

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

MI State Chapter

National Wild Turkey Federation

January 14, 2023

Bert called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony offered a prayer.

Introductions, Roll Call, Correspondence

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz, Chris Stewart

Present Region 2: Ryan Longanbach, Frank Darling, Pete Demos, Mike Arnold

Absent Region 2: Brian McPhail

Present Region 3: Bert VanderWeele, Jon Gray, Tony Snyder, Jan Kuhtic, Hugh Marx, Dave Godley, Jason DeFrenn, Erin Sattazahn

Absent Region 3: Art Pelon, Jonathan Edgerly, Mike Black

NWTF Staff present: Becky Humphries, CEO; Tom Glines, Director of Development; Ryan Boyer, District Biologist; Aaron Shaughnessy, RD; Brandon Nutt, RD; Morgan Register, R3 Coordinator

DNR present: Adam Bump, Upland Game Bird Specialist

Others present: Shannon Fryer, Timber Ghost Gobblers, Pat McFadden, IN State Board, Chairman of President's Volunteer Advisory Council

There is no correspondence.

Approval of Minutes, Agenda

The July 2022 State Board minutes are approved (Jason, Ryan, carried).

The agenda is approved with the following additions: Tom Glines, Pat McFadden, and Becky Humphries.

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

The Report is for January 1, 2022 to January 14, 2023.

The general checking account had a balance of \$17,569.14 on January 1, 2022. Since then, deposits were \$16,505.30 and expenses were \$23,736.97. The balance on January 14, 2023 is \$10,337.47. Detailed deposit and expense information is provided.

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

NWTF Staff Reports

Aaron reports that the new system for banquets is proving successful. 9 chapters achieved Golden Gobbler with 50% N/G. He provided a document showing each chapter's banquet and membership report for 2022. For the NWTF 50th anniversary, each chapter is challenged to increase membership by 50. Chapters are encouraged to have a second event. We have 50th anniversary patches made for sale state-wide, available tonight. We would like a state-wide raffle for this anniversary year. Ideas and volunteers are welcome. The calendar raffle has sold out every year, with more demand. For 2024, we will have 2 sets of calendars made (Bert, Tony, carried). For every calendar sold, the selling chapter gets \$20 for their banquet, and each buyer becomes a member.

A NWTF Leadership Conference is being planned for June 20-22, 2023 at Great Cedar Lodge in Missouri. The State Chapter will send up to 10 persons using Super Fund money (Tony, Jason, carried). The cost will be communicated when it becomes known. We need to know who wants to go – tentatively Jon, Jan, Jason, Mike A., Justin, and some from chapters.

Brandon is welcomed as the new RD, replacing Tom Karsten. He has 2 old PA systems, not likely to last. Aaron got a new one in 2017. Brandon will get a new one, cost estimated at \$919 (Tony, Erin carried). Brandon's focus will be visiting chapters and building relationships.

Morgan started in MI in May of 2022. She reports 17 events in 2022 with 671 new participants, 104 hunters, 45 of which got birds, deer, or other species. She had 148 participants at 3 park events. She is partnering with other conservation groups in MI and sharing in their activities. Many new shooters were taught. In 2023, she hopes to build the R3 program by regions, trying some unconventional approaches, such as using Conservation Districts, since we have many shared goals. She hopes to share range time with other women in the evening, host a Learn To Hunt Waterfowl experience, and use TV and other media to promote and publish these achievements. She has become a Hunter Safety instructor, and added bow and trapping courses. She is partnering with other conservation groups to teach 1-2 classes a month.

MI State Chapter will receive a Save the Hunt award at the NWTF convention.

The Glasson Foundation and MI State University can host an intern in the summer (May-August) at a cost of \$2,000/month, or \$6,200 for the summer. This intern could be exposed to all facets of NWTF, and work along with Morgan to make new and better activities. But the Glasson Foundation plans to end R3 funding and look for other avenues. So how could this be funded? Probably Glasson and some R3 funds. Ryan Boyer recommends some State Board funding, and try to find other sources. (Our Super Fund balance is about \$25,000). We will fund this position, hopefully without Super Fund money (Mike, Bert, carried). This intern needs to meet the State Board at our summer meeting.

Ryan reports a great year, seeing some silver linings from Covid, including continuing grants. The USFS has 80-90 stewardship agreements in the country with timber sales. Over 35 partners contribute. 2 projects are completed, and 2 are underway in MI. 2,500 acres of oak savannah are restored already. We are working to help use the \$4 million available from timber revenue. MI DNR has ongoing wildlife habitat grants. Some funds from hunting license sales goes back to habitat. Working now in 13 MI counties, 2 in the UP, on habitat including openings on forested areas. 3500 acres were preserved in 2022. Now the incentives are bigger with multiple partners for private lands. We will help host landowner workshops this summer. Ryan has been reappointed to the Pigeon River Advisory Council, which helps build relationships.

We have Turkey Tracts in Sharonville, one for Port Huron, and one approved for Baldwin.

With the MUCC 2-bird limit, the NRC and Adam Bump gave presentations to the Wildlife Council. We need more data to support the requested changes. Research models, more than just southern MI, need to be applied with scientific data. MUCC also recommends mandatory reporting for wild turkey harvest, so we will enter this discussion. Every 4 years, we participate in the national wild turkey symposium, which provides information and trends. With an overall 16% decline, many states are reducing bag limits or starting seasons later.

The clothing gear company, Sitka, has \$20,000 to show our NWTF work. They will highlight our projects and show turkey hunts on newly restored areas. Field and Stream is filming prescribed burns, showing openings with lupine, and featuring the Karner Blue butterfly.

Super Fund has over \$25,000 in our budget. Covid froze the SF, but now opening up for 2024. For the 2023 banquet season, SF money goes to 2024 needs. Each chapter can request up to \$350 for scholarship or outreach. The State Board can expand spending allowances if local chapters request more. The Super Fund Committee will meet soon with the Vice President in charge. New forms will be used. Requests may be made at any time.

Tom Glines reports that the NWTF is working on the culture of major gift giving. We are seeing bigger gifts. Endowment money will earn money to get us through any rough times. Pledges toward upper-level membership is cumulative. Donors can give at local banquets. We may refer potential donors to Tom. We have only 5 development officers in the country. Thanks to Mike Wood and his wife who combined donations for a higher level. Our MI Glasson Foundation is a major donor. The Tenth Legion gives \$10,000 a year. Golden Flock pledges \$50,000 cash over 5 years. Pretty Huntress is in MI and gives jewelry for banquets. The NWTF annual report names all the major donors.

DNR Report (Adam Bump)

Adam reports that he is now the Upland Game Bird Specialist. Discussion continues with MUCC about the 2-bird limit and mandatory turkey harvest reporting. Good scientific research is the key to the future regulations.

State Board – Bylaws and Elections

A nominating committee will be formed to identify and recommend qualified members of the NWTF to serve as Directors and place them in nomination before the Board. Our board members must be participating and contributing persons. Any new applicants will be interviewed and obtain supporting signatures before nomination for election or appointment. The Nominating Committee will be Ryan Longanbach (chair), Jason DeFrenn, Jon Gray, and Mike Arnold.

Jonathan Edgerly gave written notice of his resignation. Brian McPhail and Dave Godley will not take another term. Art Pelon gave verbal notice of his resignation to a member – we will await written notice. For the 2023-2026 term, Bert, Jon, Frank, and Erin will serve.

Bert will continue as President. Jon will continue as Vice President. Tony will continue as Treasurer. Jan will continue as Secretary. All affirmed by a majority voice vote.

Conservation Seed (Ryan)

Ryan reports that for 2022, the following seed bags were purchased and acres were planted: Sunflower, 58/145, Corn 504/1,260, Oats 210/210, Soybeans 352/352, MI Mix #2 66/33, Green Fire 300/150, and Buckwheat 147/147. Total acres planted 2,297. Orders are being taken now. Seed may be picked up the week of April 3 with payment at that time.

Super Fund (Bert)

The Super Fund will be freed up on September 1 for chapter requests. Remember that Super Fund is not requested for Conservation Seed. At this time, \$350 is available for scholarship or outreach requests. The forms will change, requests are made online for Biologist and RD review. The Super Fund Committee will meet soon with Mike Arnold as Chair.

Web Site, PR, Media (Jon)

Jon reports that the new patches for the NWTF 50th anniversary may be ordered online as well as the 2023 DNR/NWTF patches. The award winners announced tonight will be posted on the web site.

MUCC (Pete and Bert)

The recommendation for a 2-bird limit for the spring turkey hunt is still in discussion, needing scientific data to show some advantage considering the general turkey population decline in MI and many other states. Mandatory reporting of turkey harvest is also recommended, but does not solve the turkey population decline. Results will be dependent on individual hunter compliance. Erin offers to serve as an MUCC representative.

State Convention (Jason)

Jason reports that the banquet is ready for tonight. Thanks to the Timber Ghost chapter for their work, and thanks for all who helped with the set-up. Thanks to the chapters that gave a \$100 donation.

Patch Program (Bert)

Bert – 2023 patches are here and available to buy. The design creator will be at the Convention tonight.

As of Dec. 29, 2021 the Patch balance was \$120. Deposits were \$26,840.00. 2022 patches were \$9,610.48, 2023 patches were \$7,400.00. Computer, check, postage and supplies were \$3,456.80. Total expenses \$20,467.28. Balance of December 31, 2022 is \$6,492.72.

Orders and payment for patches are online. NWTF transfers the money back to us. Patches are mailed out regularly, thanks to Steve Sharp and Bert.

Rules & Regulations (Hugh)

No new changes, but continuing discussions with interested parties about the 2-bird limit and mandatory reporting of turkey harvest. More aware now of MUCC and DNR discussions about wild turkey issues, and awaiting research results which could influence future decisions.

Awards & Scholarship (Jon)

The state scholarship was awarded to a student from Posen, MI. The patch design was awarded to a young student, present tonight. All other awards are ready to be presented. Congratulations to the chapters, volunteers, and businesses that earned this recognition.

Fund Raising (Bert)

The 50th anniversary patches are here and available to buy at \$20 each as a State Board fundraiser. If all 1100 are sold, the State Chapter could raise \$20,000! The anniversary pins are available for \$2.50 each. Both are available tonight.

Other Business

Pat McFadden, Chair of the NWTF President's Volunteer Advisory Council reports that the Super Fund will be opened again as of Sept 1. Orders may be placed any time using the pdf on the web site. His term on this council ends soon. He challenged us to remember why we are part of the NWTF, and to share our stories.

Becki Humphries, NWTF CEO, thanked the MI State Chapter for its work, notably during Covid, and now for earning national recognition for Save The Hunt. She continues as CEO until the end of February, then NWTF will be led by Co-CEOs Jason Buckhalter and Kurt Dyroff. She has her South Carolina property for sale, and will retire in MI.

Adjournment and Future Dates

Motion to adjourn, 1:00 PM (Jan, Dave, carried).

Tentative future State Board meeting dates are March 9 (Zoom), July 29 (tentative Cadillac), and September 7 (TBD),

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