

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

MI State Chapter Board Meeting
National Wild Turkey Federation
Conference Call

September 24, 2020, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Bert called the meeting to order.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tony led us in a prayer.

Present Region 1: Chris Stewart, Ken Buchholtz

Present Region 2: Pete Demos

Absent Region 2: Frank Darling, Evan Traynor, Brian McPhail, Ryan Longanbach,

Present Region 3: Jan Kuhtic, Hugh Marx, Tony Snyder, Bert VanderWeele, Jonathan Edgerly, Mike Black, Zach Mulder, Jon Gray

Absent Region 3: Dave Godley, Jason DeFrenn, Art Pelon

Others Present: Tom Karsten, Regional Director, Ryan Boyer, NWTF Biologist, Al Stewart, MI DNR and NWTF Technical Committee, Steve Sharp NWTF R3

Correspondence: Lots of thanks for state and chapter contributions to NWTF from the NWTF Board of Directors and staff.

Minutes, Agenda

The minutes of the July 25 Conference Call were read and approved (Pete, Ken, carried).

There are no additions to the agenda.

We held a moment of silence for Dan Potter, past state president and long-time NWTF supporter, member of Beards and Spurs chapter.

MUCC Report (Pete)

Recent voting results are not reported yet. Brian and Pete are re-elected to the policy board, so will keep up with any actions. Carol Rose is now the head of the NRC. A resolution to kill a second turkey anywhere in the state is opposed by us. It's on the ballot, but we have just started the 3-year cycle. A pheasant stamp in MI, which includes habitat improvement is likely to be signed and passed. Commercial fishing was discussed. MI Out of Doors magazine is doing well. Pete will pass on information when he gets it.

Treasurer's Report (Tony)

The balance on June 25 was \$25,129.81. One deposit was \$210.00, expenses were \$15,878.40. Current balance of Sept. 23 is \$9,461.41. We expect calendar money in November. Tony will try to resolve an invoice from the Legislative Hunt at Ft. Custer for lodging at the Education Center. In any case, no state funds will be used. The Treasurer's report is approved (Pete, Jon, carried).

NWTF Staff Reports

Ryan reports that the wildlife grants have approval to continue. Seed and fertilizer for 175 acres at Fort Grayling is in the ground. This fall, 325 acres on Camp Grayling will be planted to trees. The Forest Service work is being completed with a requested extension to finish.

Much is paused, including MI DNR grants. Ryan is planning for next year.

Huron-Manistee work is continuing.

The NWTF exceeded its goal for Call for All, much of which was from state and local chapters.

Many states still have restrictions, and the national elections are coming up, both contributing to uncertainty. By December, we should have a clearer view. New opportunities come up all the time. We have time to think of new ideas and new ways of doing our business.

All reporting is not in, but the preliminary fiscal year report has 1,015 acres improved, likely to go up to 5,000 acres. Over 144 acres of access this year. MI is recognized as a leader by NWTF.

Tom reports that Aaron is doing well with his family.

Challenging times! Beards and Spurs had to cancel. We've had some great outdoor events. Record amounts of per-person spending (\$324!) Thanks to hard work, we have seen great benefits.

The Call for All response is encouraging. Booking is started for 2021. In October, we will learn about the preferred vendor source. Many banquets that cancelled will use the 2020 Core Package.

Calendars are out. Tom needs the tabs and money back by November 1st, sold or unsold. Includes memberships this year. This helps the Super Fund, but it's still frozen.

Aaron's banquet equipment can be stored at Ryan's (north) and Mike's (east/Albion). The chapters will get a letter to inform them where to obtain banquet supplies. March of 2021 is very busy, so we need to plan the supplies and commit to help. We hope for more credit card machines.

We may have to change the format for the State Convention in January. No chapter awards, possibly no live auction. Will have individual awards, games and raffles, silent auction. Suggestions are welcome.

Hoping for staff to get back to work. For banquets to happen, the state has to open up. NWTF looks at staffing every month.

Steve reports that mitigation plans for Covid-19 enabled them to continue many of the planned events at state parks. 431 children age 8 and over participated. State Parks like this activity. 3-4 people are needed at each event to register people and wipe down the guns. Incidentally, one complaint was filed against a volunteer. We must follow every rule, be on our best behavior, and not talk politics or religion.

For Learn To Hunt, a mitigation plan is in place. Participants are limited to 10 indoors, so all aspects of the training are outside. At the recent Pierce Cedar Creek hunt, no turkeys were harvested, but everyone had a good time, many from an education background.

Steve welcomes more help – all the time.

DNR Report (Al Stewart)

Notably more spring hunt licenses sold this year. We are seeing turkeys. The fall hunt is gaining interest. The survey can be completed online if we did not receive it by mail.

Patch Report

Patch sales are down due to Covid-19. The usual post card notice did not go out. Tom is meeting with Evan tomorrow to review the submitted designs. Ryan will join the Patch Committee. Problems include post office delays. Bert, Tom, Ryan and Evan will meet to consider how we can share the pressure and make the response time better.

PR, Media Committee (Chris)

Pictures for the State Chapter web site are needed from Ryan, Frank, Brian, Even, Art, Hugh, Pete, Jason, and Al Bobrofsky.

Social media should include Instagram, which should convey excitement, focus, design, and bring value to nature. Twitter can be used as a recap of both state and national policy. We would show support for other NGOs and link them to our pages (and ours to theirs).

Chris would like a short video about each director – heartfelt, authentic sharing of hunting excitement and respect for the game and the land. Show a legacy, more than family, as mentoring others on the ‘fringe’.

The State Chapter should identify a photographer and/or videographer for our use.

Our communication should be in cloud storage, accessible to all. Information can be shared often and regularly.

We all need to consider an email for NWTF, separate from our personal account.

Zach offered a photographer friend, and has a drone with a camera. Chris welcomes help with web site building.

R3 Report (Jon Gray)

Save the Hunt coordinators across the country meet monthly. PR money can be used for marketing. A new reporting system for hunts will be developed. There will be a new national mentoring program.

Habitat Enhancement (Pete)

There are no funds for food plots, but should consider for the future. We encourage food plots and tree planting.

State Convention (Jan)

We need to follow current guidelines for the convention. We may need to find an area that allows more people to gather. Jan, Tom, and Jason will explore options.

Super Fund (Tony)

We are still frozen

Rules and Regulations (Hugh)

The survey is going on now. Our letter was read by MUCC and the DNR director.

Awards and Scholarship (Jon)

No report at this time.

Conservation Seed (Ryan)

No new information. The price sheet will be made soon. We have 700 bags of corn for next year.

Finance and Budget (Tony)

We are under budget for 2020.

New Business

State Board Handbook – Jon has updated, will print and hand out in January.

Turkey Tracts are not scheduled yet. We still have 2 kiosks stored, plus one with Aaron. Hoping for dedications soon.

Thanks for the many responses for the Call for All. We need to find new ways to raise money for NWTF. Bert welcomes all ideas.

Please commit to helping Tom at banquets.

Jonathan reports that the MI National Guard is looking for a partner for a veteran deer hunt at Grayling. This is a very limited hunt for disabled veterans. He will contact Frank for a local chapter connection, also Steve Sharp, Ken, Brian, and Ryan Boyer.

Bert had a heart attack in August, and recently stents placed and on new meds. We are thankful for his recovery. He wants us to keep him informed on MUCC and any general interest topic.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Pete, Jan, carried).

Our next scheduled meeting is the State Convention in January.

Submitted by Jan Kuhtic

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