

MI State Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation

July 29, 2023

Bert called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jan offered a prayer.

Roll Call, Correspondence

Present Region 1: Chris Stewart

Absent Region 1: Ken Buchholtz

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

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

Absent Region 3: Tony Snyder

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

MI DNR present: Adam Bump

Guests present: David Potter (Beards & Spurs), Shannon Fryer (Timber Ghost), and Justin Mitchell (Flint River)

There is no correspondence.

Approval of Minutes, Agenda

The minutes of January 2023 (Jason, Chris, carried) and March 2023 (Jason, Ryan, carried) were approved as written.

There are no additions to the agenda.

Treasurer's Report (Tony, Bert)

The balance on March 9, 2023 was \$8,752.28. Deposits were \$7,696.74. Expenses were \$15,475.60. The balance on July 22, 2023 was \$973.43. Details of the deposits and expenses are provided. Conservation Seed money will be deposited soon. The Treasurer's report is approved (Ryan, Jason, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports

Aaron reports that attendance is down but money is up. 5 banquets were 50% N/G or better. Our Core Package for 2024 is similar to 2023, cost is \$3,000.00, and includes one firearm with logo. Most chapters are budgeting well. Memberships are up since all present are members. Regrettably, Cass River Chapter left the NWTF, and wants to use all their money locally.

The NWTF gun calendar will double for 2024, so \$40,000 will be filtered through the 2024 events.

The NWTF needs more growth in MI. There are areas where new chapters are needed, and some chapters need new committees. All of us need to help find new chapters and volunteers. Super Fund will provide \$500 investment in any new chapters. We need to increase our presence at shows and public events. We still can arrange recruitment events. Try for 5 new chapters a year, and be ready to help at their first event.

Brandon reports that he and Aaron are striving for consistency throughout the state in message and best practice. He is fully initiated, and learned how to raise money and work with committees. His job is to give direction, make sure all chapters stay within NWTF guidelines, and update the chapters on all policies. Thanks to Aaron and Ryan Boyer for all the help, ideas, and knowledge.

Chapter news: New chapter in Ravenna and Holland, inroads in Kalkaska, Clare, and Whitehall. Three gun bashes coming in August, one of which is the first event for the Crockery Creek Longbeards in Ravenna. WITO for Thornapple Valley is in September. Allendale looks solid, Cadillac is in trouble. Brandon did it himself with no committee, results yet to be seen.

Calendars will be distributed, with sales already begun. This brings in money and memberships with minimal effort.

As the 2024 Core Package comes out, banquet dates become set, his goals include meeting with chapter committees. Conversations will include the NWTF history, money, memberships, Super Fund, and following NWTF guidelines. Every event in 2024 should raise more net dollars and increase attendance, and increase public awareness of the NWTF work and mission.

Morgan reports that she attended Mentorship Program Development at NWTF. Thankfully, the Glassen Foundation continued the support for R3 with \$10,000. R3 is developing and updating new education resources, to be dispersed nationally, and, when completed, directly with us so we are aware of what chapters can access. MI has recently restructured and added an additional R3 person in the state, so we look forward to a statewide R3 plan with a cohesive and collaborative plan.

She is working to bolster the network of Hunter Ed, Outdoor Recreation, Shooting Sports, and R3 for new hunters/shooters in MI. New outreach events may be possible

with new connections with MSU. She also sits on a committee at NWTF to reevaluate the NWTF Scholarship program

After more than 3 years of research, the Hunt for Good campaign (<http://huntforgood.com>) is giving us access to marketing and communication tools, built and supported by NWTF through federal multi-state grants.

NWTF Conservation Week is the week of Sept. 17 – 23, including Hunting and Fishing Day. Chapters are encouraged to plan events to highlight NWTF's role in conservation.

McKenna is the Glassen/NWTF intern working with Morgan this summer. She has participated in MUCC Cohort Week, State Park BB gun shoots. Wingshooting classes at Rose Lake, national scholarship program data collection, collegiate program ideas, Hunters of Color outreach, and the R3 Survey project. She learned about hunting and angling's relationship to resource management and funding, importance of networking, necessity of expanding and diversifying groups for the future of resource management, and how to be always flexible. She challenged MI to catch up with NWTF marketing for younger audiences using Instagram, Twitter, etc., in addition to Facebook. The MI R3 Survey project included making a list of the 250+ conservation-minded organizations, interviewing large and small groups virtually, and collecting data. Based on the data, next steps for MI include communication between NGO's about events, resource direction toward young adults/adults including family hunts, diversifying instructors and mentors, increasing programs with specific motives (skills, food prep), and following-up after successful event experiences.

Ryan reports that the Sharonville Turkey Tracts dedication will be on August 4, 2023. He provided a White Oak Initiative presentation with lunch.

An update from the Manistee National Forest Agreement: Baldwin Early Ecosystems Agreement now exceeds \$2.12 Million in project costs, 2,900 acres of oak savannas conserved; Wildlife Areas Restoration Agreement totaling \$134,000 in project costs, 42 acres restored using match from MI DNR grants.

An update from MI DNR Wildlife Habitat Grants: West MI Oak Restoration grant will expire Sept. 30, 2023. \$358,000 in DNR grant funds and \$545,000 in total project costs to restore oak forests, savannas, and barrens across west MI. The Pine Barrens and Wildlife Openings Enhancement Phase II expires in Sept. of 2024. \$358,000 in DNR grant funds to support \$525,000 in total project costs.

Camp Grayling and the MI DNR Patch Program will be filmed in August by a film crew.

The NWTF 50th Anniversary resolution passed, highlighted at the caucus breakfast and shared on NWTF media.

The National Leadership Conference gave us information about research funding and a new initiative. National goals include 1 million acres impacted.

Ryan prepared an accomplishment report for us in the past, but NWTF no longer has a graphic department. Could it be a power point or a shared portal? We need to share our excitement and successes.

MI DNR Report (Adam Bump)

For the MI brood survey, 476 reports were submitted, mostly hens and poults. Most counties were represented. Another press release is forthcoming. This survey will probably be done annually.

The 2010 model for deer research is being updated. For turkeys, Spring of 2026 is the next update on regulations. We are using available research, and considering all factors when considering any changes. Our post-research goals are not known as yet, but we can benefit from looking at deer research methods and results, and use what works.

The Patch Program is going well. We need to decide how to use this money to our best advantage.

NWTF has Habitat for the Hatch, Pheasants are changing to a Grasslands focus. We like to meet with all the conservation groups since we can all help each other fulfill our missions.

State Board Nominating Report, Nominee presentation and Vote (Ryan)

The Nominating Committee presented 3 candidates for open State Board positions. We heard or read their statements, and all were previously interviewed by committee members, who now recommend them. They have a handbook and are prepared to sign it. The Bylaws allow up to 18 on the board. We need to stagger their terms to keep the terms even among the members. The Board discussed these candidates (in their brief absence), and agree to accept all 3 of them. They all live in Region 3.

Motion to accept David Potter for a term ending in January, 2026 (Jan, Chris, carried). Motion to accept Shannon Fryer for a term ending in January, 2025 (Justin, Erin, carried). Motion to accept Justin Mitchell for a term ending in January, 2024 (Jason, Mike, carried). Congratulations and welcome to our newest members! And thanks to this new committee of Ryan, Jason, and Jon.

This committee will nominate the Board President and Vice President for January.

Conservation Seed (Ryan)

2100 acres were planted, 6 locations with the DNR. We have sorghum left for next year. The new order sheet for 2024 will be available in September. We will source all our seed through NWTF. \$10,120 will go to the General Fund.

Super Fund (Mike)

Revenue is up, so now the Super Fund has \$126,000. A budget will be established, with the RDs communicating to the chapters. Some will be used to promote chapter growth. The State Chapter takes 80%, and has 3 major uses: Conservation, Outreach, and Scholarships. We will use 60% on Conservation, and 40% for Outreach and Scholarship (Ryan, Jason, carried). New chapters may have a \$500 start-up. Each chapter has a pre-approved \$350, same as last year. Chapters can apply for more with justification. Requests are reviewed annually. In September, the budget will be ready and the money available. Chapters or the RD can request funds.

Web Site, Media (Jon)

We are using the web site for the Patch information, some other information, and showing the award winners, but not using it to full potential. After some discussion, we decided to rename the committee: Communications, Marketing and Social Media (Mike, Chris, carried). Erin will choose a team, and Morgan will help with content, and Shannon offers to help.

To make us better communicators, Jon prepared a chart showing board members and their nearest chapters. This will become part of the communication in this new committee. He suggests checking the accuracy of the chart with the RD before making any calls.

MUCC (Erin)

Erin attended a MUCC meeting, and realizes that someone else should be the lead, and take time to do the research and keep up with the discussions. Thankfully, Chris will take the challenge.

State Convention (Jason)

January's banquet attendance was up 25% with 36 more than 2022. The next State Chapter Convention will be January 12 and 13, 2024 at the same location. New ideas are welcome.

Patch Program (Bert)

The 50th anniversary patch started with 1100 patches, now 114 left. We will keep the funds from this project for our general fund (Frank, Ryan, carried). All patch purchases are logged, and the RD can access the addresses to benefit chapters. Incidentally, the pins were sold at \$2.50, and we got our expenses paid. Some pins are still available.

The NWTf/DNR patch design has been chosen from the submissions. We should have the patch by January.

Fund Raising (Aaron)

The anniversary patch fund-raiser was successful. Welcome new ideas. May be possible to introduce on the web site, order online as we did the patches.

We need another volunteer on this Fund Raising team.

Rules and Regulations (Hugh)

It's encouraging to see some research underway, both local and national.

Awards and Scholarships (Jon)

For scholarships, all applications are made online. The chapter can get portal access to choose a winner. Winners are forwarded to state-wide competition, and the state submits the winner to national competition.

Team Assignments (Bert)

The handbook is updated, pages are given to us.

All committees are eligible for re-assignment. Jon will send us an email listing all the committees, and we are asked to choose our 3 preferences. The Bylaws may be a new committee.

New Business

Mike Arnold tried, successfully, to get an event sponsor for his banquet at \$3,000.

The Gun of the Year for 2024 is a Benelli Super Black Eagle.

The Silencer Central is highly recommended for our banquets.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Jason, Ryan, carried) at 1:45 PM.

The next meeting is September 28, 7:00 PM via Google.

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