

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

**Michigan State Chapter Board of Directors**

**January 18, 2014**

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Tony led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

**Roll Call and Introductions**

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz, Roger Shoemaker

Present Region 2: Craig Meredith, Pete Demos

Absent Region 2: Bob Garner, Jim Szilagyi

Present Region 3: Dave Godley, Bert VanderWeele, Jon Gray, Tony Snyder, Gary Salmon, Hugh Marx, Art Pelon, Jan Kuhtic, Ron Hopkins, Phil Kuhtic

Absent Region 2: Dan Potter, Garry Biniecki

Present Patch Program: Troy Hopkins

Absent Past President: Herb Lorentz

Guests: Lee Riley (Beaver Creek), Brian McPhail (Beaver Creek), Barry Danks (Elk Country), Al Bobrofsky (Turkeyville Toms, former NWTF National Board member), Ramey Lanceford (MI FFA), Abigail Schreur (MI FFA), Alan Green (MI FFA), Becky Humphries (NWTF staff), Peter Pelon, Ashley Andres

Present NWTF Staff: Steve Sharp, Senior Regional Director, Chris Eder, Area Manager, Rick Horton, Biologist, Alyssa Hulett, Regional Director

MI DNR: Al Stewart (Upland Game Bird Specialist)

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

Senator R. Warren thanks us for supporting HB4668.

Governor Snyder thanks us for supporting HB4668

Barry Paulson, USDA thanks Randy Showalter for his work.

Bob Razik from Beards & Spurs sent us a Detroit News article about turkeys.

J. Presley of NWTF asked us to make a MI basket to be offered at the NWTF Ladies Auction at the convention.

(We decided to offer a basket. Tony will collect the merchandise from around the state, S. Snyder will put it together.)

NWTF thanks for the initial contribution of \$2,500 for the museum.

The minutes of July 2013 are approved with the correction of Garry Biniecki's name (Roger, Pete, carried).

The agenda is approved.

**Treasurer's Report (Gary)**

The General Fund (account ending in 107) balance on July 20, 2013 was \$10,190.12.

Deposits were \$644.77, and a transfer to the Habitat Enhancement account was \$10,834.89. The current balance is \$0 and the account was closed.

The Habitat Enhancement (account ending in 081) balance on January 18, 2014 was \$2,062.44.

The General Fund (account ending in 081) balance of July 20, 2013 was at \$14,789.78, \$10,834.89 was transferred, \$9,118.24 was deposited, and \$8,500.44 was withdrawn. The current balance is \$26,242.47. The check details were provided in writing.

The Treasurer's report is approved (Pete, Roger, carried).

The required tax report was sent to NWTF. Thanks to Gary for the timely completion of paperwork and reports.

### **NWTF Staff Reports**

Rick Horton reported that in the Huron Manistee Forest, Phase 1 is completed, thanks to (USFS) H. Keough's cooperation.

We expect some turkey mortality due to this winter's low temperatures and significant snow fall, especially on the edge of their northern range.

There are 4 projects with the USFS that could benefit from Super Fund dollars. Rick will recommend which ones to fund. Chapters are encouraged to use their Super Fund money for the MI focus areas, which is foundation money for partnerships. We are working on the pheasant project, but do not see our logo on the publicity. We need to report these acres of pheasant work to Rick for his reports. We should be publicizing our contributions. Rick will make and send press releases.

New grant projects are coming. In the Ottawa National Forest, we are cooperating with work on timber sales, and the money will be used to create wildlife openings.

Steve Sharp reports on new forms from NWTF. The NWTF had an extensive audit with IRS, and now have a better understanding of its requirements. Thanks to our volunteers that keep good paper trails.

On the banquet report forms, pay attention to the "beginning and ending balance". We must report non banquet income and expenses. This is for reporting only, and does not affect the banquet calculations.

The chapters were sent a letter about including a POA on the bank forms instead of Ms. Lintal. This gives NWTF access to bank statements without volunteer involvement. This form must be signed and notarized, then returned to NWTF

If firearms are purchased from a non-NWTF source, include this information on your evaluation. This can help to improve services to chapters. This does not apply to donated firearms.

At the end of the banquet, record the income for each game and count all denominations of cash. This is recorded on the night of the banquet. The lottery commission approves this accounting system.

Alyssa Hulett reports that due to pressing family issues, she will resign effective in February 2014. She is working with Chris and Steve for an easy transition. She will continue with NWTF as a volunteer.

Chris Eder gave a written report of how the banquets will be managed. Other Regional Directors will be reassigned. Help is needed for the banquets, especially when an RD is not available. The open position is posted.

We need to keep our focus on the lofty goals set for us. We need more of us, more money and more working volunteers. When we have meetings, bring one friend, show the Save the Habitat video, and thank them. Welcome and appreciate all help.

Chris is the acting Regional Director in northern MI for now. If any of us are willing to help with banquets, talk to Tony, Steve, or Chris.

Becky Humphries, Vice President of Conservation for NWTF thanks us for the invitation back to MI. Michigan's challenge is its economy. The NWTF is not only about habitat or hunters, but both. The successful mission of restoring wild turkeys will bring in new hunters. The port of entry for hunters is more often deer or turkey, not small game. The Save the Habitat initiative forces us to look ahead. NWTF has plenty of challenges with internal changes, a new building project, etc.

Our involvement with Canada has changed. The NWTF hoped for an increased volunteer base and increased turkey population. The banquet system is not working, due in part to moving merchandise out of the United States. This has been evaluated for a year. The chapter and banquet system in Canada is discontinued, but the conservation, hunter recruitment, and habitat work will continue.

#### **DNR Report (Al Stewart)**

There was an article in the Detroit News about turkeys that went viral on social media. The NWTF was well reported.

It is notable that Governor Snyder mentioned hunting and shooting in the State of the State address.

The DNR continues to work with the NWTF on habitat projects.

WHIP is in progress.

Northern wild turkey revitalization plans include more trap and transfer in the spring when weather permits. Hens will be transferred in March to areas identified by surveys. The new turkey hunting guides are available. The photo on the front cover is by NWTF. Patch information is included within the booklet. A few corrections have been made on the electronic copy.

We are within a 3 year cycle, with the next changes on 2016.

Thanks to our membership for supporting the new license package.

We were given a "cheat sheet" to understand the new hunting license changes. First we buy a base license, then small game, turkey, etc. The DNR will use the money for habitat and replacing help. The DNR will continue to work with existing conservation organizations, and remain active with cooperative grants.

The DNR is active in promoting the Save the Habitat concept. Already 10 million acres are open to hunting. The online program has maps and access information for hunters.

Al will represent MI at the NWTF convention in February.

Thanks for our DNR/NWTF remarkable relationship.

### **State Board Positions (Tony)**

Dave Godley, Bert VanderWeele, and Jon Gray, all from Region 3, will continue to serve on the state board for another term.

Dan Potter is resigning due to health issues. He will continue his chapter activities with Beards & Spurs. He is thanked for his many years of dedication to the NWTF state board and several committees. This creates an open position in Region 3. We have interest and necessary signatures from Frank Brazynetz to fill this position.

Motion to approve Frank Brazynetz for the open position in Region 3 (Roger, Bert), carried.

Roger Shoemaker is resigning due to the loss of his chapter and health issues. He will continue NWTF activities with nearby chapters. We thank Roger for his many years of service to the MI state board. This creates an open position in Region 1 with no interest noted at this time.

Craig Meredith is willing to accept another term on the state board. Barry Danks has an interest and required signatures to challenge Craig for the Region 2 position. We used a secret ballot to vote, with Barry taking the most votes. We thank Craig for his many years on the state board, and notably his habitat work in northern lower MI. Craig commented on changes with audits, losing volunteers and staff, and concern for volunteers.

For the President of the board, we requested permission from the NWTF national board for Tony to take another term. Permission is granted from NWTF. Motion for Tony as President (Gary, Ron) carried. No other nominees were offered.

Motion for Art Pelon to be Vice President (Gary, Dave) carried. Art told us of his other commitments for the next 2 years on the state and national board of Conservation Districts, with many overlaps of purpose with the NWTF. No other nominees were offered.

Motion to retain Jan as Secretary carried. No other nominees were offered.

Motion to retain Gary as Treasurer carried. No other nominees were offered.

Thanks to Tony, Art, Jan, and Gary for their willingness to serve.

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

The seed has been ordered, and will be ready April 1. The person that has helped Dave, Ryan Longenback, is now taking over the seed business from Dave. Dave will assist, and expand more into habitat work. Ryan's facility is 10 mi. west of Ithaca, so the seed pick up location will change. This will be noted on the web site. Most chapters call before they pick up their seed, so the information will be given then.

We have many good comments on the green fire mix.

Mike Kennedy is still committed to the seed program, and we appreciate his help.

\$10,716 is earmarked for Conservation Seed.

### **PR, Media, Web Site (Jon)**

Jon needs more banquet and hunting pictures to post. We need to promote ourselves, tell success stories, and celebrate the hunts. There will be a video of a youth hunt, and veteran hunt pictures.

Note that the MI web site has a quick link to forms.

We are still accepting business advertisements.

The awards of the banquet tonight will be posted.

Steve posts often on Facebook.

### **Outreach (Tony)**

The Save the Habitat subcommittee is working on state wide planning.

There was no state turkey calling contest, and none at Novi. The only sanctioned contest is by Grand Valley at the Sport and Fishing Show in Grand Rapids late in March. This will be promoted by Show Span. They might possibly use the JAKES Take Aim trailer. Consider making this calling contest the state event with state chapter and sporting goods retailer support.

### **Habitat Enhancement (Pete)**

The crabapple trees were planted. Older varieties will be tried because they keep their fruit in winter. Hazelnut bushes are planted. High bush cranberries will be used in the future. Rick advises MI holly, an evergreen with berries.

To save money, consider plastic fencing. Trees and bushes need to be protected and fertilized (6-24-24). Some trees have fruit the first year after planting.

Thanks to the DNR for helping with tree planting.

Schumaker's nursery in MN is the source for NWTF trees.

Ken says that the farmers are cooperating with tree planting, and take advice of habitat improvement. Even when they ask for feeding, recommendations are given for habitat improvement. Rick will develop a page to share with landowners with winter feeding information.

Ken used \$2,500 chapter money, then included Boy Scouts, DNR, FFA, used DRIP funds, and pooled money for bigger projects that none could do alone.

Steve, Brian McPhail and Tony moved the Rose Lake trees. Some are still available.

Seedlings will be ordered for spring. We decided to continue the tree planting project.

The group suggested more locations and more dates for work days, and

publicity/communication with social media. Transporting the trees was costly. Steve will use automated phone calls to all committees.

Rick reminds us that all habitat work needs to be reported to him, even if it is not Super Fund related.

Ken reported that the turkey numbers should increase this year. Many veterans are becoming active in hunting, which ties in with habitat work.

### **Convention (Jan)**

The Core Package got here thanks to Steve, Tony, and Art. Local volunteers and state board members helped with set-up. We have the live and silent auctions ready. 3 games are planned, with Grand Valley's help. The raffles are listed in the program, as requested. We have the \$100 package, the \$30 WITO package, Pick of the Flock, Bag of Chances, Pellet Grill, Wild Turkey Bourbon, and the last box call.

We still need help with the name tags, bid runners, and some raffles.

Sandy will photograph the award winners, and she has the centerpieces made.

We received (or expect) \$1400 from 15 chapters, plus at least 8 donations from chapters and individuals.

The gun dealer is J. Decker and the auctioneer is D. Holmes.

The seminars this afternoon will feature Al Stewart and Becky Humphries.

The hospitality room last night was well attended.

The Awards Committee has planned a presentation to past Regional Directors.

We are committed to Holiday Inn Big Rapids for 2015.

The committee will decide how the auctioneer/gun dealer, etc. are compensated, and who gets their meals provided. Timely reservations for the banquet dinners are appreciated.

### **Super Fund (Tony, Phil)**

The committee met in December, and most of the requested funds were approved. \$131,000 was requested, and \$86,500 granted. The old seed bills were paid. The new Super Fund split benefits the state income. Some of the outreach event money goes into the state budget, and more of it goes into the Outreach Fund. So outreach event funds come out of that money, not from new Super Fund dollars. About \$6,000 is available for events, not to be used for memberships.

The Versamax money from those who participated in the youth shooting promotion was available for JAKES memberships. The unused money was sent into Outreach as of December 15. This money may be requested from the Regional Director, not M. Kennedy. The board requests a report of these Outreach funds from Steve, since these are tracked by NWTF.

Phil, Tony, or M. Kennedy can answer questions. Tony will mail a copy of the Super Fund distributions to the board.

### **Patch Report (Troy)**

The patch money is being used for the crab apple projects.

The 2014 patch is available now, and can be signed tonight by the patch design winner, Bellina Ataman. These patches should be used at our banquets and sport shows.

The 2015 patch design is being examined already.

There were 2,700 requests in 2013, and 280 given to youth. Troy will make a flier to encourage youth to design future patches, and include it within the patch envelope.

Finance report: Expenses for patches, postage, and supplies \$9,117.00. Revenue for 4554 patches sold was \$22,770.00. Total profit is \$13,653.80.

### **Rules & Regulations (Hugh)**

Hunt 234 in spring will be sold as a leftover license with no quota and can be purchased throughout the entire spring turkey hunting season.

The license change means beginning March 1 we purchase a base license first, then turkey, deer, small game, etc.

The turkey transfers to the north are appreciated.

January turkey count reports are sent to local biologists, or can be reported to the DNR web site.

### **Scholarships (Bert)**

Scholarship applications advanced to state competition are due now to Bert. We still need more applicants at the chapter level, since some chapters with money designated have no applicants. Jon will join the Awards committee. Please consider a second prize again or increase the dollar amount. This will be discussed in July.

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

Fund raising is on hold until we develop some new ideas. The knives are now gone. We know Minnesota is holding a Harley raffle, with tickets available for \$20.

### **Finance and Budget (Gary)**

The financial reports will be January to January. We have a printed accounting by committee for the year. Make sure that any bills have paperwork including contact information.

The total budget proposed for 2012-2013 was \$13,215.00, actual \$11,941.00. The total budget proposed for 2013-2014 is \$22,340.00.

### **Guests**

Ramey Langford of MI FFA introduced the state officers, now college students. They thanked the state chapter NWTF for supporting FFA by sponsorships. They promote our mission in their communications. We have many overlapping interests.

Jon asked their help with scholarship applications by the FFA high school seniors. The NWTF welcomes memberships from FFA students in new or existing college chapters and other local chapters. They received a check for \$2,000 from the state chapter.

Art introduced Peter and Ashley, both members of the Natural Resources Youth Conservation Council. More youth (up to age 18) applications are welcome. These youth meet 4 times a year, and discuss all aspects of outdoor recreation.

### **2014 State Board Meeting Dates**

The next meetings are July 19 (third Saturday), September 13 (second Saturday) and January 17, 2015 (third Saturday). The locations will be announced.

### **Other Business (Tony)**

We approved the purchase of 3 hunting vests and 3 custom box calls for the Pure MI hunt winners (Roger, Ron). A non-government organization was sought to finance the Pure MI Hunt. Congratulations to MI Outdoor News for accepting this challenge.

Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management is sponsoring the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. We support this protection of our hunting, fishing, and trapping rights. This would help stop Asian Carp and protect free licenses for active military. This citizen-initiated law would ensure that decisions affecting the taking of fish and game are made using principles of sound scientific fish and wildlife management. To present this to the MI legislature, 258,000 valid signatures are required. If this law is passed without change within 40 days, it becomes law. We are urged to take these petitions to our friends and neighbors and banquets for signatures before May. Specific instructions are provided. The importance of this cannot be overemphasized.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (Bert, Jon, carried). Adjournment at 1:37 pm.

Submitted by Jan Kuhtic, Secretary