

**MI State Chapter Board of Directors  
National Wild Turkey Federation  
September 19, 2015**

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.  
Tony led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

**Roll Call and Introductions**

Absent Region 1: Ken Buchholtz  
Present Region 2: Pete Demos  
Absent Region 2: Jim Szilagyi  
Present Region 3: Tony Snyder, Art Pelon, Jan Kuhtic, Dave Godley, Phil Kuhtic, Bert VanderWeele, Hugh Marx, Frank Brazynetz, Jon Gray  
Absent Region 3: Gary Salmon, Ron Hopkins, Garry Biniecki  
Guests: Michelle Pelon, Brian McPhail, Ryan Longanbach (Conservations Seed), Clay Buchanan (DNR)  
Present NWTF Staff: Ryan Boyer, Tom Karsten, Steve Sharp, Skip Markland

**Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes**

MUCC thanks us for the \$250 contribution for Camo at the Capital.

The minutes of July 18, 2015 were approved (Pete, Dave, carried).

The agenda is approved.

**Treasurer's Report (Gary/Tony)**

The Habitat Enhancement balance on July 18 was \$1,612.44. One check was written for \$290. Current balance is \$1,322.44 The General Fund had a balance on July 18 of \$9,565.37. Deposits were \$4,721.74. Checks and withdraws were \$1,498.31. Current balance is \$12,788.06. Details of the checks were provided.  
The Treasurer's report is approved (Pete, Bert, carried).

**NWTF Staff Reports**

**Tom** reports that the 2016 banquet books will be here soon.  
All Super Fund requests are due by December 1. Seed orders are due December 1.  
Remember that all outreach events must be registered with the Regional Director. The Super Fund forms have a space for outreach events, even if the funding is separate.  
Banquet merchandise is ordered, banquet dates are set for 2016, and chapters should be applying for their raffle permits. 20 of 26 chapters have shown increases of over \$1,000.

**Skip** reports a "phenomenal" year for his 12 chapters. Of 10 chapters last year, 8 had significant increases, and 2 chapters were a little under. Macolm Lost Gobblers has a new chapter with \$7,000 net and a new committee. Lenawee has a new name - Irish Hills Spit & Drum. The Hillsdale chapter will go to Skip. We are hoping for a new chapter at Hillsdale College.

The 2016 banquet year will be Skip's last as NWTF staff. He challenged us to rethink some of our banquet routines, such as ticket prices (unchanged for many years), game prices (make all \$20), and raffles. Inflation has gone up for years on guns and products/ merchandise, but our prices have not reflected that. The RD may decide on some options for smaller chapter banquets.

**Steve** reports a good response to the great outdoors youth jamboree. We are developing an agreement with PF, NWTF, DNR, and the Glasson Foundation to create a new position "R3".

**Ryan** reports that

- Midwest biologists are discussing wild turkey and deer research, the economic impact of hunting, the importance of continuing the wild turkey consortium, and the future of research, which includes habitat.
- Recently the wild turkey hunting stakeholders met. A MSU student is creating a model for the multi-year process of turkey hunting.
- Ryan will attend the national wild turkey symposium in Arizona.
- The Hayes Road parcel agreement was accepted by the USFWS. DU will donate to the DNR, and then it will go to USFS. We commit \$4,000 from the habitat fund to manage this important parcel.
- Other USFS work includes money from multiple partners to continue to reestablish habitat. With our \$2,500, funds have been leveraged at a 100/1 ratio!
- At the end of the month, we should know about a grant for the Manistee National Forest and Gregory State Game Area and 2 grassland projects, along with work in other states.
- The Allegan habitat projects are done. Signs were created and posted at 3 sites. A video is posted on the web site and the DNR site.
- Volunteer days will be posted for future projects.
- We are establishing a case for a MI NWTF license plate. The initial cost for a plate would be \$25, and \$10 at each renewal with a minimum of 2,000 plates. If 1/3 of members buy in, we would make our goal. This could mean \$70,000 in 2 years. If we use the money for habitat work, we could greatly extend the working funds and matched funds for land acquisition and habitat improvement. Tony will draft a letter to the Governor's office and to our Congressmen. This process is complicated. The original costs may have to come from the state chapter, and quarterly checks would go back to repay this amount. The plate, as yet not designed, should attract turkey hunters, other hunters, and non-hunters. This board supports this cause by consensus.
- Ryan will submit a design for a My Turkey Tracks display kiosk for each focal landscape to display our work, in cooperation with the DNR. Money will be requested later. Volunteers from the board may help with signs, placed in key project areas.

### **DNR Report (Clay Buchanan)**

The DNR is helping with grant projects. Studies of turkey population ecology can be made available. Public access is important. New grant money will go to northern UP private lands. Some grants, like the butterfly project, mesh well with our mission. We have a handout from Al Stewart of turkey regulation timelines for any changes in the spring or fall hunts.

It is doubtful that turkeys will be transferred this winter.

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

Brian McPhail is applying for a Region 2 Board of Directors position, to fill the 2015 to 2018 position vacated by Bob Garner. We welcome Brian and approve this (Pete, Bert, carried).

A vacancy remains in Region 2 and Region 1, both 2014 to 2017 positions. Tony will determine the continued interest of board members who have not attended meetings. If we hear of anyone interested in these positions, refer to your Regional Director.

The eligible renewals in January are Ken Buchholtz, Jim Szilagyi, Pete Demos, Jan Kuhtic, Ron Hopkins, Phil Kuhtic, and Garry Biniecki.

### **Conservations Seed (Ryan Longanbach)**

Round-Up ready soybeans will be available for habitat work, prices not yet posted. The seed order sheet is ready. The Round-Up ready will be used first, but there may not be enough to meet the demand. The price list is done also. All this will be posted on the web site. There will be 2 pick up dates. Thanks to Mike Kennedy for his help.

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

We have a different web site host. Our new web site is MINWTF.org. Convention information will be posted. We need more pictures.

### **Outreach (Tony)**

The JAKES Take Aim trailer was an excellent outreach at the Posen Potato Festival. There were 150 shooters in 2 days, and 21 memberships. There should be 4 people to help when there are big crowds.

The new "R3" position will make good use of the JTA trailers. Together, the PF, DNR, and NWTF will enhance youth programs statewide. Soon, hunter safety leaders will be NWTF members.

October 17 Steve will host a state shoot-off of JAKES shooting winners at the Demmer Center. A silent auction will be offered. Volunteer help is welcome.

### **Habitat Improvement (Pete)**

We need more food plots planted. The DNR allows \$75 for 3 acres private land planted for habitat. We recommend fruit bearing trees and white oak (less susceptible to oak wilt) for wildlife. High bush cranberry does well. Pete has some crab apple and cranberry available. Discussing grant writing with Ryan for private lands in northern lower MI.

### **MI State Convention (Jan)**

The Convention is planned for January 15 and 16, 2016 at the Holiday Inn Big Rapids. A letter will be sent to chapter presidents and 2-3 more persons in each chapter with an invitation, ticket form, and schedule. Tickets are \$40. Donations are requested from each chapter of \$100 or a local-interest package. The auctioneer and gun dealer are confirmed. The speakers are Tom Stuckey (pending confirmation), Ryan Boyer, and Al Stewart. On Friday evening we will offer a euchre tournament with “Escanaba in the Moonlight” theme during the evening hospitality. Volunteer help is needed for Friday set up at noon. We will need help for games, raffles, bid running, check in, check out, and hospitality during the banquet.

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

All Super Fund requests are due December 1. For outreach events, use the Super Fund form, and the RD will make sure it comes from Outreach funds. 20% of chapter Super Fund money goes to focal landscape automatically. Chapters need to re-visit how they use Super Fund money to support our mission. Consider supporting the new “R3” position with Super Fund money (make a line item). The “R3” position is tentative, and has a November proposed start date. This person will work to reach non-targeted audiences.

### **Patch Program (Tony)**

The 2016 design has been chosen.

### **Rules and Regulations (Hugh)**

Hugh referred us to the handout from the DNR that outlines the process for regulation changes. He welcomes comments about any turkey regulation changes.

### **Awards (Bert)**

We will award a second place scholarship with the \$1,000 we are not using for FFA. The first place winner will get \$2,500 (an increase of \$500) and the second place will get \$1,000 (Bert, Pete, carried). The recipient or a representative must be present to receive these scholarships at the convention. We need to seek out winners for next year. The last deadline for forwarding applicants is January 16 at the convention.

The Conservation Officer of the Year will be Dean Molnar. We are advancing his paperwork for the national award. He is a local chapter president at Three Corners Habitat.

We are changing the requirements for Educator of the Year. The teacher is not required to use the JAKES Education box. The NWTF has a subcommittee working on the JAKES Education box- will know more in December.

Ken Buchholtz will receive a volunteer service award on October 10 from the MI Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Congratulations from all of us.

### **Fund Raising – no report**

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

The current budget with actual expenses year to date (TYD) is reviewed:

Executive Board \$2,750, YTD \$2,065.	Conservation Seed \$25, YTD \$0.
PR/Media \$2,175, YTD \$2578.	Outreach \$3,950, TYD \$3,250.
Habitat \$3,593, YTD \$3,268.	Convention \$5,000, YTD \$1,440.
Calling Contest \$1,500, YTD \$1,522.	Super Fund \$25, TYD \$0.
Rules \$25, YTD \$0.	Awards \$4,775, YTD \$1,580.
Fund Raising \$25, YTD \$0.	RDs \$7,300, YTD \$1,632.
Total budget 2015 to 2016 \$29,643, YTD \$17,335.	

### **New Business**

Tom requests a new projector, flag and flag pole. We approve up to \$750 (Phil, Frank, carried)

The JAKES trailer needs equipment and supplies, and the second trailer needs targets. No action taken.

The Legislative Sportsmen Caucus Advisory Council is a 15 member group with bylaws and 501.c.4 status, based in Lansing. The Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus is part of this group. Dues are \$750 a year. This is a political group with a voice on issues that include hunting and fishing rights in MI, and an extended national influence. This would keep us in touch with Lansing and help us express the importance of our work. Pending NWTF legal counsel (Tony will seek) and an explanation of the dues, this membership is approved (Pete, Dave, carried).

The Wild Turkey Symposium will be held in Arizona. We will support this with a \$500 scholarship from the Patch Program (Bert, Pete, carried).

As of September 1, Ryan's area is increased to be all of MI. We are on pace to meet our state goals.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 1:28 PM (Pete, Bert, carried).

The next meeting is January 16, 2016 at the state convention in Big Rapids.

Submitted by Jan Kuhtic

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