

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

MI State Chapter

National Wild Turkey Federation

March 9, 2023, Zoom Call

Bert called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Bert offered a prayer.

Roll Call, Correspondence

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz, Chris Stewart

Present Region 2: Mike Arnold, Ryan Longanbach,

Absent Region 2: Frank Darling

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

NWTF Staff present: Ryan Boyer, Aaron Shaughnessy, Brandon Nutt, Morgan Register

Board member Pete Demos passed. We remember him for his dedication to Habitat improvement and MUCC, and many years of dedicated service to the State Chapter and his local chapter.

We are sponsoring the Legislative Breakfast in April at the Heritage Center. Please tell Bert if any board members can attend.

Approval of Minutes, Agenda

The minutes of January 14, 2023 are approved (Mike, Tony, carried).

The agenda is approved.

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

The balance on January 14, 2023 was \$10,337.47. Deposits were \$16,110.07. Expenses were \$17,695.26. Current balance is \$8,752.28. Details of deposits and expenses are provided. The report is approved (Jason, Ryan, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports

Aaron reports that the State Chapter banquet was up 26% and had 35 more attending.

In the first 4 banquets, Beards and Spurs was just under 50% N/G, down 20 people. Flint and Lapeer were about the same, and Presque Isle had less attending.

We got 50th anniversary pins, and have a lot left, so consider how these can be used this year.

Working on the 2024 calendars already. We plan to offer 2 sets (2,000). The RDs are asking chapters how many they want to sell.

Aaron and Brandon are planning regional training for the whole state to get all chapters up to speed. Possible in person, possible this summer.

Brandon reports that he had 6 events. 5 are up, 1 is down. North Kent doubled its income. Flint River and Flat River are close to Golden Gobbler. Getting to know people with every banquet. Has extra pins also. Encouraging chapters to commit to selling calendars.

Morgan sent us a list of scheduled activities (44) until October. Help is welcome, especially when the event is local to a chapter. She spoke with other R3 coordinators at the convention, and is finding ways to network, even with other states. MI DNR hired a shooting sports manager, so working with her and other NGOs to improve our outreach.

Morgan met with DNR staff and minority groups around Detroit, working to arrange hunts and outreach to underserved areas.

Ryan reports that Senator Bumstead introduced a resolution to recognize the NWTF's 50th anniversary.

Two MI DNR Wildlife Habitat grants are ongoing – one in West MI on Oak Ecosystems set to expire in September of 2023, and the Northern MI pine barrens and openings will expire in September of 2024. We are starting discussions for developing a new proposal in the U.P. and including Beaver Island.

We are working to secure an additional \$450,000 from the USFS to expand our efforts on the Manistee National Forest and continue our oak savanna restoration efforts.

We have a new video out in collaboration with Sitka Gear and their support of our project: <http://www.sitkagear.com/experience/after-fire-comes-growth>

We are awaiting feedback from MI DNR on wild turkey population model and plan to discuss status for brood survey and agency support soon.

The next Turkey Tract is in progress and being planned now for Sharonville SGA. The last one with the DNR will take place next year on the Port Huron SGA.

All the NWTF staff are working on clear communication with all the chapters.

Team Changes

For our MUCC representation, Erin is there, but we should have a second board member to take Pete's spot.

Chris will work with Morgan on R3.

Mike Arnold will be on the Super Fund Team.

Conservation Seed (Ryan)

Conservation Seed pick up is the second week of April. 14 chapters ordered seed. The order sheet is posted on the web site.

Super Fund (Mike)

Mike reports that the SF balance is \$49,721.59. Conservation projects will use \$24,186.92. FY 23 net revenue is \$13,064.46. The Glasson scholar will use \$6,000. The remaining budget for FY 23 is \$6,470.00.

Mike, Ryan, and Ryan Boyer will give us a presentation at the July board meeting about Super Fund. This information will be presented at the regional meetings. All NWTF members are welcome at our board meetings – a way to learn information. Mike Kennedy will be happy to answer any questions, but is not our primary contact for SF.

Nominating Committee (Ryan)

Possible State Board candidates are being considered. The committee will meet and hope to present candidates in July. Vacancies may be filled by appointment. The committee may send the handbook digitally to prospective candidates.

Web Site (Jon)

The web site is up to date with new information gained at the NWTF convention.

Awards and Scholarships (Jon, Bert)

This year's state scholarship winner has been chosen. Only 3 were considered from online entries. All scholarship applicants should be online. The process will be reviewed at the summer regional sessions. Some chapters work at getting young people to apply, but many school counsellors are reluctant to promote this. If a chapter applied for SF scholarship money but did not award it, it should be returned to the state chapter.

Since Pete Demos worked on getting a scholarship applicant every year, and because of his dedication to the NWTF, we will name the state scholarship after him.

The Conservation Officer award is due to NWTF by October 31 to be considered for the national award. We will ask MI DNR for a candidate in September to adjust to this timeline.

MUCC (Bert)

MUCC is in contact with NRA and others about the state efforts to change gun control laws with the Democratic Congress and Governor. We are not sure of our role in this. We hope to include some of them in our Legislative Hunt and share information.

Brandon noticed that the 2 bird limit was no longer on MUCC proposed resolutions, but they still include mandatory check in. Ryan commented that some resolutions die in

committee. We have three years to make changes. Biologists review only if it relates to turkey biology, and only if it impacts our mission. We should be watching SB76 which concerns background check for all firearms, and that could impact our banquets. Ryan will forward Amy's comments to the board.

State Convention (Jason)

Looking forward to next year with a bigger and better convention at the same location.

Patch (Bert)

Over 500 patches have sold, starting at the state convention. Some are available for the hunting expo in Grand Rapids.

We had a court hearing recently about the lost patch funds. The former patch program manager pled guilty and will make monthly payments plus pay court costs. The checkbook records will be reviewed.

The 50th anniversary pin money will go into the general fund to recover some money lost because of Covid.

Rules and Regulation (Hugh)

No new information. We are watching the DNR research projects.

Fund-Raising (Bert)

Looking for some new ideas and a motivated team. Many chapters do gun raffles. Jason has presented some ideas in the past but lacked board support. We have tried an ATV raffle but didn't sell enough tickets. MI does not allow us to hold online raffles. The State Chapter banquet does not focus on money but emphasizes awards and appreciation. A team needs to present new ideas so the board can discuss them and proceed. Brandon and Aaron will discuss what's possible and how to get support from chapters, provided we agree that the State Chapter needs to raise funds, as we expect from local chapters. This can be promoted online. We may expect some ideas in July.

Old Business

The NWTF Leadership Conference is June 20 – 22 in Missouri. Registration is open. The cost is unknown but estimated at \$250. This may be partially funded through the state SF. This does not include lodging. We will support 10, but more than 10 may attend. We need to compile a list of interested persons and get more information on costs and lodging.

New Business

Tony reports that the Legislative Hunt is May 1st at Ft. Custer with their arrival on April 30. Bill Jackson will get legislators involved. Morgan is aware and will secure insurance and register this event.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Hugh, Jan, carried) at 9:00 PM.

Our next meeting is July 29 at Lake Mitchell State Park in Cadillac.

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