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

**Michigan State Chapter Board of Directors**

**January 21, 2012**

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Tony led the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

**Roll Call and Introductions**

Present Region 1: Roger Shoemaker, Ken Buchholtz

Present Region 2: Jim Szilagyi, Pete Demos

Absent Region 2: Craig Meredith

Present Region 3: Tony Snyder, Jan Kuhtic, Ron Hopkins, Dave Godley, Dan Potter, Bert VanderWeele, Gary Salmon, Phil Kuhtic, Troy Hopkins, Garry Biniecki, Ron Wassom

Absent Region 3: Hugh Marx

Absent Past President: Herb Lorentz

Present NWTF Staff: Steve Sharp, Tom Karsten, Keith Rubin, Randy Showalter, Chris Eder

Guests: Jim Maturen, Bob Gardner, Bob Paul, Fred Moon, Brad Van Loon, Al Bobrofsky, Al Stewart (MI DNR)

**Correspondence, Agenda, and Minutes**

4H Shooting Sports thanks the MI State Chapter for their donation.

Rodney Stoles, DNR Commissioner, thanks us for communications and help with resource management.

NWTF congratulates MI for another Educator of the Year, Janine Kopera.

A check was returned from the state lottery office, origin to be determined.

The minutes of September, 2011 are approved with the following changes: Al Stewart is present. Under the MI DNR report, add “Al gave an update of the turkey regulations.” On page 6, “the sponsor member incentive for 2011, the sponsor member $1,000 shopping spree with an additional $500 shopping spree for the member who signed him/her up . . .” and “the chapter will receive the $500”. On page 3, Winter Survival, Pete said there were no requests for funds. (Pete, Ron W, carried).

The agenda is approved as written.

**Treasurer’s Report (Gary Salmon)**

The General Fund balance Sept. 17, 2011 was $25,819.11. Deposits totaled $17,083.55. Checks were written for banners, raffle permits, Hess knives, education boxes, copies, MUCC membership, Shiawassee hunt, Eddie Salter, Youth Shooting raffles, US Sportsmen’s Alliance, banquet postage, NWTF convention, Wildlife Seed Supply, and business cards for a total of $15,347.85. The current balance is $27,554.81.

The Winter Survival account balance on Sept. 17, 2011 was $2,662.44. No deposits were made. One check was written for $100, so the current balance is $2,562.44

The Treasurer’s report is accepted (Pete, Ron H., carried).

**NWTF Staff Reports**

Steve reports that NWTF has mandated a change in how the Super Fund money and rebates are received by chapters. All chapters will fill out a form for electronic fund transfer and send it to NWTF. As of March, all Super Fund requests and rebates will be deposited electronically into chapter accounts. Ellen Lintal, NWTF Controller, should be added as an account holder. The Regional Directors will direct the chapters.

The banquet invitations from NWTF have been improved. We can check them before they are sent. The membership number is on the page, a reply envelope is included, and they are attractive. Additional invitations may be ordered for the banquet chair at $.40. This is not mandatory. An alternative is a simple post card. E blasts may be requested.

The State Chapter has a Facebook page. This is useful to increase contacts, especially with the younger generation. Of course, there is no substitute for a handshake and a conversation. As we look for new contacts, look for corporate dollars, and don’t be shy about asking for money for outreach or banquet underwriters.

Turkey Country magazine is online at TurkeyCountry.com.

For families that have 2 magazines sent to one home, give one copy to a friend, an office or a library, or call NWTF subscription department to discontinue one copy. Remember that advertisers pay per copy.

Keith thanks the volunteers from his region for their cooperation, especially with leadership at banquets.

Keith’s territory has changed. It now includes all of the UP and one chapter in WI.

A target area for a new chapter is in Gladwin County.

Chris came on staff May of 2011. His responsibilities include 11 states and one province. He lives in MI.

Chris thanks this chapter for our many years of efforts. He is seeing fresh enthusiasm and expresses optimism about 2012.

Al Bobrofsky is off the NWTF national board. We sincerely appreciate his service.

Growing the flock, recruiting new members, and reviving chapters are NWTF goals for us. We might consider doing an upland game banquet, or use NWTF resources to introduce new shooting programs, especially for youth. Think about the interests of potential new members. The strength of the NWTF is in its memberships.

To help our memberships as well as monetary rewards, we encourage all outreach efforts, partnering with other chapters, and especially ancillary events such as gun bashes.

The national convention is in February. All of us should try to attend.

The next leadership gathering in Edgefield is planned for 2013. Regional leadership weekends will be planned for June with a central location in each region. Details should come in February. This does not replace the 2013 event.

The proposed Super Fund changes are deferred. The state chapter presidents will discuss this at the national convention. This proposal would include all proceeds including the memberships in the calculations for Super Fund. This would not increase the money going to Edgefield.

We will start to hear the question “Why NWTF?” We are invited to share our story and tell what we have to offer the organization. Consider what difference we make. We are encouraged to invite new committee members, try to sell a few more tickets, ask another donor. We have a strong base, so we can build on it.

Randy Showalter gave us a printed report, for which we are grateful. He described the Huron-Manistee Karner Blue Butterfly Project, which protects the habitat of the butterfly and creates wildlife openings. The Forest Service is offering money to assist in supporting a shared position with the NWTF to be used on UP and northern lower MI projects in the Huron-Manistee area.

**MI DNR (Al Stewart)**

It’s time to get your Spring turkey hunting license now. Our regulations are the same through fall of 2012 and spring of 2013. We received a hand-out asking for future topics for discussion relating to turkey hunting.

MI hosted the Midwest deer and turkey meeting as part of the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agency meeting. Tony and Al participated. More information is available from Al.

Turkey revitalization efforts continue in northern lower MI. There will be another transfer from SW lower MI. The dates are not yet announced, but Tony and Al will keep us informed.

The MI DNR Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 was distributed. This booklet outlines the Guiding Principles and Strategies for the Wildlife Division. Annual reports are available from Al.

The DNR is focused on habitat on the ground statewide. There have been personnel changes due to retirements and reorganization. We have a county listing with the responsible biologists and their contact information.

The MI pheasant restoration initiative is underway. Many partners are involved. Immediate action is needed to keep this species.

The mentored youth hunting program will be addressed at the Natural Resources February meeting. The purpose is to develop young conservation leaders. Jonothan Kneiper will represent the NWTF.

The NWTF is participating with sharptail research with wildlife habitat biologist Keith Swanson. Roger offered to represent the NWTF on this project.

The entire Midwest is affected by turkey decline, not only MI. Research is underway to get the big picture and identify the factors contributing to the decline. MSU research is led by Dr. Porter.

**Conservation Seed (Dave Godley)**

The seed orders are in to NWTF. Round Up Ready prices have doubled. No availability is promised for corn or soy beans, and more information will be known in March. The MI Mix is being prepared now. Conventional soy beans are in this package.

As of the Super Fund meeting, the price increases were not known, so information letters went out to the chapters. Shipping could also be costly. Chapters will decide how the increased price will be paid. The payment for seed should be on the pick-up date, which has not been announced.

Thanks to Mike Kennedy and Dave Godley for their work on Conservation Seed and Super Fund.

James Earl Kennamer reminded Tony that chapters purchasing seed should go through Project Help if possible, andSOS for seedlings. Tony will ask Steve to send information on Project Help to the chapter presidents.

**PR and Media (Dan Potter)**

The action plan is underway for SB 248, the Land Cap bill, based on reactions from groups like NWTF. We object to the “no net gain” public land policy because of its effects on the type and location of available public land for hunting and fishing.

The MI Legislative Caucus is revived, and now has regular meetings. Dan suggests that we get on their agenda for spring for a turkey hunting primer.

Many other sportsmen’s issues face our legislators. We received a prepared packet of current bills and resolutions under consideration. There is a rumor of a movement for the legislature to take over the DNR. We wish to keep the DNR as it is, not subject to partisan politics. Stay in touch with your congressmen, and communicate with them as a conservationist.

On the world scene, we are watching the UN activities related to world-wide gun control.

MUCC and the DNR have a committee that reviews the process for making hunting rules.

The DNR directors are asking the Conservation Coalition and conservation clubs for evaluation and input on habitat and fisheries in our areas.

Ron W. and Dan have given the state board a form on which they identify their elected officials, media contacts, etc. They will make a directory, introduce our congressmen to our NWTF, and help us form relationships to benefit all of us. Then a system will be established to counteract the work of anti-hunting and anti-gun groups. Ron has available articles for local use. We do not support individual candidates, but we want to be informed about the beliefs and priorities of candidates seeking office. In addition to the MI contacts, this committee is willing to contact U.S Congress with an introductory letter about the NWTF (Gary S., Dave, carried).

In the Huron-Manistee primitive and semi-primitive land use case, 9400 communications were sent, 7100 from conservationists who want no change. The case is going back to court to consider 4 options.

This committee will develop a MI map with overlays to show legislative districts, forest lands, hunting areas, etc.

The web site is getting up to speed. Dan and Ron need access to make changes, and Bert is willing to help. We hope to keep the information timely. Information on outreach, membership, and events can help chapters partner together.

**Winter Survival (Pete)**

Since there has been little snowfall, only one request was made and granted.

Pete has forms that go out with every request.

At silent auction tonight a turkey feeder will be offered. Consider cracked corn instead of whole corn in your feeders.

Ken reports that in the UP, no funds were requested. The people that feed turkeys have been paying for it. The long term tree planting for feeding turkeys is working well.

**Convention committee (Jan)**

Gary S. expects every board member to actively work at the banquet tonight unless they have opted out with him. Some games and raffles need workers.

The banquet was set up Friday with the help of the Big Rapids chapter. We have some merchandise donations and about 20 chapters for underwriting. The tickets are close to last year’s numbers. Sandy Snyder made table decorations, Bert and Jim will work at registrations, Thornapple women will take the WITO raffle table, Troy and Gary will work the check-out, Tom is MC, Darrell Holmes is auctioneer, and Ron H. is our gun dealer. Programs were printed showing the chapter awards. The Awards committee is ready. The seminars will feature Al Stewart and Eddie Salter. Dan Dumas took care of the calling contest. Eddie Salter is here, and will address us tonight.

Publicity was by letter to chapter presidents, email and web page, and in MI Outdoor News, and some VIP invitations.

For next year, the convention will remain at this location on the third Saturday in January, 2013.

**Super Fund committee (Roger)**

The Super Fund (SF) committee met in December. The electronic request system has made the work efficient and streamlined. We reviewed the SF request sheet.

Total Super Fund contributions were $110,989.57. The total approved for habitat is $46,935, for Outreach programs $19,542, for education $22,870, for pro-hunting $1,200, for “other” $24,459, for Emergency $4,586 for a total of $118,236 funds approved.

Remember that the only way to get the SF money released is to register your events.

Thanks to Mike Kennedy, a volunteer, who works with this committee to compile and prepare this report.

Motion to accept this report (Phil, Dave, carried).

**Patch Program (Troy)**

The 2011 patch was very successful. 5800 patches were sent to 2600 persons.

The 2012 patch is here and available. The design winner, Viktoria Basso, will be here today.

The committee will meet later this month to review the designs for the 2013 patch. Only 2 schools participated. To increase school participation, we should print the rules and personally hand the information to teachers. Jon Gray is very helpful with promoting the JAKES education boxes and the patch program. The patch design winner gets $100, second place $50, and third place $25. The winner is recognized at the NWTF state convention, and at the NRC/DNR.

**Rules & Regulations (Pete)**

We received a package of current information about Senate Joint Resolution Q (on diverting money from the Natural Resources Trust Fund), Senate Bill 822 (only if Joint Resolution Q passes), Senate Bill 248 (public land cap), and Proposal G (Natural Resources management to legislature), all opposed by MUCC for stated reasons. Pete also gave us a list of Sportsmen’s legislative issues for 2012 and encouraged us to keep in touch with our congressmen and make our opinion known. This committee is our watchdog, and will keep us informed.

No changes are proposed for the current turkey regulations.

A decision is expected this month on the Huron/Manistee case.

Jim M. shared some thoughts on the pending legislative issues. Lands are managed for butterflies, deer, songbirds, and grouse, but not very often are they specific to the wild turkey. When we consider land use, we should all work together to benefit the most wildlife.

Tony states that we wish to work cooperatively with the MI turkey Hunters and have good communication.

**Awards and Scholarship (Bert)**

The awards for tonight are all set. Many of the winners plan to attend.

The chapter scholarship award winners who wish to advance to state and national competition need their papers to Bert at least by the January board meeting to be considered.

Bays De Noc chapter has worthy scholarship applicants who need funding by another chapter. There may be chapters with funds but no applicants. Bert is happy to receive this information and try to match funds with applicants.

**Fund Raising (Ron H.)**

This is the 13th year we have had custom knives made for the State Chapter. Currently we have only 40 made. At this time, we have 10 left from previous years.

Tonight we will offer the 2012 knives for $70. The ones from previous years will be offered for $60 to anyone for chapter or personal use. These knives are always made in MI, and always high quality.

These knives should be pictured and described on the web site. We are seeing less interest by collectors. Consider an e-blast. We could use some for convention raffles. We will discuss in July whether to continue this fund raising activity.

Tonight we will use the Browning Gold Fusion valued at $1100 for the box call raffle. This gun was given to the state chapter by the Sportsmen’s Caucus several years ago.

Ron has been the gun dealer for many years for the state chapter banquet, and for this we are very grateful. He will discontinue this service after the banquet tonight.

**Finance and Budget (Gary S.)**

For this committee, someone besides the Treasurer needs to serve. Anyone interested, tell Tony or Gary. The two required reports were sent to NWTF.

We need MI State Chapter stationery, especially for official correspondence. Ron W. will develop the logo, to include the 3 walking turkeys and the state outline. This will be the state standard, and chapters/senders may add their own identity under it when needed. This should be developed right away, pending chapter approval by email.

**New Business**

**State Chapter elections:**

Tony, Gary S. and Hugh are eligible for re-elections. Troy declines to run for another term but will remain the patch coordinator. Motion to re-elect Tony, Gary S. and Hugh for another term (Dan, Phil, carried). We will seek interest from Region 3 for a representative.

We have an interested person, Bob Gardner, to represent Region 2. He is appointed by Tony and approved by this board (Dan, Pete, carried). He accepts this position for 2012-2015.

For the board president position, Tony is willing to serve for two more years. Ron H. moved that nominations for president be closed (second, Phil, carried).

For the board vice president position, Roger is willing to serve again. Pete moved that nominations for vice president be closed (second, Dan, carried).

For the board treasurer position, Gary is willing to serve with the enthusiastic cooperation of this board. Roger moved that nominations for treasurer be closed (second, Jan, carried).

For the secretary position, Jan is willing to serve again. Ron H. moved that the nominations for secretary be closed (second, Gary, carried).

Congratulations to the re-elected and appointed board members, and thanks to those willing to serve as our executive team. As a board, we expressed a commitment to communicate well and to face the work together. Sincere thanks to Troy for his many years of service.

As we seek board members, we need to consider younger members, including our chapter JAKE of the year.

**Old Business**

The new Bylaws state that the nominating committee consists of 5 or more elected members. In our case, it is the executive board plus one. Pete nominates Hugh (Pete, Ron W., carried). This service is for one year.

Tony will discuss the NWTF annual report with Chris Eder.

The web page still has 4 available slots for advertising. The cost is $100 for one year. In July, board members may suggest more advertisers.

We discussed the sponsor membership incentive of the 2011 banquet season whose winner will be announced tonight. We felt that this was well-intentioned but probably did not make much difference in the decision to become a sponsor member. Motion to continue in 2012 (Phil, Ron W. not carried). The chapter gains no advantage for getting sponsor memberships at this time.

The state chapter has a MUCC membership. Board members can view the magazine online.

The state calling contest at this convention is new this year. The $50 registration fee goes to NWTFwho sanctions it. Dan Dumas had a $1,000 allowance but spent less. He got donations, a gun, and gift cards from 3 companies. Today the contestant turnout is poor (6 callers). We received good publicity, including filming by MI Outdoors. We hope this will be continued next year.

Ducks Unlimited is celebrating their 75th anniversary. We will donate a knife and stamp print (Ron H., Gary S., carried).

In the bylaws, p. 15 there is a statement on records and files. To clarify, Jan has board meeting records, Gary has financial records, and Tony has president- related records. There is no need to consolidate all the records in one location. The secretary knows where to find lists and records. Each committee chair has records, and is responsible to Jan for this information.

Tony has reports from the Deer and Turkey Expo, and is happy to share this information.

**Other Business, Guest Comments**

Ken received the Partners in Conservation award from the MI DNR. He serves on a citizen’s advisory council bridging the gap between the DNR and citizens.

Ken was chosen Volunteer of the Month and Volunteer of the Year for Delta County. He promotes the NWTF at every opportunity, writes articles, and works on many conservation projects.

Jan will be presented the NWTF Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual convention in Nashville, TN in February.

Each chapter was asked to sign a form for electronic funds transfer from NWTF. This will be the usual way for Super Fund money to go to chapter accounts beginning March 1, 2012.

Gary asked Chris about the future of the 5 Star chapter program. There are no changes at this time. This is still encouraged.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn (Pete, Ken, carried).

The next scheduled state board meeting is Saturday, July 21, 2012 in Cadillac.