

Wisconsin Trappers Association BOD's Meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at the Ashley Shooting Club, 201111 County Road X, Mosinee, WI.

On January 9, 2021 at 9:07 AM President Arnie Groehler called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: President Arnie Groehler-present. Vice President position is vacant. Treasurer Russ Warmka-present, arrived at 9:50 AM. Secretary Richard Kirchmeyer-absent-excused.

NTA Rep. Scott McAuley-present.

Personnel and Finance Lee Sellars-present.

District 1-Judy Floistad by proxy for Stanley Hoeft.

District 2-Dave Louis-absent-unexcused.

District 3-Mike Kortenhof-absent-excused.

District 4-Steve O'Mary-present.

District 5-Jim Gordon-present.

District 6-Chris Hamerla-present.

District 7-Brian Riske-present.

District 8-John Bauer-absent-excused.

District 9-Patrice Rhodes-absent-excused.

District 10-Larry Meyer-present.

District 11-Michael Kluetzman-present.

FTA Rep. -Ron Peters

Also Present:

Jim Binder-WCTEP State Coordinator.

WTA Merchandise Coordinator Jody Hamerla.

Mike Wilhite-Wolf Trapping Coordinator was absent, but Jim Binder gave the update on the upcoming wolf season.

FTW Director Dick McCarthy-absent.

President Groehler read the mission statement.

Agenda Repair: Motion by Lee Sellars to have Jim Binder give his presentation on Trapper Education and wolf trapping first as Binder had to leave early. Seconded by Chris Hamerla. Motion passed.

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Motion by Sellars to accept the minutes from the October 11, 2020 BOD's meeting. Seconded by Judy Floistad. Motion carried.

WCTEP report by Jim Binder: Insurance is a big problem. WDNR is not providing any insurance for our trapper education program. Binder reported that according to State Statute the WDNR should be providing insurance. Binder stated that he has State Legislator Kevin Peterson looking into the matter.

President Groehler reported that WTA does have general liability Insurance, but no insurance for special events.

Groehler stated that if students want special trapping instruction, we should consider this, but they must be WTA members.

Wolf Coordinator report given by Jim Binder: We have a couple pages in the student manual on trapping wolves. Mike Wilhite and Jim Binder will be offering wolf trapping courses on volunteer basis. Persons that have volunteered to be wolf trapping instructors: Skye Goode, Steve O'Mary, Lee Sellars and Al Nickel.

Randy Johnson is the WDNR Wolf Biologist, stationed in Rhinelander, is the wolf specialist for the State of Wisconsin.

Question: Can we charge people attending the wolf trapping seminars? Check MOU.

Binder reported that they made a Wolf Trapping video with help from Bobbie Mack. We are practicing Best Management Practices with 150-pound shock springs, etc.

A lot of talk about starting wolf season in Feb. 2021. But the wolf season will be starting Nov. 6, 2021.

President Groehler reported that the WTA needs to provide a member to the WDNR Wolf Committee and a member to the NRB Wolf Committee.

Motion by Jim Gordon-That the WTA President will appoint person(s) to the WDNR and NRB Wolf Committees. Seconded by Floistad. Motion Passed.

President Groehler reported that Idaho Trapping association has a wolf private bounty system of \$500 TO \$1000 a wolf and that they could set up this program in Wisconsin. Consensus is that the WTA is not interested as we have plenty of people interested in harvesting a wolf.

Binder gave information on the new Assistant Furbearer Ecologist and WDNR Statewide Trapper Education Coordinator Anna Schneider. Anna has a degree in

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Wildlife Management from UW-Stevens Point. She also has a master's degree, and her age is about 25 or 26. Boyfriend is Cody, who is very active with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

The next Trapper Education meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 19, 2021 in the evening at Stoney Creek Inn.

Russ Warmka-Financial Report and 2021 Spring Banquet: Reported that we can have a Spring Banquet at Stoney Creek Inn, may make adjustments on prizes, depending on what type of attendance we have.

Motion by Jim Gordon-WTA will have a 2021 Spring Banquet and general membership meeting at the Stoney Creek Inn in Rothchild on Saturday, March 20, 2021. Seconded by McAuley. After some discussion motion passed.

Notice for nominations for officers should be posted, even on social media.

President Groehler reported we need fundraisers; as Accountant Steve Van reported that our funds are getting low. Fundraiser with buttons and t-shirts about the convention that got away with a coyote with a face mask. Prices for the buttons and t-shirts were discussed.

Motion: by Brian Riske-That WTA accept the financial report dated November 30, 2020. Seconded by Gordon. Motion passed.

Comment: That Districts can donate money to WTA to help with finances.

President Report: Trapper Art Estate: Received two bobcat mounts, one fox mount. A bunch of old trap tags and a bear trap. Put items on Marshfield auction or consider on-line auction.

Received letters about members with WTA for the past 50 years.

Steve Van, WTA Accountant is raising his wages from \$865 a month to \$900 a month starting January 15, 2021.

Other organizations like Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and US Sportsmen's Alliance may want financial help from the WTA.

The new proposed Secretary of the Interior under Biden Administration is of concern, may be anti-hunting and trapping, will be involved with the green deal. Historical Trailer for WTA is currently on hold.

Personnel and Finance Report: by Lee Sellars. No one has come forward interested in the Vice Presidents position. Lee Sellars will chair a by-law

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committee, volunteers are Russ Warmka, Scott McAuley, Chris Hamerla and Brian Riske.

Sportsmen for Wetlands Coalition by Larry Meyer. SFW met on a virtual meeting on December 10, 2020. WTA BOD gave the Ok to send letters to NRCS and other concerned parties on the purchase of an easement of 1000 acres from Kincaid Farm, Hwy 106, Palmyra, WI. SFW will have virtual meetings once a month. McAuley Asked that a copy of the letters be sent to BOD's.

NTA Report-Scott McAuley. NTA Convention is July 22-24, 2021 in Spencer, Iowa. Furbearers Unlimited has their own building and office. Scott is doing a deer antler drive for NTA, to be taken to the NTA Convention. Scott is planning on having a display booth for WTA at Farm Tech. Days in the Eau Claire area. Scott reported that as on January 1, 2021 Buck Shot is now illegal.

FTA Report by Ron Peters: FTA and NTA are working well together. Convention is planned for June 2021. Federal Anti-trap bill to ban foot hold traps, known as 8828. FTA is supporting a \$5000 Martin project in Montana.

Need more articles in the Wisconsin Trapper magazine. Suggest old magazine articles from years past. Next deadline is February 1, 2021.

Concerns about ranch mink spreading Covid 19 into wild mink and possibly into other furbearers.

Brian Riske suggested that the due dates for the Wisconsin Trapper Magazine be changed so the magazine is available prior to our events (Spring banquet, fall convention, etc.).

President Groehler reported that Future Trappers of Wisconsin have been inactive due to Covid 19 virus.

Merchandise report: Jody Hamerla. Purchase cost of all merchandise on hand is \$8,364.17. The Coloring books may be available at the Spring Banquet.

NEW Business: Social Media Coordinator Skye Goode we need to renew her position at \$2000 a year. WTA Inc. is on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.

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Motion by Scott McAuley: The Social Media Coordinator will be paid the same salary (\$2000 a year) and terms as last year. Seconded by Gordon. Motion passed.

Lee Sellars, District 6, reported that he received a written complaint about trap size on Page 11 of the Trapping regulations, asking for more clarification. Complaint will be forwarded to the WDNR Nate Kroepflin and Shawn Rossler.

Chris Hamerla reported that he was going to try a virtual District 6 meeting to see how it works out; may have more participants. Hamerla will report back how the virtual meeting went.

Scott McAuley reported that public comment is now open for CDAC-deer management practices in every county.

Next WTA BOD's meeting is Saturday, March 20th, 2021 at 9 AM at Stoney Creek Inn in Rothchild. General Membership meeting will be at 1 PM.

Motion by Jim Gordon to Adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steve O'Mary. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Acting Recording Secretary
Larry Meyer