habitat Save the Hunt. This is well received and exciting. More local workshops are needed.

Bitley Baldwin chapter re-started after a JAKES event. Whitmore Lake area has a new chapter with a Feb. 20 banquet. In MI we lost 23 chapters, and now some are coming back.

Ryan reports that it's an exciting time to be with the NWTF. \$600,000 has been spent for habitat and acquisition with traditional and non-traditional partners. 2 projects have recently wrapped up.

Even larger grant sources are coming up. We have money from license fees and more 1:10 matches.

In January, the Midwest Wildlife Conference will be held in Grand Rapids. Steve and Ryan plan to attend. Jason Lupardis attended the Turkey Symposium in Arizona.

Brian Mc Phail is on the Pigeon River Advisory Council representing NWTF. This is a part of our focal landscape.

Tom Stuckey reports that NWTF is on the cutting edge with the R3 position in MI. We have tremendous growth in our past, and great possibilities in our future. We are challenged to reach out to our friends and tell the "new" NWTF story. We may expect further direction at the national convention. At NWTF headquarters, MI workers have made a favorable impression for their good job.

MI DNR Report (Pete Kailing)

Thanks for supporting the 11th Wild Turkey Symposium. MI was well represented.

The MI DNR is now reviewing the turkey regulations for the fall hunt. Comments are welcome now. In May the NRC will announce any changes. For the spring turkey hunt,

comments are welcome in July and August, and in November the NRC will announce the changes. Changes will take effect in 2017.

MI State Board Positions

In Region 1, Ken Buchholtz will serve another term (2016-2019).

In Region 2, Pete Demos will serve another term (2016-2019). Jim Szilagyi will not serve another term.

In Region 3, Phil and Jan will serve another term. Garry Biniecki and Ron Hopkins will not serve another term. Ron will continue to assist Troy with the Patch Program.

For one available Region 3 position, we have a letter of interest with the required signatures from Jonathan Edgerly. He is a member of the Turkeyville Toms chapter, and works at Ft. Custer on habitat, wildlife, and accessibility. He was involved with the award-winning Freedom Hunt at Ft. Custer.

For the vacant (2014-2017) Region 2 position, we have a letter of interest with the required signatures from Frank Darling of the Elk Country Gobblers chapter.

We accepted Frank Darling for the Region 2 position and Jonathan Edgerly for one Region 3 position.

A vacancy remains in Region 1 and Region 3.

For the Executive Board, nominations are opened for President. Gary nominated Art Pelon, second by Jon. Nominations closed (Phil, Jan), carried. Vote for Art carried. For Vice President, nominations are opened. Frank nominated Bert, (accepted at first, then declined), Phil nominated Jon (declined), Dave nominated Tony (accepted). Nominations closed (Bert, Jon), carried. This vote was delayed pending the outcome of the Treasurer position.

For the Treasurer position, Gary would prefer a different position in order to give his local chapter more time. He would consider the VP position instead. Tony nominated Gary for VP, second by Jan (accepted) with Gary leaving the Treasurer position.

Nominations closed (Art, Phil), carried. Vote for Gary VP carried.

For the Treasurer position, Bert nominates Tony, second by Brian (accepted).

Nominations closed (Art, Gary), carried. Vote for Tony as Treasurer carried.

For the Secretary position, Tony nominates Jan, second by Brian (accepted).

Nominations closed (Phil, Bert). Vote for Jan as Secretary carried.

Thanks to Tony for his 6 years as President, to Art for his service as VP, and to Gary for his years as our Treasurer.

We reviewed our committee assignments.

We discussed an R3 committee, which would replace the inactive Outreach committee. This committee would follow up the records of the R3 Coordinator, organize and encourage mentored hunts, create publicity, take opportunities (like outdoor/hunting shows) to promote hunting, etc. Jon would lead this committee as the Save The Hunt Coordinator. No action was taken.

Conservation Seed (Ryan)

Ryan reported that in 2015, 6,382 acres were covered with Conservation Seed.

Round Up ready soy beans are ready for 2016 distribution.

April 2 and 16 are seed pick up dates. If needed, chapters may pick up by appointment any time after March 21.

For 2016, we have some corn for northern lower MI and the UP.

Art and Tony will discuss getting more corn from NWTF. NWTF is now getting the soybeans and corn. We are pleased with the NWTF/Conservation Seed partnership we have developed.

Pat Mc Fadden, Habitat Coordinator for IN, says IN wants to join with the MI Conservation Seed program. The IN Board has approved this, so next year IN will submit seed orders. Steve Gage, from the IN State Board thanks us for our cooperative partnership, and notes that we share a focal landscape in the "Crossroads".

PR and Media (Jon)

The new web site, MINWTF.org is operative. We need submissions, such as pictures of board members, WITO events, JAKES activities, hunts, and anything that tells our story.

Habitat Enhancement (Steve)

Our focus remains on habitat and long term feeding solutions.

Avian pox and West Nile are a concern with wild turkeys, and all dead turkeys may be investigated.

Ken has been planting more trees in the UP and giving out less corn, although corn may be used for emergency situations.

We still have some trees left. 500 trees have a planned destination, and 200 are available this spring. Discussion about planting more this spring into pots, the care (weeding and watering), the deer fencing, the location, the cost of transporting trees for planting, and the kind of trees for the future (crab/oak). Rose Lake can be kept if we establish a watering system (Bert?). Art is willing to have tree pots at his house. Conservation Districts and nurseries already plant, so should we contract with them? We agreed to continue the potting of trees in Rose Lake and Art's for now. Art, Tony, and Ken will get prices for contracted planting/raising trees, and discuss with Ryan.

Convention Committee (Jan)

The Convention and Banquet is planned. The board is expected to help – Jan sent a suggested job list by email. We had a euchre tournament last night with a good response. Tom Stuckey will speak at 2:00 and at the banquet. Ryan will speak at the afternoon sessions also, and Al Stewart will come after another appointment. The banquet is set up, thanks to good volunteers. Our gun dealer is Jim Decker, the auctioneer is Darrell Holmes. A great meal is planned. We have 4 games, 6 raffles. 11 chapters contributed for Core Package underwriting. Tom commented that the chapters that benefit from this banquet should be contributing.

Super Fund (Tony)

The total Super Fund contribution has increased by \$10,450 (2014 end to 2015 end). We have \$15,777 in the Emergency Fund. We dropped our FFA scholarship and increased our state scholarship. Our finances look better than in 2015. Our RDs can tell chapters their Super Fund approval amounts. We are invited to review the spreadsheets. Ryan has lots of habitat projects, but information he needs is not available to him when we use the green forms. To expedite requests, Ryan created a 2-page application to show each chapter's interests, acres affected, etc. Each chapter can start using this now, and in time our partners will use it, since it will show matched funds. The information will be useful for marketing and reporting. Ryan will be our guide, and he will have us use it for the 2017 Super Fund requests. We will fill out the form, submit by December 1, Ryan will review and develop the details and approve. This form will be distributed to the board and put on the web site.

Patch Program (Ron).

The new patch is here for purchase. Many are given to the RDs for promotions. This is the 15th year for patches. We need patch design applicants. This can be promoted at our banquets using the form on the web site. Thanks to Troy and Ron for their work. For 2016, 8,000 patches were ordered. With postage and supplies, expenses are \$10,587.89. Revenue for patches sold is \$23,206.69. Current balance is \$12,618.80.

Rules (Tony)

No new information. We are at the end of the three year stabilized regulations.

Awards (Bert)

Please turn in the state scholarship applications today.

The awards for tonight are ready. New awards include recognition for chapter improvements: Royal Slam, World Slam, and Grand Slam with certificates.

Fund Raising (Ron)

No fund raising activity to report.

Finance and Budget (Gary)

We looked at the 2015 to 2016 budget and actual expenses. Some changes will be made for 2016 to 2017: Exec. board budgets \$200 for UP lodging, Sportsman's Caucus gets \$750, R3 gets \$450 for mailings, State scholarship up to \$3,500, FFA scholarship down to \$500, Wild Turkey Center exhibit payment is due. Many categories were under budget – thanks to all. 2015-2016 budget was \$29,643.00 and actual expenses were \$22,606.00. Thanks to Gary for his complete reports.

Old Business

We are hoping for a NWTf license plate. The bill is still in the Transportation Committee (SB264). Ryan and Becky Humphries are pulling in help and using all the influence they can find. Indiana has a substantial income from license plate sales: In 2013, \$60,000; in 2014, \$68,000; in 2015, \$74,000. In MI the process is difficult. If they are approved, we must sell them or they will go away.

Ryan is designing habitat signs to post at our habitat sites. These are 12 X 18 inches, aluminum, with a custom message. With quantity discounts, they could be about \$20 each, offered at banquets. Motion to get 150 signs made for about \$1,100 (Ken, Jonathan, carried). Ryan will finalize the design with our input. This project will be managed by the Fund Raising Committee.

New Business

Ryan and Al Stewart are working on the Turkey Tracts program, which manages public land for turkey habitat. They will create kiosks to give information about cooperative turkey habitat projects accomplished with state and federal partners. The first will be placed this spring with 4 more to follow. The kiosks will show local sponsors and the logos of the partners. Costs will be about \$750 each. For now, we will offer \$1,500 to finance the first two (Art, Bert, carried). We hope for other financing from our partners.

Art will decide the location of the September 17, 2016 board meeting. We will consider going south to have our meeting, then have a joint meeting with the Indiana board, since we share focal landscapes and other interests. With a bigger focus, we might consider a 2-day meeting. Ft. Custer should be considered, since they have housing, shooting ranges, and many accommodations. Ryan and Art will work out the details.

Gary requested that we support the state sanctioned turkey calling contest again, hosted by the Grand Valley Chapter. He expects expenses to be about \$1,500.00 this year. They have made several improvements. (Bert, Art, carried).

Phil Ferrare announced a leadership conference October 14-16, 2016 in Edgefield, SC.

Guest Lee Riley thanks us for the scholarship given to a member of the Beaver Creek chapter.

Adjournment

Art will announce the location of our July meeting.

We adjourned at 1:38 PM (Gary, Bert, carried).

Submitted by Jan Kuhtic.

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