

**Michigan State Chapter Board of Directors  
September 13, 2014**

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM.  
Tony led us in a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call and Introductions**

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz  
Present Region 2: Pete Demos  
Absent Region 2: Bob Garner, Jim Szilagyi, Barry Danks  
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: Hugh Marx, Garry Biniecki  
Absent Patch Program: Troy Hopkins  
Guest: Ryan Longanbach, Conservation Seed  
Present NWTF Staff: Steve Sharp, Senior Regional Director, Tom Karsten, Regional Director, Skip Markland, Regional Director, Ryan Boyer, Regional Biologist, Phil Ferrare, Director of Field Operations

**Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes (Tony)**

Thanks from Michael Galella, Director of the MSU Demmer Center, for the donation of adaptive shooting equipment and shooting bench for disabled shooters and other contributions from the NWTF, DNR and the Bays de Noc chapter. This will be used soon for a competition for disabled veterans.

MI DNR thanks the NWTF for our involvement in the Pure MI Hunt. Art made the presentation for the NWTF.

The minutes of July 19, 2014 were reviewed and approved (Gary, Ron, carried).

The agenda was approved with these additions: State turkey calling contest, reimbursement for national award recipients, and Conservation Coalition.

**Treasurer's Report (Gary)**

The Habitat Enhancement account has \$1,612.44 with no deposits and no checks written. The General Fund balance on July 19, 2014 was \$17,281.77. Deposits totaled \$2,210.00 and checks were written for \$2,492.25. Check details were provided. The balance on September 13, 2014 is \$16,999.52.

The Treasurer's report is accepted (Phil, Jan, carried).

**NWTF Staff Reports**

Steve reports that the Kalamazoo River Limbhangers chapter will restart after 3 years inactive. Start up money was given. This chapter has 32 members and 4 sponsors, mostly new faces. Thanks to board members who support other banquets. For smaller chapters,

the Core Package of 54 items works well. Bigger banquets can easily add to this package.

Gold Coast and Bitely/Baldwin chapters are also restarting.

Mt. Pleasant chapter is inactive. Central MI college has some interest in a chapter.

Bass Pro provides \$25 gift cards for members who pay the \$35 fee but do not attend a banquet. 38% of NWTF members do not attend a banquet. All the memberships are given to local chapters, and 20% of this Bass Pro money comes back to our Super Fund. The Deer and Turkey Expo is an example of non-banquet memberships using the Bass Pro cards. The RD can help obtain these cards. Each card must be accounted for.

Ryan and Steve attended the ribbon cutting for the Grouse Enhanced Management System (GEMS) project. The NWTF sponsored 3 locations, specifically LeeGrande Ranch (Cheboygan County), Lane Duck (Gladwin County) and Drummond Island. We will get our name on publicity and our logo will be included. Our dollars will be used to obtain matching funds for a huge benefit. The GEMS will work to provide hunting opportunities, provide a destination for hunters, accelerate timber harvest opportunities, promote hunter recruitment and retention, and expand local economies.

Strategic planning is underway for the MI focus areas for Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt. We need to identify a planning committee from the state board and beyond. In addition, we need to identify a Save the Hunt committee.

A no-till drill was dedicated by local NWTF chapters and Pheasants Forever at the Lake Hudson State Game Area.

Tom reports that he is meeting with all his chapters. Some chapters have no sponsor members. This is important state wide, and gets money to the Super Fund. Help is needed from all the board members for state convention set up on Friday January 17, 2015. All the active chapters will be asked for a donation.

We are asked to provide a MI basket for the national convention, and consider some hunts for the auctions.

State award and scholarship nominations are due December 1.

North Ottawa's gun bash is planned for Thursday September 25 in Allendale.

A disabled hunt is planned in Fremont. 3 more hunters are needed.

For these events, our support is and appreciated. To assist in any way, contact the RD.

In order to get new shooters outside our usual contacts, consider setting up our JAKES Take Aim trailer at a state park, and include the DNR for mentoring. We need to promote our mission and publicize our good work.

Skip, the RD for the southeast chapters, reports that an old chapter in Macomb County is rebuilt and a banquet booked. Flat Rock may be teaming up with Huron Valley. Black River in Port Huron is back.

Wheelin' Sportsmen offers a lot of opportunities in Ohio, which MI can share. Think of corporate contacts that are familiar to sportsmen, such as Carhart.

Thanks to MI for changes in license system, which has a huge benefit for money on the ground.

Ryan Boyer reports that he applied for 3 state wildlife grants amounting to \$150,000. They are being reviewed now, and he will know by October 1 if they are accepted.

Ryan has been working on walk-in hunting areas in the Allegan State Game Area and oak savannah habitat restoration. In Gaylord, 3,000 oak trees were planted. In Gregory State Game Area wildlife openings are enhanced and warm season grasses planted.

The DNR has grant money for private landowners for the long-term benefit of whitetail deer. Several applications are in for federal money, 8 of which advanced to the next level. Regional programs through the NRC and nature Conservancy are available for application by landowners. Ryan can direct inquiries.

Al Stewart is not able to attend today, but welcomes any comments or questions.

#### **PR and Web Site (Jon)**

Hunting access information will be added to the web site. Award forms will be posted. The NWTF By Laws will be posted. Articles and photos are welcome. We still have room for advertising. The NWTF keeps the event list current.

#### **Outreach (Tony)**

Wheelin' Sportsmen will be using the new shooting table next weekend for competition. Citizens for Wildlife Management had a successful initiative, which we supported. To thank the legislators for their positive votes, Tony will draft a letter with help from Becky Humphries.

#### **State Convention (Phil)**

The MI State Chapter convention is January 16 & 17, 2015 at the Holiday Inn, Big Rapids. The cost per ticket is \$40 for members. Same basic schedule as before. We contacted Keith Creagh, DNR Executive director, who agreed to speak at the convention. We would like a different host chapter each year to help with set up, welcoming, raffles, auctions, etc. Please tell us of your chapter's offer. Each chapter should send at least 2 persons to this event. We will request donations from each chapter, either \$100, or preferably, a package including local business, lodging, sporting events, hunts, meals, etc. The Core Package will be shipped directly to the Holiday Inn at no charge. This committee will reconsider comp meals for some award winners.

#### **Super Fund (Tony)**

Super Fund requests are due by December 1. Remember that 20% goes to habitat projects. Ancillary events may be funded from the Outreach Fund. The RD will see the Outreach requests, he sends the forms to Tony, who sends it to NWTF. We considered a "cap" for these requests, maybe based of the attendance, but took no action.

### **Patch Program (Ron)**

The new 2015 patch is being made. We suggest that the Bass Pro card incentive information be included with patch correspondence to encourage new memberships. Tony will increase the patch order in anticipation of the increased demand (Ken, Bert, carried).

The patch is a great committee gift at banquets. The RDs will continue to bring patches to banquets for silent auctions.

### **Rules and Regulations (Tony)**

Brief discussion on turkey hunting from elevated stand with shotgun. No advantage seen.

### **Awards (Bert)**

Award nominations are due Dec. 1 to this committee. Tony and Bert will work on the nomination of Al Bobrofsky for the Roger Latham award. Jon forwarded the state Educator of the Year to the national competition.

State scholarship applications are due to Bert by January 17, 2015.

The chapter awards will come through Phil Ferrare to Steve.

Orr award banners will be smaller to fit on the front of a table.

### **Fund Raising (Ron)**

There are no fund raising activities at this time. Suggestions are always welcome.

### **Conservation Seed (Dave)**

Ryan will bring back the corn mix using open pollinated corn, and hopes to prepare 500 bags. This spring we will offer a nesting mix that grows fast and lasts 2 years. Other possibilities in the future include a wild forbes mix that lasts 2 years, an upland bird mix certified for CRP, including warm and cool season grasses. The form on the web site will be revised to include the available new mixes, pending the approval of Al Stewart. These do not compete with NWTF offerings or seed subsidy. If space allows on the form, we will include the planting time. Go ahead with these mixes (Dave, Bert, carried).

### **Budget (Gary)**

The current budget with actual year to date expenses was reviewed.

The Executive Board \$2350, YTD \$2054; Conservation Seed \$25, YTD \$0;

PR/Media/Web Site \$790, YTD \$795; Outreach \$550, YTD \$550;

Habitat \$1025, YTD \$1782; State Convention \$4950, YTD \$1785;

Super Fund \$25, YTD \$0; Awards \$4775, YTD \$5486;

Fund Raising \$25, YTD \$0; RDs \$7800, YTD \$8313;

TOTAL budget 2013-2014 \$22,340, actual \$22,142. Budget 2014- 2015 \$22,490, YTD \$12,051. More detail is provided in a hand-out.

### **Old Business**

Since the NWTF By-Laws have been revised, the Past President no longer has status on the Board, so this information will not be listed.

Board assignments remain the same, except Jon was asked to be our Save the Hunt rep. Hopefully, he will go to the Coordinator's meeting in October (at our expense).

Habitat trees (crab trees) still need our attention for weeding, watering, and distribution. Our costs are high for the trees, pots, mats, and transportation, and it is difficult to find help with the hard work. Bert will check nursery prices for contract growing. Can we plant and raise the trees closer to their final home? Could members take trees to their homes to raise them? The expenses could be part of the designated Habitat money.

Tony will get a basket and accept donations for a "Michigan" basket to be auctioned at the NWTF convention.

### **New Business**

Ken requests that when someone from MI wins a national award, the Board pay his/her way to the convention to receive it. We will pay up to \$1500 for each award winner and limit the State Chapter President to \$1500 (Ken, Bert, carried).

Grand Valley Chapter has held the only sanctioned turkey calling contest in the state, so we will call it the MI State Turkey Calling Contest (Gary, Dave, carried). This is held at the Ultimate Sport and Fishing Show. The chapter appreciates help with judging.

Tony attends meetings of the Conservation Coalition, a group of sportsmen and conservationists including MI DEQ, NRC, DNR, and many conservation groups. They have written a draft of MI priorities to send to DNR Director Keith Creagh, including the categories of Habitat, Access, Protecting our Heritage, Recruitment and Retention, and Invasive Species and Emerging Threats. This group is in line with NWTF goals and benefits the wild turkey and other wildlife.

Ken and Al Bobrofsky serve on the Accessibility Advisory Council for the DNR, now considering a standing vehicle permit for buck or doe for the disabled hunter. Please refer disabled veterans to the Ft. Custer Hunt.

Nationwide Insurance is offering \$45,000 to the conservation group that wins the most points on their web site ballot. Tom will send us an email with the details.

District meetings will be scheduled by the RDs, to include strategic plan information for Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt. For chapters in the re-building stages, the RD will make more visits. We will practice patience through this rebuilding time.

Art reports that free booths are available at the MI Conservation District show in Shanty Creek on October 27, 28, and 29. He suggests that we showcase our Conservation Seed program. In Imlay City, the Wheelin' Sportsmen were will represented.

Rob Zoucha of Prestige Imports in Mt. Clemens introduced us to Rod & Rifle Bourbon. This whiskey is geared to outdoor enthusiasts, and gives money to conservation in 30

states. They are willing to provide product (blended whiskey, bourbon, and rye) for banquets for auction. They offered to provide free samples for banquets with open bars, with the bar buying their product. For larger banquets, they may give other gifts, such as hunting blinds. Where this whiskey is used, we will hang posters to promote the product. We are reminded to use good judgment before serving at banquets and follow the local rules.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (Jon, Ken, carried). Meeting ended at 3:35 pm. The next meeting is at the convention January 17, 2015 at the Holiday Inn, Big Rapids.

Submitted by Jan Kuhtic, Secretary

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