

MI State Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation

March 16, 2022 via Zoom

Bert called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Tony opened with a prayer.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call, Correspondence, Minutes, Agenda

Present: Region 1 Ken Buchholtz, Chris Stewart

Present Region 2: Pete Demos, Brian McPhail, Ryan Longanbach, Mike Arnold

Absent Region 2: Frank Darling

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

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

NWTF Staff: Steve Sharp (R3), Aaron Shaughnessy (RD), Ryan Boyer (Biologist)

There is no correspondence.

The minutes of January 2022 were approved (Mike, Jon, carried).

Additions to the agenda: Budget for 2022.

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

There is no report now. We may expect one in July.

The budget for 2022 is still pending.

NWTF Staff Reports

Ryan is happy to report the Turkey Tracts dedication at Tuscola State Game Area is planned for April 8 at 11:00 AM. The posters are printed, and it's ready to install. We still need business sponsors. He will publicize to local chapters and all participating partners.

Three other Turkey Tracts are pending. Hoping to install this fall and next spring.

On the fall turkey regulations, we are discussing but not proposing any changes at this time.

On the spring regulations, Ryan has been in discussions with MI DNR and MUCC about the recent change's possible impact on turkey harvests and turkey populations, given

the recent decline. Many factors play into turkey populations, including daylight hours, hormones, first hunting season, weather, and predators.

A memo has not been drafted yet. Research and science-based facts must be gathered and accurate, not only for MI but neighboring states. NWTF enters data every 5 years. Brood surveys need to be done over time. Hopefully, by July of 2022 we will know current brood numbers, and share information with the DNR.

Ryan is speaking this summer to the Wildlife Division of the Natural Resources Council.

We are encouraged by more thorough research, collaboration with other states, better engagement with Adam Bump (DNR), MUCC, and other partners.

Ryan submitted grant applications for \$220,000 to work at Manistee with DNR and others.

Aaron reports that events are awesome so far. Gross revenues are the best in years. New versions of banquets are tried – some are nontraditional. Each chapter knows their crowd and makes adjustments for success.

Tom and Aaron encourage a second event, usually a gun bash, to increase cash flow.

With the NWTF 50th anniversary in 2023, how can we make it fun and profitable? Considering a state-wide raffle using 10 items (a hunt, cash, guns, crossbow, cooler, etc.) from June 1 till September 1, and \$4,500 in prizes. The key will be board members pushing it in their areas. This will be carried out by our Fund-Raising Committee, soon to be contacted.

Steve Sharp, R3, is looking forward to more family time with his retirement in April. He has scheduled a March 26 workshop and one at Williams Gun Site with the Flint River Chapter, and a shooting class at Rose Lake. As a volunteer, he will have a mentored turkey hunt April 29 to May 1 at Pierce Cedar Creek. With lodging and meals provided, the charge is \$200 and almost sold out. The State Park shooting trailer is being scheduled for the new hire. Ideally, 4 people are at each location to set up, keep the event safe, clean, and fun.

The R3 position is available. Steve served the NWTF at Regional Director and R3 for 27 years.

The MI State Chapter Save the Hunt was recognized at the NWTF convention for most hunters recruited. Steve thanks all who helped in this team effort.

Conservation Seed (Ryan Longanbach)

Remember, Super Fund does not cover seed orders this year. Bring payment at time of pick-up the week of April 4. For additional orders, contact Ryan.

Patch Program (Bert)

Steve Sharp is helping with online ordering of patches. Bert is catching up on past problems, and keeping up with current orders. A list is generated weekly, labels are printed, patches are put in envelopes and mailed. Twice a month, money is deposited into our account. Bert will start sending membership forms with patches.

Old Business

Jon has improved the Handbook, using our suggestions. He will ask some of us to serve as a working group to make it ready for our use as an informative tool for all board members. The signature page will be available to sign.

The state scholarship winner will be chosen in March from all online entrees in MI.

The 50th anniversary of the NWTF will be celebrated in 2023. What can MI do to make it special and fun? Sadly, many people are still unaware of the NWTF. We need to tell our story! Aaron and the Fund-Raising committee want our ideas.

We paused to remember Gary Van Dyke who recently passed. He made significant contributions to the State Chapter and the SW MI chapter of the NWTF.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Chris, Jason, carried) at 7:52 PM.

Our next scheduled meetings are June 1 (virtual, 6:30 PM) and July 30 in Cadillac.

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