

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

**MI State Chapter  
National Wild Turkey Federation**

July 30, 2022

Bert called the meeting to order at 9:06.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bert offered a prayer.

**Introductions, Roll Call, Correspondence**

Absent Region 1: Ken Buchholtz, Chris Stewart

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

Absent Region 2: Brian McPhail, Pete Demos

Present Region 3: Bert VanderWeele, Jon Gray, Jan Kuhtic, Dave Godley, Erin Sattazahn

Absent Region 3: Tony Snyder, Art Pelon, Hugh Marx, Jonathan Edgerly, Mike Black, Jason DeFrenn

DNR: Adam Bump

NWTF Staff: Aaron Shaughnessy, Morgan Register

Morgan is the new NWTF R3 Coordinator. She grew up in North Carolina, and got her college degrees in Agricultural Sciences and Fish and Wildlife. She got a further degree in Conservation Communication in Nebraska. We welcomed her to MI with a gift of snowshoes.

There is no correspondence.

**Approval of Minutes, Agenda**

The minutes of March were incomplete due to Jan's poor Zoom connection, but we approved them as written with her apologies (Dave, Frank, carried).

The agenda is approved with no additions.

**DNR Report (Adam Bump)**

For the fall turkey hunting season, there are no changes in the regulations or quotas. We are seeing broods. They have had no adverse conditions this spring. In the future, we need to reassess the reasons for the fall hunt. Now is the time to discuss any changes. We need to look at density of different location, hunt quality and satisfaction, how we set quotas, game area use, etc. The second license may be obtained for spring turkey, but the advocates could change their position with research and experience. No major changes for now. The NRC asks biologists to discuss the 2-bird limit at a November meeting. A new model will be used that's more adaptable

for the whole state. The research from all area states needs to be considered in MI. Adam will present the history of turkey hunts in MI with success stories. Conversations continue with MUCC and all parties about the 2-bird limit.

The turkey hunting digest will be online only. With a new app, we can read digests and buy licenses. Offices have the option to print the digests.

The turkey patch design went to the DNR.

The use of drones to locate wounded animals was rejected.

The replacement for Al Stewart should be full time.

### **NWTF Reports**

Ryan is developing a report for the NRC with Adam Bump.

In June, Ryan spoke at the 12<sup>th</sup> Wild Turkey Symposium, and was able to talk with researchers about the turkey population decline. The decline is in all of the US and involves multiple species. The research has many gaps that need biological data. We need long term information over multiple states using the scientific process. Data does not support the bag limit increase, and many states are opting to limit seasons or reduce bag limits.

The Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt report is on the NWTF website. All the goals are exceeded. Now we make new goals to be presented in August. We are exceeding our goals is the Strategic Plan, and initiating new conservation goals with a multistate perspective. Jason, co-CEO released our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary goals. Bert will forward this to us this week.

Ryan is on the Pigeon River Advisory Council, working on future habitat plans.

The Huron-Manistee work continues with the Forest Service and 3500 acres impacted.

Super Fund will open up on September 1, so money raised in FY2023 can be used in 2024. Now, each chapter gets an equal amount and can request more.

Aaron reports that all of his and Tom's banquets were strong. The preferred vendor process is working great. The net dollars prove that the new banquet program is good. No two events are the same. The 2023 Core Package is \$3,000 for about 15 items including one firearm.

Observed a prescribed burn and other projects with Ryan – very rewarding to see our dollars at work.

Excited for NWTF 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The next NWTF Leadership Conference will be June 20-22, 2023 at the Big Cedar Lodge in Missouri.

The 2023 calendars are being distributed to chapters now. Please get the stubs and money back to Aaron by October. The winners go through Reeds for their prize, and also receive a membership. Considering 2 sets of calendars in the future.

With some improvements, it will be easier to register for banquets online.

Morgan needs to learn all about MI, and wants to know what MI wants. She is shadowing the Pheasants Forever R3 Coordinator in August, and will work with Steve at state parks. There are fall deer hunts planned with disabled hunters.

She is building connections with MSU and Field to Fork, and reaching new populations.

### **MUCC Report (Pete/Bert)**

MUCC honored Becky Humphries with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and Steve Sharp was also honored.

Pete reports that some discussions continue on closing gates on state land, the tunnel under the bridge, solar farms on state land, supplying safety glasses at local clubs, and hunter safety with the DNR.

### **Conservation Seed (Rvan)**

Ryan estimates that 1700 acres were planted. We will consider going back to NWTF for leftover corn, since Rupp sold out to another company. We may expect price increases.

### **Awards and Scholarship (Bert)**

The state scholarship of \$2,500 was given. Consider taking from the Patch funds in the future.

The patch contestants are dramatically decreased. We need a design for 2024 and the future. One idea to promote interest is to invite youth to send in information about their first turkey. We could send out a certificate (and maybe a pin) and a patch design form for their use. The mailing would cost about \$1.20 each. Consider an electronic form. Probably launch in the spring. For now, Jon will make a hard copy of the patch design entry form, and Bert will enclose it when youth request their free patch. We approved the start of the First Turkey program (Dave, Bert, carried).

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

Any information is welcome, especially celebrations or recognitions. We still need some board member's turkey pictures.

### **Treasurer's Report (Tony)**

The current balance is \$18,815.45.

### **Save the Hunt (Jon)**

Jon has been in touch with Theresa Carroll at NWTF about 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration ideas. One goal is 50 new events. Virtual mentor training and women mentor training is being planned. The new NWTF logo is used in outreach logos, available now. JAKES and Quaker Boy have a box call kit available from a preferred vendor. The NWTF graphics department makes event posters and banners. As of September 13<sup>th</sup>, chapters will see updated portals.

### **Patch Program (Bert)**

Bert took over the patches in January. NWTF helped us with online ordering and payment, although some still order by mail. Steve Sharp helps by printing labels. Monthly lists and money comes from NWTF. We are now enclosing a membership form with the patches. The patches are made in the USA, and cost \$6. The online order gives an option to pay for postage.

The balance sheet: deposits \$25,432.53. Expenses: postage \$4,030.70, checks \$183.55, computer \$869.18, and patches \$9,610.48, total expenses of \$14,761.89. Total profit as of July 30, 2022 is \$10,670.63. Consider how to save money – find a source for printing and folding?

### **Other Business**

We will offer a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary patch for MI. 1100 to be made, for sale for \$25 each. Mike A. offered to order MI anniversary pins using the MI NWTF logo in black and gold.

Possibly celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the MI logo on a special gun for the state banquet and pre-sell tickets. Bert, Aaron, Ryan, and Jason will work on this gun, engraving, tickets, and raffle permit.

The MI State Chapter banquet is being planned for January 14, 2023 at the same location, the Gateway Center in Flint (to be confirmed). Activities will start on Friday, and the board meeting Saturday morning.

Becky Humphries plans to attend our state board meeting in January.

Turkey Tracts have 2 kiosks yet to install at Port Huron and Waterloo.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn 1159 (Dave, Jan, carried).

We will possibly have a conference call meeting late September or October.

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