**Michigan State Chapter Board of Directors**

**July 20, 2013**

Tony Snyder, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00.

Tony led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

**Roll Call and Introductions**

Present Region 1: Ken Buchholtz

Absent Region 1: Roger Shoemaker

Present Region 2: Craig Meredith, Jim Szilagyi, Bob Garner

Absent Region 2: Pete Demos

Present Region 3: Tony Snyder, Gary Salmon, Jan Kuhtic, Dave Godley, Phil Kuhtic, Bert VanderWeele, Hugh Marx, Art Pelon, Jon Gray

Absent Region 3: Ron Hopkins, Dan Potter, Garry Biniecki

Absent Patch Program: Troy Hopkins

Absent Past President: Herb Lorentz

Guests: Mike Orzol (Huron Valley), Stanton Male (MSU), Kevin Ford (MSU), Al Bobrofsky (Turkeyville Toms, previous NWTF National Board member)

NWTF Staff: Steve Sharp (SE MI RD), Chris Eder (Area Manager), Dale Scott (District Field Supervisor), Rick Horton (NWTF Biologist)

DNR: Al Stewart (Game Bird Specialist)

**Correspondence, Agenda and Minutes (Tony)**

MSU College of Ag & Natural Resources (FFA) Fred Poston

FFA representatives Ramey and Samantha

Speaker of the House of Representatives Jase Bolger

Representative, muzzle loader winner, Roger Victory

4H Shooting Sports Brett Moday

Eaton county scholarship winner Olivia Davis

State scholarship winner Kari Ataman

Pure MI hunt winner Jason Webb

Keith Rubin retirement

Press article of White River turkey release

Dale requests that we keep our email list updated, so all of us can keep each other informed.

We signed cards for Laura Sharp and Dan Potter.

The minutes of January 19, 2013 were approved (Phil, Art, carried).

The agenda is approved.

**Treasurer’s Report (Gary)**

The General Fund balance on January 19, 2013 was $24,526.62. Deposits were $31,624.3 and check withdrawals were $15,960.80. $30,000 was transferred to the Habitat Enhancement checkbook. The current balance on July 19, 2013 is $10,190.12.

The Habitat Enhancement account in January, 2013 had $2,562.44. A check withdrawal of $500.00 was made for a balance of $2,062.44. A transfer was made of $30,000.00 and a deposit of $47,858.67. Check withdrawals totaled $65,601.33 for a new balance of $14,789.78.

Check details are provided in writing.

Gary requests that when money is needed, the person requesting provides names, addresses and an itemized request on paper so complete records can be assured.

The Treasurer’s report is approved (Tony, Jan, carried).

**NWTF Staff Reports**

Chris Eder reports that Dale Scott will be the RD for some SE MI chapters. Steve will be the RD for the mid MI chapters, some of the southern chapters will go to Grant, some chapters in the north will go to Darrin Bohn, and one new hire will take the rest of the state. If any event is unregistered, tell Chris or your RD. Refer to the recent letter for emails and addresses.

Chris gave us the Fundraising staff report YTD.

Dale introduced himself, noting that he is a chapter past president and has lived in MI.

Steve noted the successes already in our state’s three focus areas. At the national, state, and local level, we are doing a good job in the Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt initiative.

One example of an ambitious project is the revitalization of the Merriam turkey habitat in the Black Hills of SD. The NWTF “primes the pump”, then other agencies join the efforts with resources and the work is accomplished.

In MI, we have seen a good response ($18,000) for our focus areas. We are developing the strategy for MI with our Biologist Rick Horton. We need to encourage chapters to join the focus area projects when they consider how to use their Super Fund money. As always, be good stewards of the NWTF money.

Steve needs the chapters to complete all their reports within 30 days, and pay all their bills within 30 days, keeping a good paper record of all the details. The RD is not expected to take care of these chapter responsibilities.

Rick Horton is our new NWTF Regional Biologist from Minnesota. He provided us with a written quarterly report including information about MN, WI, and MI, MI DNR, Energy For Wildlife, USDA/WSFS, grants, partnerships, NWTF activities, and communications. He is the Midwest Field Supervisor, with specific responsibilities in MN WI, and MI. He should have a new hire for these 3 states so he can manage his large area.

The Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt should focus on the bigger picture, with state by state goals over the long term. Building partnerships is his specialty, like the strong partnership with the USFS. Through partnerships, all will benefit, and good stewardship is practiced. For example, we maintain wildlife openings and provide winter cover for wildlife for the USFS and state lands.

Rick is drafting partnerships with the USFS, DNR, and the NWTF at 3 national forests, creating a new revenue stream including major donors. He can make the best use of Super Fund dollars, even if the amount seems small.

The Karner Blue Butterfly project is an example of focus on this butterfly with a benefit to turkeys, working on 20,000 acres of oak savanna, cutting out pines, burning, etc. with the cooperation of Heather Keough of the USFS. A colorful brochure is shown, but it should include the NWTF logo and more wildlife, and describe the benefit for all wildlife. Randy Showalter will continue the work on this KBB project. Rick will get signage from NWTF.

Al Bobrofsky attended a Golden Spur meeting. They communicated to the national board that out in the field, we need to see the presence from Edgefield, especially at our events. These visits would be at no cost to the chapter.

**DNR Report (Al Stewart)**

Al Stewart introduced the Youth Conservation Council, a group of youth who will work with the NRC on “hands-on” projects. We recommend Pete Pelon to represent the NWTF.

Several positive reports we are proud of:

 Field and Stream recognized Ken Buchholtz as a hero of conservation.

 Bob Garner was inducted into the MI Conservation Hall of Fame.

The DNR is aligned with the NWTF focus areas of MI. The DNR works with partners to improve habitat, posts signs, and reports specific work by email, and on film.

Shrubs will be available this fall for the northern chapters of MI.

Gourmet Gone Wild introduces new chefs to wild game and introduces them to hunting.

Field to Fork introduces food co-op members to the wild turkey, a local, hormone and antibiotic free food with a five session introduction to hunting wild turkey and preparing it to eat.

The Great Outdoors youth jamboree will be held on September 8 at Lake Hudson State Recreation Area. We are a strong partner with this Pheasant Restoration event geared to youth.

Mi-HUNT is a free, interactive mapping tool that shows public hunting land, vegetation maps, hunting access information, and state game and wildlife areas information. See this at [www.michigan.gov/mihunt](http://www.michigan.gov/mihunt). This information is also featured in the fall turkey guides, now available.

The fall turkey hunting app for smart phones will be available in August.

The turkey regulations at the national level, including MI and MSU and others, are studying the population changes of the wild turkey and getting a broad view to see regional trends.

For the turkey hunting regulations of the next 3-year increment, recommendations are due by August to the DNR, presented to the NRC in October, and acted on in November by the NRC.

Some Trap and Transfer activity continues to the Baldwin area, locations selected according to the need and suitable habitat. More birds are being observed after the previous transfers.

The NWTF will continue to provide gifts and promotions for the Pure MI Hunt, handled through the DNR. We noted that the Pure MI publicity did not include hunting, so the DNR prepared a hunting segment for use next year. The MI State Chapter web site includes a link to Pure MI.

The fall turkey hunt guide is available now. The purpose of the fall hunt is to maintain or reduce the turkey population.

The NWTF is directly involved in the national and state pheasant restoration with its grasslands initiative. The NWTF committed $10,000 each year for 3 years, which became $300,000 with partnerships.

The hunting license fee increase has not passed in Congress as yet. We expect this to pass and take effect the next fiscal year. This will develop grants to get habitat work done on private and public lands and share costs with conservation groups.

**Conservation Seed (Dave)**

Dave reports that about 5,425 acres were planted with Conservation Seed at a cost of about $13 per acre. The seed orders were: 1240 corn, 241 sunflowers, 370 oats, 264 soy beans, 427 MI mix, and 596 green fire mix. Total cost is $41,342. There are some corn and sunflowers left for next year. A few chapters did not pick up, and 7 chapters did not pay.

The seed process is different in MI than in other states. Dave gets leftover seed through NWTF and orders from seed companies, including Monsanto. Dave makes the mixes for the state chapter. Dave accumulates all the seed in his warehouse, sometimes by the truckload. Some seeds last more than one year. All the seed in MI goes through Dave’s warehouse. He distributes the forms with the seed. There are year to year variations in prices and quantities.

**PR and Media (Jon, Tony)**

Jon will keep up the state chapter web site.

The award recipient booklet, compiled by Dan, is on the web site, or we may ask Tony to email it to us. If we find something missing, please tell Dan.

The state is working on “alarm putt” with very poor compliance so far. At the fall regional meetings, we will try to get information from each chapter.

The web page has a “find your representative/senator” section.

Jon has updated the web page with events, workshops, NWTF information, picture gallery, and event pictures. There are many links to our partners.

**Habitat Enhancement (Tony)**

Recently, NWTF members helped with planting bushes and trees at Rose Lake. We have 100 oaks from Canada approved by the DNR for planting. We will need fencing when they are planted, so we need Super Fund requests. Rose Lake now has sprinklers with timers. Very soon we need weeds pulled from the pots. Steve and Tony have the key and will coordinate these activities. The date is set for July 29. Tony will email this notice.

**State Convention (Jan)**

The convention dates are January 17 and 18, 2014. The location is the Holiday Inn Big Rapids. We have the same room rate for 2014 and 2015 with our signed contract. We are making plans for the auctioneer, gun dealer, core package and raffles, publicity, awards, etc. We have several ideas for speakers.

The Calling Contest was disappointing for the second year. The participants did not stay for the banquet, and it was not self-supporting. Tony will talk to Dan Dumas. The discussion is tabled for now.

**Super Fund (Tony)**

The Super Fund forms can be sent at any time, but not later than December 1. Each chapter should consider the MI focus areas established by our Biologists. The Conservation Seed orders are due at the same time. The RD knows the Super Fund amount for each chapter. For Outreach events, the registration forms have to be completed before the Super Fund money is released.

The Biologist and DNR is present at the Super Fund meeting in January. Our funds are down this year. We can generate more money by getting sponsor memberships. MI is #8 in total dollars raised.

**Patch Program (Tony)**

The 2014 patch design is selected.

The Patch Program expenses include the 8,000 patches ordered, postage and supplies for $7,911.36. The revenue includes $17,796.80 for patches sold, and is budgeted for DNR use (partnerships, grasslands). The balance is now $9,885.44.

**Rules and Regulations (Hugh)**

Generally, we are happy with the current regulations. We were given a list of discussion points in January. We support the extended sale of area 234 through all the hunting seasons.

**Awards (Bert)**

The web site lists the award winners and provides the nomination forms for awards. Nominations for awards are due December 15 please. Try to get the scholarship forms to the schools early. We discussed an increase to $2,000, and a second place scholarship, but no decisions were made.

The state chapter would like to nominate Al Bobrofsky for the Roger Latham award (Phil, Tony, carried). The committee will consider this in September.

**Fund Raising (Ron/Tony)**

There has been no activity since there are only two knife requests. Hess is willing to make custom knives, even in small quantities.

We should keep some fund raising activity as an example to our chapters.

We need new ideas! Please share any ideas with Tony or Ron. We will revisit in September.

We have seen mailings from other competitors for guns, safes, etc. These offers may seem attractive, but are not supported by NWTF and do not benefit NWTF.

The RD can advise on products for raffles.

**Budget (Gary)**

We have a budget handout showing the estimated and actual expenses of the state board in all categories for June 2012 to June 2013. The actual budget ending in 2012 was $10,493.00, and the actual budget ending in 2013 was $11,941.00.

**Board Committees and Nominations**

We reviewed the committee assignments for each board member. All remain the same, except Budget is added to Gary, and PR & Media is added to Jon. We need an Outreach committee in the future.

Nominations for the state board will be accepted in September. The nominating committee will be Tony, Roger, Gary, Jan, and Hugh. These members are up for renewal in 2014: Roger, Craig, Dave, Bert, Dan, and Jon. We need to know of continuing interest (or not). We have a person interested in being on the board if there is an opening.

All the executive board officers will be chosen in January. We have not seen any interest in the President position. We will ask the national board for permission to waive the bylaws (two terms of two years) for one term (Art, Bert, carried), and Tony will keep this position. Jan will send this request with help from Al Bobrofsky.

**Old Business**

There will be regional meetings to promote “Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt”. Regions are not decided yet, but board members are encouraged to attend. MI already has focus areas decided, and we have named volunteers in July. Art will be added to this volunteer list.

NWTF staff and all of us should inform our volunteers at every opportunity about “Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt” and MI progress.

Interviews continue for a new RD for MI. We hope to have a meet and greet day this fall.

The JAKES Take Aim trailer needs a storage place for winter. Steve coordinates this trailer use. Note that the number of shooters should be reported to NWTF.

The National Leadership Conference had good representation from MI. The participants thank the state board for their support.

Steve’s trailer is not for travel. It could be used for a portable blind for Wheelin’ Sportsmen, but this would require considerable time and money. For now, it will continue to be used for storage.

**New Business**

A museum expansion is being planned at the NWTF headquarters. Money is requested for this expansion and museum maintenance. MI has offered $5,000.00 to be paid over 2 years (Phil, Art, carried). Chapters are encouraged to “buy a bench” for the NWTF grounds.

MSU has a 5 year grant for research on public perceptions of the Wildlife Division of the DNR. We participated voluntarily with the survey which examined how the DNR is doing with partnering and public interaction.

Field to Fork is a partnership with local co-ops to introduce wild game and hunting as an example of organic, unadulterated food. The challenge is for chapters to do something similar in their area, especially if it means introducing non hunters to the sport.

With encouragement from the Golden Spurs, NWTF celebrities and staff may be invited to our events, usually at no cost.

We would like to recognize Tom and Keith, both resigned RDs at our 2014 convention. We hope to get a gun, personalize it, and present it at the banquet. We may spend up to $800 each, and accept personal donations to keep costs down (Art, Bert, carried).

Art encourages us to email our representatives about the passage of the Farm Bill. It has been approved by the Senate.

Dr. Kennamer and Sam Mars are discussing the partnership between NWTF and Conservation Districts. MI has 78 conservation districts, which offers good public visibility. The state chapter can become involved with the MI Association of Conservation Districts for better two-way communication and positive publicity.

Conservation Districts often offer plants and shrubs which can be used at our banquets. We hope to discuss this more in September. In November, Chris will represent the NWTF at their annual meeting. We may decide to sponsor a coffee or give a report.

A Ten Point Crossbow is donated to help our JAKES membership. We will have a raffle for $10 ticket, with the winner to be drawn at the 2014 convention.

In the Turkey Country magazine, there is a “Shoot Out” sponsored by NWTF in Caledonia. This is a regional shoot by NWTF with no local chapter support.

The MI State Chapter bylaws have been approved and signed by the NWTF. We need a complete copy for the board.

**Adjournment**

Tony thanks this state board for good work done. Numerous people and chapters appreciate us.

The next meeting is September 21, 2013 in Cadillac.

Motion to adjourn at 3:50 (Phil, Ken, carried).

Jan Kuhtic, Secretary