

MI State Chapter Board of Directors

National Wild Turkey Federation

October 6, 2016

Art Pelon, President, called this Conference Call meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz

Present Region 2: Brian McPhail, Evan Traynor

Absent Region 2: Pete Demos, Frank Darling

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

Absent Region 3: Dave Godley, Frank Brazynetz

NWTF Staff present: Tom Karsten, Aaron Shaughnessy, Steve Sharp

Others present: Al Bobrofsky (former NWTF national board), Ryan Longanbach (Conservation Seed), Mike Kennedy (Super Fund, Conservation Seed), Al Stewart (MI DNR/NWTF technical rep), Jason Lupardis (DNR)

Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes

The agenda is approved as published with one addition, MACD request, placed under New Business by Tony Snyder.

The minutes of July 16, 2016 are approved (Gary, Phil, carried).

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

The present balance is \$14,867.30. \$9,800 of that is Glasson grant money, part of the Capital Area Sportsmen League project. So the NWTF balance is \$5,067.30. We have \$2,986 to deposit, and we expect \$3,600 from the Super Fund.

The Habitat Enhancement has about \$200 left.

Tony has not transferred funds to a different bank as of this date.

The Treasurer's report is approved (Ken, Jan, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports

Tom reports for Ryan that 2 proposals submitted to the DNR were selected for full funding! These are \$268,000 to assist with projects totaling nearly \$380,000. Projects are on the Flat River SGA, Barry SGA, Manistee National Forest, Grayling State Forest, and Camp Grayling

land, to be completed over the next 2 years and impacting over 1,000 acres of wildlife habitat in the Lower Peninsula. Additional money is for more kiosks for Barry and Flat River.

The Wildlife Officer of the Year will be Angela Greenway.

The new RD for Skip's area is hired. We welcome Lloyd Edwards from Lima, OH.

Remember our Conservation Seed orders are due December 1.

We have approved funds for 12 volunteers to attend the NWTF Leadership Conference in Edgefield. We have 9 now: Scott Hendrickson (Superior Turkey Trackers), Evan Traynor (Reed City), Gary and Terry Willison, Warren Conly (Flat River), Phil and Jan Kuhtic (Thornapple Valley), and Gary Salmon and Stephanie Lohroff (Grand Valley).

We expect the 2017 banquet books soon.

Steve welcomes Aaron Shaughnessy, his RD replacement.

Steve thanks the local chapters that supported the R3 position.

Cabela's Outdoors grant will benefit Michigan, Georgia, and Nebraska with \$15,000 each state each year for 3 years for adult mentored hunts with little or no experience. The Cabela's purchase by Bass Pro will not affect this grant.

Indiana's Take Aim trailer is being donated to MI for R3. We need a storage location in the northern Lower Peninsula.

At MI state parks, we had 1205 shooters, most of whom had never shot before. 59 attended the Wild Turkey hunting clinics at state parks.

5 mentored hunts were done already: Flat River youth spring turkey, Thornapple Valley adult spring turkey, Turkeyville Toms Ft. Custer youth turkey, MI State Chapter squirrel hunt, and Cheboygan Wild Turkeys adult pheasant hunt. 10 more mentored hunts are scheduled,

Aaron is happy to join this team, will work to build contacts, rekindle chapters, and possibly form new chapters.

Daron is meeting with each chapter committee. Bays de Noc has a disabled hunt planned. Manistique is a possible new chapter. Hoping for a new chapter in Iron Mountain or elsewhere in the UP. Any contact information is helpful.

MI DNR Report (Al, Jason)

Jason reports that this is one of the best years for great volunteers, habitat work, and fund raising. Goals for Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt have been exceeded. We have almost 90,000 acres of access. The hunter numbers are down, so we need more R3 work like Steve is doing, and more accountability and better reporting.

Al reports that the fall turkey hunting season is open now, so enjoy it.

Thanks to Ryan, the habitat grants are successful.

Thanks for the help with the Rose Lake shooting range and classrooms.

Pure MI was successful again.

A Chinese contingency is coming to hunt, will use a GEMS location.

Kentucky hosted the Midwest Turkey Consortium.

The NRC is preparing the regulations for 2017-2019, the next 3-year stabilized time period. October 13 is when public comment is scheduled. Hugh will be there.

One turkey license per day is legal here. 5 birds for 5 people is legal.

Awards and Scholarships (Bert)

We need to get into the high schools and talk to the counsellors about our scholarships.

We need nominees for Outstanding Service and Conservationist awards by December 1.

Conservation Seed (Ryan L.)

Corn prices went to \$35 for Round-Up-Ready. Check the web site for current information.

Convention (Jan)

The MI State Chapter convention is January 20 and 21, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Big Rapids. Friday noon set up, volunteers needed. Evening hospitality with cash bar and game room. Saturday board meeting at 9 AM. Speakers at 2:00 PM. Banquet opens at 4:00 with silent auction, raffles, live auction, awards, speakers, and a banquet meal. Letters will be sent to chapter presidents and at least one committee member to invite them to the banquet and request a chapter donation. Phil and Jan will take registrations and donations. State board help is needed for set up and banquet activities.

Old Business

Our position on turkey hunting rule changes is: no changes. Others have different opinions of opening day and season restructuring. Al Stewart recommends no changes. We need strong representation at the October 13 NRC meeting to voice our opinion.

The Law Division had no action on the fan tail question (see July minutes).

The MI NWTF license plate is still under discussion. It may pass in 2017 with support of our legislators. Many states are working behind the scenes to get license plates.

New Business

We might need money to supply the Jakes Take Aim trailer from IN for use in 2017. Also, we need to budget money for R3. We did approve \$1,000 for certificates for successful shooters. We expect the same need in 2017, and want to double our efforts at state parks, Jakes events, WITO events, and mentored hunts. More volunteers are needed, especially at the parks. Jason stated that the Cabela grant will help with funding for the trailer equipment since it is used for

mentored hunts, and travel costs are included. NWTF has a \$15,000 budget for R3 to underwrite costs of mentored hunts. This money is handled by Theresa at NWTF.

Ryan Longanbach has a possible covered location for the JTA trailer, available in January near Roscommon.

The importance of the upcoming NRC meeting on October 13 cannot be overstated. Be there at 1:00 PM. Public comments at 3:00 PM. The DNR only advises the NRC, along with many other groups. Final decisions made in November. Come as a concerned hunter, or send a letter (can be given to Art). Our position is based on these considerations:

- Safety, amount of hunters in the woods. Have 6 weeks of hunting, early/late, splits up hunters, open all day
- Breeding cycle, biology-based nesting patterns
- Not crowded opening day, like deer season
- Current satisfaction (74%), improved over many years, not broke, no need to fix
- Rated in the top 10 in the US for turkey hunting, success rates good

Tony asks that we support the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) at their annual 3 day conference. We partner already, since they provide trees for planting around the state. We will give \$250 from Outreach (Gary, Ken, carried). Our logo will appear on the conference program.

On October 11, Ken will make a special delivery of an outfitted Wheelin' Sportsman trailer to the RAM Center. This will be used in the area with Bob Garner's help. This could be used at the Turkeyville Tom's Ft. Custer hunt.

Al suggested that a future State Chapter meeting could be held at Rose Lake so we could see the new shooting range. We contributed money in the past for this project.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Pete, Phil, carried) at 8:55 PM.

The next MI State board meeting is January 21, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Big Rapids.

Minutes submitted by Jan Kuhtic.

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