

Wisconsin Trappers Association
Membership Meeting Minutes/Awards Ceremony

Sept. 08, 2018

Marshfield Fair Grounds

Marshfield, Wi.

The awards ceremony was conducted by Chris Bezio, Chairman of the WTA's awards committee. The ceremony started at 5:30 pm.

Dan Carroll was inducted into the WTA Hall of Fame.

WTA Trapper of the Year; Gerald Houtler

WTA Warden of the Year; Meghan Jensen

WTA Advocacy Award; Schalows Nursery

WTA Director of the Year; Brian Riske

WTA Volunteer of the Year; Mike Racer

WTA/DNR Trapper ed. Instructor of the Year; Scott McAuley

Pres. Award; Cathy Bazile Awarded by Pres. Zimmermann

The Membership meeting was called to order by Pres. Zimmermann at 5:52 pm. The pledge to the flag was recited by all present. Roll call of districts was taken by Sec. Kirchmeyer. There was a quorum of members present.

Pres. Zimmermann read WTA's mission statement and asked if anyone had any additions or corrections, they would like to make to the mission statement. None were asked to be made.

Nominations for the WTA Presidents position and WTA's NTA representative position were asked for from the floor. No nominations for either position were made. A MOTION TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS FOR WTA PRESIDENT'S POSITION AND WTA'S NTA REPRESENTATIVE WAS MADE BY J. Gordon and seconded by V. Tripp. MOTION CARRIED. Pres. Zimmermann will close voting at 6:30 pm

Pres. Zimmermann asked that the minutes from the March 17, 2018 membership meeting be approved as previously printed in the WTA's magazine. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 17, 2018 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES AS PREVIOUSLY PRINTED IN THE WTA'S MAGAZINE WAS MADE BY J. Gordon and seconded by J. Bauer. MOTION CARRIED.

Russ Warmka gave the financial report of the WTA.

Pres. Zimmermann closed voting and asked the SGT of Arms and the election committee to count the ballots.

Pres. Report; Pres. Zimmermann reported that the Trapperman's feed donated \$250.00 from their June feed and \$350.00 from their Sept feed to the WTA. Dennis Brady donated \$600.00 from NAFA. Judy Floistad donated \$122.00 from the vendor feed.

VP Report; VP Prudlick informed all present that he has a good assortment of artifacts he has either collected or has had donated to him. He is not sure what he will do with them but doesn't want them to get lost. Jr may have a possible candidate to take over the position of FTW coordinator.

P&F Comm. Report; A. Groehlor informed the membership that the committee has worked on producing a financial budget for the 2019 fiscal year. The committee will have many other items to work on in the upcoming months.

NTA Report; S. McAuley said the NTA is involved in many law suites and asked members for their continual support.

Trapper Ed. Report; B. Larson stated that the trapper ed program is going well. In 2018 there have been 10 new possible trapper ed. instructors going through the mentor program. 700 students could have been graduated from the trapper ed program by the end of August. Many students are from the age of 20 to 50 years of age. Bryce would like to step out of the Trapper Ed. Cord. position by April first. The Trapper Ed. Cord. position is a stipend position.

Curtis Tweelman/ Shawn Rossler, DNR Report; Curtis informed the members about the trapper ed program and the number of graduates so far this year. Curtis thanked all instructors present for their dedication to the trapper ed program. Shawn informed us that fisher, bobcat, and otter permits had been drawn and successful recipients should be receiving their permits in the next few days. The new zones for fisher are much easier. (north and south zones) Bobcat permits for 2018 were slightly higher than previous years. There are some possible proposed rule changes coming from the DNR.

#1 Minor changes in the beaver management plan.

#2 Changes to the muskrat/ mink zones

#3 River otter changing from permits to a quota system.

A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE CHANGE FROM PERMITS FOR OTTER TO A QUOTA SYSTEM WAS MADE BY Jack hill and seconded by Al Nichols. MOTION CARRIED.

DNR; Nathan Roberts informed us that at present time 90 bob cats are collared. Because of the research done on bob cats is the reason there was an increase in permits in 2018. They have 65 cats in the north zone and 25 in the southern zone. Nathan would like more cats collared in the southern zone so please call the DNR if you have an incidental catch of a bob cat. Beaver surveys are going to be conducted to better estimate the population of beaver in the state. River otters are doing okay and the DNR is looking at different ways to estimate their populations.

Old Bus; Charlie Rath explained the 2019 WTA budget to the membership. Chick Andres thanked the WTA for sponsoring the 2018 FTA annual convention. Chick will not be running for the Pres. position of the FTA. Dave Hastings could possibly be the next FTA Pres.

New Bus; Pres. Zimmermann informed the members of the possibility of increasing all trapping related species applications and licenses by \$5.00. A MOTION TO SUPPORT A \$5.00 INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS

FOR FURBEARER APPLICATIONS AND TRAPPING LICENSES WAS MADE BY Jack hill and seconded by J. Gordon. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION THAT THE WTA MEMBERSHIP NOT TO SUPPORT THE USE OF HOUNDS TO HUNT FISHER WAS MADE BY Chris Bezio and seconded by Jack Hill MOTION FAILED. Fisher were brought to Wisconsin by trappers for trappers. A MOTION THAT THE WTA MEMBERSHIP OPPOSE THE HUNTING OF FISHER WITH OR WITHOUT THE AIDE OF HOUNDS WAS MADE BY Chris Bezio and seconded by Jack Hill. MOTION CARRIED.

Members Matters; Jack hill had some concerns about the beaver management plan as written.

Al Nichols Sgt. of Arms announced the winners of the election. Arnie Groehler is the newly elected Pres. of the WTA. Scott McAuley was reelected to the position of NTA representative. A MOTION TO DESTROY THE ELECTION BALLOTS AFTER THE RATIFICATION OF SAID ELECTION RESULTS BY THE WTA BOD WAS MADE BY J. Gordon and seconded by Kathy Bazile. MOTION CARRIED.

Pres. Elect Arnie Groehler addressed the membership.

A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 7:18 PM WAS MADE BY Kathy Bazile and seconded by Mike Schroeder. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted BY;

Richard Kirchmeyer

WTA Sec.