

**Meeting Minutes for State Board Meeting**  
**Of March 13, 2011**

**In attendance, Matt McDermott, Jeff Wright, Joel Wood, Dave Williamson, Shawn Dickey (RD), Anthony Brooks, Adam Hollobaugh, Ted Johnson, Keith White, Barry Coffing, Bill Suliks, Jim Sexton, Mike Strauser, Dick Sorg, Jonathan Sorg, Larry Kingrey, Lee Crocker, Mike Reynolds. Skip Markland(arrived at 9:55AM)**

Jeff Wright called the meeting to order at 9:15AM.

**OPENING**

Jeff went around the room giving introductions of the new Board Members.

Jeff discussed the trip to National Convention and the concerns of the National Board of declining membership numbers. Shawn commented on the declining memberships and WITO being a good way to introduce new members. Shawn thinks declining memberships are due to consolidation of magazines, donated magazine changes, the economy and rising fuel cost affecting people coming to Outreach events. Ohio is down to under 6000 members. Mike Reynolds said last year there were 60,000 turkey hunters in Ohio. Less than 10% are NWTF members.

**MEETING MINUTES**

The previous Meeting Minutes were reviewed and online changes that were made and amended.

Dave Williamson made a Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the January Meeting, Seconded by Anthony Brooks. Motion Passed.

**TREASURES REPORT**

Del Ghia presented the Treasures Report. At the last Board Meeting we had a Balance or \$15,484.00. Income from December through February there was income from Patch sales and over \$23,000 from the State Awards Banquet. Del discussed all of the expenses that yielded a Net of \$2400.00 for the Quarter. The new balance at the end of February is \$17,897.07. Jeff asked for the Net of the State Awards Banquet, Del reported that the Banquet Netted about \$4,400.00 after expenses. Del asked who purchased the second trailer. Jim Leffel purchased it but he has not received the payment yet.

Mike Strauser made a Motion to approve the Treasurers Report, Seconded by Dave Williamson. Motion Passed.

**SUPER FUND REPORT**

Mike Reynolds presented the Super Fund Report. Mike discussed the history of the Super Fund negative balance. Mike discussed the final payoff of the Super Fund balance by the end of February and the first positive balance since 2007. He congratulated the Board on the great effort. Mike discussed the last fiscal year and said there was a 16% increase in the amount of money deposited into the Super Fund last year. Expenses were cut by 35% from the previous year, this accounted for the positive balance.

Jeff said these are exciting times for the Board having a positive balance again and being able to spend money now on project proposals around the State.

**WILDLIFE REPORT**

Mike Reynolds presented the Division of Wildlife Report. Mike discussed the Acting Chief is still Vicki Mounts. Mike discussed that the Division is extending the application process for the position. Well over 100 people have applied for the position. Mike passed around the Spring Turkey pamphlet that lays out the online license and electronic

check in system. Mike said that they are having troubles with Wal Mart. Wal Mart will not be selling fishing or hunting licenses due to a lack of the proper equipment and may not be up to speed by Turkey Season. Mike discussed all of the license options, tagging requirements and the check in procedures. He further discussed that landowners must report harvests either online or in person because they are not 'in the system'. The Fall turkey harvest numbers are finalized. The fall harvest was 1,425 birds checked in. That is a decline of 37%. The reasons are that Fall permit sales went down 12% and the acorn crop. With the large acorn crop, the turkeys were in the woods and not in the open areas. Mike discussed an article that just came out in the latest Turkey Country magazine that touched on all day spring turkey hunting. Mike said last year we basically didn't harvest any more turkey with the all day hunting. Mike then presented to the Board an old inventory of Turkey Poacher Reward sign he found at his office. He discussed that the Super Fund historically funded the TIP program for convicted Turkey Poaching offences. Matt questioned how the TIP program operates and is funded. Mike will find out and bring the information to the June Board meeting. Mike said that the TIP program is mostly funded by donations. Mike will bring the signs to the Deer and Turkey and get to Joel Wood. Jeff asked Mike what the Divisions population forecast for this upcoming season. Mike reported that we harvested 23,000 birds last Spring, the '08 hatch was good, the '09 hatch was not as good, the '10 hatch was similar to the '09 hatch. He thinks that if the weather hold we should see a harvest between 20,000-25,000, but unless something drastic happens there shouldn't be a big swing either way. Mike also stated that in the Ohio River Counties there should be a larger number of 3yr old birds due to the '08 cicada hatch. Mike explained that in '05 they changed Turkey Season from the fourth Monday of April to the closest Monday to the 21<sup>st</sup> and that is partly why Turkey Season will overlap with Easter during the first week this year.

### **RD'S REPORTS**

Senior Regional Director, Shawn Dickey, gave his RD Report. Shawn discussed his recent Banquet and said they were mostly positive. He said Coshocton grossed about \$58,000 and should be about 30% net to gross. The South East Ohio Chapter has folded after 25 years. They closed out their checking account and sent in a check for \$89.00. He has started three new Chapters this year: Logan Elm Chapter in Pickaway Co.; Lorain Co. Black River; Athens Co. Raffles seem to be up and this are doing pretty strong. He's now targeting Mahoning Co., Adams Co., Meigs Co. and rebuilding Trumbull Co.

Regional Director, Skip Markland, gave his RD Report. Skip welcomed the new Board Members. Skip said the trend in Banquets is upward. He has a new Chapter starting in Columbus. Southwest Ohio is still weak and a lot of work needs to be done in this area. Miami Valley, Shady Hollow are having trouble. Skip has been talking to Brian Mounts about bringing back their Chapter. Also is working in Hamilton Co. with some leads. Skip urged the Board to promote Sponsor Memberships. Skip believes the Boards underwriting promotion has run its course. He doesn't think the cash underwriting is offsetting the three gun giveaway anymore. Shawn and Skip feel promoting Sponsor Memberships should be the new focus. Skip threw out the idea of asking businesses to become Sponsors and offer them a Banquet ticket package as incentive. Jeff Wright commented that Sponsor Packages wouldn't work at all Chapters due to varying costs and that promoting Sponsor Members is a National issue and not a State Board issue.

### **DIVISON OF FORESTRY**

Lee distributed a handout of General Handout about the State Forest Lands. Lee stated that Bob Boyles is now the new Chief. He also stated that the Division of Forestry is very interested in doing some joint projects with the NWTF through the Super Fund. Planting and access road may be some of the projects proposed.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Jeff presented the lists of new Committee Appointments. The list was discussed and revised as needed. (attached to minutes on file). Jeff instructed Jim Sexton, the new Wheelin Chair, to form a Committee of his choosing from State Board Members. Jeff asked for a volunteer to take over the WITO Chairmanship. Shawn discussed the WITO structure and events. Shawn said that 25% of money raised at a WITO event stays with the hosting Chapter, that they can be great fundraisers. Bill Suliks was nominated to serve as the State Board WITO Chairman.

### **MARKETING REPORT**

Matt passed around the new upcoming patch design to the Board. It is the third State Patch in the series. The new Patch production costs came in at \$2.71 ea. @ 500pcs, \$2.27 ea. @ 1000pcs. Matt is working with the manufacturer to reduce the number of colors in the design to reduce the cost to under \$2.00. We produced 500pcs of the second patch and 2500pcs of the original. There are still about 100 second issue patches remaining and about 2000 of the original. After the new patches are released the originals will be increased to \$10 each and after the next issued patch the originals will be unavailable. Del made a Motion to approve the patch design, Seconded by Anthony. Passed  
Matt will work on getting the production costs down to below \$2.00 each. Skip said that FHFH would be willing to help market the patches as well and he recommended that Jeff discuss details with the President of FHFH. We need to see who the new DOW Chief is to continue discussions on marketing the patch through the Division. Joel Wood told the Board that regardless of Committee appointment, all members of the Board are part of the Marketing of Board sponsored merchandise. Joel presented the Deer and Turkey items and marketing ideas and needs. He has been working with Shawn on merchandise to sell at the Deer and Turkey show. Joel presented the barbeque sauce he has been working on. Production cost is \$3.00/bottle, we will sell for \$6.00. The dry rub costs \$7.00/bottle and we will sell for \$10.00. Joel had decks of cards made up and donated them to the Board to sell at the booth. Shawn discussed the items he is getting for the booth. Joel is marking up all of the items 50% for selling. Also a Kimber GOTY and three other firearms will be raffled off. Joel's projected revenue is about \$8500.00.

### **CALLING CONTEST/DEER AND TURKEY**

Greg could not be present so Dave Williamson discussed the status of the calling contest. Dave said Gander Mountain and ZINK were donating money toward the event. The contest details are set. He is planning on videoing the contest. There will be 8 classes this year. If anyone has any questions, call Greg on his cell. Joel discussed the arrangements for the Deer Turkey setup and details. Joel discussed that some items are taxable. He will set up a binder to track sales tax. Mike Strauser said that the State Board owns some tables and to contact Dave Honeycutt to find out where they are. Del will sign a check and put it in the cash bag so someone can pre-pay for next year.

### **TECH/EQUIPMENT**

Jim Sexton commented again that both of the trailers were sold. (Jim Leffel still needs to get payment to Del). Jim also discussed with Skip about the inventory he received from Joe

Sawmiller. Skip also stated that Dave Honeycutt still had an old sound system and if the Board would like to donate it to the Division, they would be happy to have it.

Matt made a motion to donate the sound system, Seconded by Del. Passed.

Jeff Wright broke the meeting for lunch at 11:29AM. Reconvened at 12:05.

### **IT/COMMITTEE**

Adam Hollobaugh distributed a handout outlining the web site and Board needs. (attached to filed minutes). Adam discussed the options for the State website and his recommendations. Adam recommended not continuing with our current service at the end of the 2011 contract. Adam said we should move to a third party provider such a Go Daddy or other. This will make the site more user friendly and reduce costs. He will look into how to conduct the online voting software, possibly write himself. He will bring more information to the next meeting and specifics.

Joel made a motion to move the web hosting per Adams recommendations within the \$300 website budget, Seconded by Anthony. Passed.

Adam started a Facebook account for the State Board. He urged Board members to visit and use it as much as possible. Adam also discussed some affiliate programs to link Bass Pro or other businesses to our website. He will discuss details with Del. Adam also discussed an active content map of Ohio to add to the website. The program will need to be purchased.

Matt made a motion to authorize Adam to purchase the proper configurable active map software, staying within the \$300 web service budget, Seconded by Joel. Passed.

Joel asked about a similar calendar system to the active map, Adam said there are and will research as well.

### **JAKES**

Dick discussed the JAKES Scholarship for the State. The winner was Michelle Trivisano.

Dick discussed the approval process and asked if the deadline and information can be posted on our website. Dick also commented that 3 applicants submitted incomplete applications. Dick asked if anyone would go with him to look at the proposed venue for the next JAKES day. USSA said they would be interested in partnering in the next event. Del said there is \$450 carried over in the Budget for the event from last year.

### **CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS**

Matt showed the Board a new 'Incoming Board Member' packet he had assembled to distribute to new Board Members. Matt urged the Board Members to read and familiarize themselves with the current State Constitution, as the new Committee will be working to update and modify the Constitution to meet current conditions. We will try to come in line with Nationals fiscal year, update the Constitution to the new format and new voting rules. The goal is to have all in place within the year.

### **OLD BUISNESS**

Jeff Wright opened with the fact that Matt McDermott had given Previous Notice at the last meeting to rescind the Standing Rule of the percentage of 65% of Super Fund money to be allocated for land acquisition.

Matt made a Motion to rescind the Standing Rule that 65% of Super Fund money be used for Land Acquisition, Seconded by Dave Williamson. Passed unanimously.

### **NEW BUISNESS**

Jeff presented the Super Fund Budget to the Board. The Board reviewed the Super Fund Budget prepared by the Super Fund Committee. Mike stated that with the current budget

there will be a projected \$33,900.00 surplus. Matt discussed adding a line item to fund TIP program funding. Mike will get the details about how the program works. Matt made a motion to add a line item for \$1000.00 to the Super Fund budget for TIP program funding, Seconded by Mike Strauser. Passed

Jeff presented the State Chapter Budget. Del discussed with the Board the State Chapter Budget. Revisions were made to the Budget.

Sound system upgrades were discussed relative to the new Budget.

Del made a motion to donate Skips old system to the Senior Center of Lawrence Co., Seconded by Anthony. Passed.

Joel made a motion to sell Walts old sound system to the Appalachian Longbeards for \$300, Seconded by Dave Williamson. There was discussion about why a Chapter had to purchase the system after we donated the other two systems. Motion Failed.

Mike Strauser made a Motion to donate Walts old sound system to the Appalachian Longbeards, Seconded by Matt McDermott. Passed.

Dave Williamson made a Motion to approve the amended Budget, Seconded by Dick Sorg. Passed

Del made a Motion to the Board to reimburse him for the National Convention expenses for the Presidents travel costs that he up fronted, the Budget will be repaid by the Superfund, Seconded by Mike Strauser. Passed.

Jeff commented that he was in discussion with a Grant writer, Neal Hess, and he will ask him to speak at the next meeting about land purchases.

Jeff Wright asked the Board if anyone has spoken to Board Member, Jim Leezer, about his intentions to stay active on the Board, as he has been absent the last few meetings. Mike Strauser said he would try to contact him as see what his intentions are.

Shawn asked if the Board would pay a cash payout (\$600) for Galia Co. in lieu of the firearm they won as part of the Underwriting Incentive Program.

Matt made a motion to pay Galia Co. the \$600 cash in lieu of the firearm, Seconded by Larry Kingrey. Passed.

Shawn will get Del the mailing address for Galia Co.

Jeff discussed the new mailer system being initiated by National for Banquet notifications. Jeff and Shawn said they are working on some of the problems with the new system and fine tuning to fit Chapter needs.

Joel Wood asked if we will still pursue the license plate program. The difficulties of getting complete information from people was talked about. They were to attempt to get more complete signatures at the Deer and Turkey and everyone was going to try more during Banquet season.

The next meeting will be June 5<sup>th</sup> at District 1 headquarters.

Mike Strauser made a Motion to adjourn, Seconded by Dave Williamson. Passed

Meeting adjourned 1:57PM.