

**MI State Chapter Board Meeting
National Wild Turkey Federation**

July 31, 2021

Bert called the meeting to order 9:05 AM.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Steve offered a prayer.

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz (via Zoom), Chris Stewart

Present Region 2: Ryan Longanbach, Frank Darling, Evan Traynor

Absent Region 2: Pete Demos, Brian McPhail

Present Region 3: Bert VanderWeele, Hugh Marx, Jon Gray, Art Pelon, Jan Kuhtic, Dave Godley, Mike Black, Jonathan Edgerly (via Zoom), Al Bobrofsky (past NWTF Board)

Absent Region 3: Jason DeFrenn, Zach Mulder, Tony Snyder

NWTF Staff Present: Tom Karsten, Ryan Boyer, Aaron Shaughnessy, Steve Sharp, Tom Glines

DNR Rep. Adam Bump

Guests Present: Morris Domke III, Tim Quist, Morris Domke IV

Minutes, Agenda, Correspondence

Bert is on a committee to promote the new NWTF logo. The NWTF Board will listen to volunteers, and volunteers are on committees to make recommendations. The mission has not changed, only the logo. It will be available in the fall for general media.

Outreach banner is unknown. Timing has been questioned with financial hard times, but we are assured it was in the works for a long time. Response to the logo is mixed.

The minutes of January 16, 2021 are approved (Jon, Mike, carried).

There are no additions to the posted agenda.

MUCC Report

Ryan and Bert will attend the September meeting. With the resolution advocating for regulation changes, they plan to discuss concerns from the State Chapter, show science, and try to understand the rationale for changes. We intend to remain engaged with MUCC. We are on the agenda at their convention. Hugh will speak at the Wildlife Committee.

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

The balance in the checking account in January was \$14,547.43. Deposits were \$14,206.00 from Conservation Seed checks. Expenses were \$10,603.97, detail is provided. The current balance as of July 31, 2021 is \$18,149.46.

The Treasurer's report is approved (Ryan, Art, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports

Aaron reports that his events are better than expected. One fall banquet and several raffles are still coming up. We expect a normal banquet season next year. Timber Ghost Chapter (Jason) is stepping up to do the State Convention January 14, 15, and 16 of 2022 at the Holiday Inn Grand Blanc. They are working on a Friday night social, an awards dinner, focus on volunteers, and less fund raising.

The 2022 fund-raising calendars are being proofed, using Reeds for firearms, and should be available late August. Same process as before; Chapter gets \$20, membership included. Includes vendors with advertising, so we may see the same brand of gun for a month. For now, we will get 1,000. An email will come, then we can tell Aaron how many we want.

Tom reports good banquets, with increased per person spending. Glad to move the 2021 product. 5 banquets and a Gun Bash still coming up.

The NWTF convention for 2022 is in-person in Opryland, Nashville, but will be changed. The RDs are tasked with finding donations for the convention.

The NWTF has been able to offset the Core Package costs of last year's cancelled banquets by still moving the 2020 product. No longer in great debt, but decreased memberships present a big challenge.

A new chapter portal system will be initiated. RDs need dates and locations by Sept. 15. We will custom-order with the RD to suit the local chapter crowd.

Aaron discussed the future banquet planning.

- A small Core Package is offered from NWTF, 12-15 items for about \$2,800. Supplemental packages are available.
- Chapters choose merchandise. Each chapter logs in to a portal, can choose from a list of 60 preferred vendors, each presenting merchandise, prices and conditions. Or shop locally.
- Chapters can access Reeds for banners and product, some with NWTF logo.
- Gun orders are needed 100 days ahead of banquets.
- Silent and live auctions are not required.
- A Gun Bash may be used instead of a banquet.
- Orders need RD approval, RD can recommend product.

Ryan reports that 50% of operative expenses have been cut, although Conservation staff is retained. He has MI, IN, OH, so needs grace, since his time is stretched to three states. The ongoing work using Super Fund is frozen, but the work in Huron-Manistee continues with grant money. We have leveraged funds 17:1, and conserved 4,700 acres. The Potterville State Game Area is acquired.

Thanks for the response to the Call For All.

Please support the new logo rebranding and the new magazine.

For the work at the Manistee/Baldwin the funding has increased. In June, we expect funding with the DNR, US Fish & Wildlife, USFS, and local organizations to work in 15 counties. If funded 2,000 acres per year will be enhanced.

The Accomplishment Report has been printed.

Our STH, STH met and exceeded its goals in 8 years. The pillars of STH will remain. A campaign will develop for the 50th anniversary. A new slogan is "Healthy Habitats, Healthy Hunts". In the Great Lakes area, our partners will work on clean water and clean air.

Use public media and word of mouth to promote the local, state, and national work of NWTF. We can promote ourselves better by taking photos or videos and sending them to Jon or Chris to share. We need more turkey hunters to join the NWTF. The NWTF has hired media staff. Ryan can send us info to use at our banquets.

Steve reports that the state park events are gaining momentum, in spite of weather and location challenges. At least 2 people need to help at each location.

Mentored hunts going well, watch for report in Turkey Call magazine. Steve can sort names by zip code, can share for banquet invites. Please register mentored hunts with Steve – this is used for reporting and grant requests. Several hunts are planned at Pierce Cedar Creek.

Hunters increased during Covid (see handout). To extend Steve's position for 2 more years, DNR and Hal and Jean Glasson Foundation applications are in. Steve has available grants for JAKES or mentored hunts.

A Disabled Veteran Hunt is being planned at Camp Grayling for 10 deer hunters with crossbow on November 8 and 9, 2021. Applications will be accepted based on a point system.

Adam Bump reports that he is assigned the role that Al Stewart had in addition to his other responsibilities. He is gaining lots of information quickly. Covid stopped surveys by mail, so results are not reported yet. We are watching for the effects of Covid on turkey hunting, looking to improve future hunting. How can the DNR help? High success rate for the spring hunt reported. Besides Covid, the regulations have

changed, hunt areas changed, seasons changed, so important to watch future data. Hugh offers that we need quality data, and not many people respond to surveys.

The NRC usually takes public comment on spring turkey hunting in October.

There is a Test Brood Survey app for NWTF. Fill in the blanks, information sent to DNR.

Tom Glines from NWTF Development reports that Jason Lupardis left, so Development has only 7 staff in the country. Thanks to MI State Chapter for the Call For All response. The NWTF is coming back to a healthy state. Every 3 months, finances are studied. The Super Fund is coming back. A Diamond Life award was given to Jan, a Silver Life to Mike, and a Diamond Life to Morris Domke III. Reeds got an award for \$5,000. Other awards given to Larry Wolthuis, Tom at Williams Gun Site.

A Legacy membership is available for JAKES up to age 18 for \$200.

Tenth Legion is an award for those who give \$10,000 in one year.

A Tenth Legion party will be held at Wonders of Wildlife on September 23 and 24. Two State Board members may attend.

Full Strut is for giving a portion of an estate, 401k, life insurance, etc. to the NWTF.

NWTF is planning its 50th anniversary. Strategic planning is underway since the STH goals were met early.

Dedications are given for new projects by 2023, Tribute is for person who gives \$250,000 new money to the NWTF.

Please write articles – we need more media exposure.

Super Fund

Many changes, so here are some highlights:

- FY22 each chapter may request up to \$350 for pre-approved events (WITO, JAKES, Scholarship) if registered and approved by RD.
- Conservation Seed as of FY21 is not eligible for Super Fund.
- Turkey Hunters Care is not an approved expense, but chapters may continue.
- Special Projects Account may be moved to a separate deferred account to MI Conservation Programs where funding will be used for all aspects of conservation in MI.
- Consider state raffles to help fund state expenses.
- Requests may change in FY 24. Depending on how FY22 finishes, chapters might be able to request more money, based on the total in the Super Fund. Now, \$37,180 will be split over 2 years and using revenue from FY 23 to budget for a new process in FY24.
- In the future, the state might set amounts for specific chapter uses.

Motion to support Super fund as described through 2023 (Ryan L., Chris, carried).

Patch Program (Evan)

We found a USA company in IN to make patches. The cost will increase. These can be ordered and paid online. Once a month, a small group will meet to get orders filled and sent. This year's patch was not enhanced as before due to a retirement. NWTF will enhance the design in the future. We need patch design submissions from youth 17 and under. A form is on the state web site.

Motion to sell old patches unresolved. We use at banquets. Evan has been selling some plentiful old patches to reduce the inventory.

7500 patches were purchased for \$6,160. The balance is \$11,529.

PR and Media (Chris)

Chris requests information to post – take and share photos and videos, add a sentence or two to tell our stories. We are working with a company to manage our web site, Essential IT near Ann Arbor, along with NWTF. Most still use Facebook. We are trying to keep our current users and trying to capture new inquirers. Please send to ChrisStew07@yahoo.com.

R3 (Jon)

Please help yourself to the free merchandise in the lobby, share with hunters.

Habitat Enhancement (no report)

State Convention (Aaron)

Jason and the Timber Ghost Chapter will chair the 2022 State Convention.

Thanks to Jan for chairing past State Chapter banquets. (See other comments under Tom's report above)

Rules and Regulations (Hugh)

We intend to keep up with the discussions on turkey regulations. Starting in June we discuss 2023 rules. We need answers for the turkey population decline, among other things. Ryan offered to hold a stakeholder's meeting to look ahead.

Awards and Scholarships (Jon)

The State Chapter chose a Scholarship winner, and Highbanks paid it to a Fremont student. Applications were online to NWTF, reviewed by the committee, and awarded. This pattern may be used in the future.

Conservation Seed (Ryan)

This spring, 31 chapters and 7 DNR offices planted 2,360 acres. The week long pick up worked well. New forms will be ready for December ordering.

Budget and Finance (no report)

Old Business

Kiosk will be installed in Tuscola in September. Port Huron and Sharonville will be next. One change is the business featured on the kiosk.

Aaron is the chair for special Fund Raising. We welcome ideas for a state-wide fund raiser. Motion to ask call maker Tom Oldham, Jr. to make a custom call (Mike, Ryan L., carried).

Please help Tom and Aaron when asked. They have a monumental task!

Guest Morris Domke III is thankful for the award, will keep donating a bird hunt for the state convention.

New Business

Board members were presented with a Michigan NWTF State Board Handbook, revised and amended. We will need an electronic signature after reading. This tells us the responsibilities of state board members. Changes may be suggested to Jon.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn 1:25 PM (Evan, Ryan L., carried).

Next meeting will be September 18, in person at Rose Lake, Steve will arrange.

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