

WTA Board of Director's Meeting

July 12, 2025

Ashley Shooting Club, 2290 CTY Road X, Mosinee, WI 54455

Meeting Called to Order – President Scott Zimmermann @ 9:27 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of the WTA Mission Statement – Scott Zimmermann

Roll Call – (Introduction of all the directors to each other.)

President – Scott Zimmermann, Vice President – Deb Koltis, Secretary – Scott Robb,
Treasurer - absent, NTA Director – absent, Personnel & Finance - Lee Sellars

District 1 - absent

District 2 – Jennifer Harder

District 3 - Mike Korten Hof

District 4 – Steven Shumaker (proxy)

District 5 – Jordan Sell

District 6 - Ron Koltis

District 7 - Brian Riske

District 8 - absent

District 9 – Al Nickel (proxy)

District 10 - Larry Meyer

District 11 – Steven Dowell

A Quorum is Present

Agenda Repair – Scott Zimmermann

None

Secretary's Report – Scott Robb

- March BOD meeting minutes were published in the Wisconsin Trapper after review by the Board members. Both the BOD minutes and a draft of the General Membership Meeting Minutes are available on the www.wistrap.org website.
- As a procedural vote, since the BOD minutes were review for changes previously by the Board by email;

Motion to accept March 15, 2025 BOD Minutes as presented, by Ron Koltis, seconded by Al Nickel , motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Scott Zimmermann

The following reports were submitted –

- 2025 Balance Sheet (thru May 31, 2025): total assets \$185260.54
- 2025 Profit & Loss (Jan - May 2025): \$23991.60, (month of Feb 2025): - \$1362.12

Current District Balances should match what are in the District Checking Accounts minus any outstanding checks!

Motion to accept the Financial Reports as presented, by Al Nickel, seconded by Brian Riske, motion passed unanimously.

President's Report – Scott Zimmermann

- Fall Convention update – the multi – purpose building is sold out.
- DNR quota reviewed and changes:
 - Bobcat - Northern Zone stayed the same
 - Bobcat - Southern Zone increased
 - Fisher - remained the same
 - Otter - increased to 3000 (possible increase to 3 otter tags/ trapper in 2026)
- The proposed license fees increases were removed from the budget bill. \$15M was transferred from the Forestry account to the Fish and Wildlife account to cover short falls in this year's budget.
- Luci Theiler and Brookelynn Barnett are doing a fantastic job with the organization's Facebook Page.
- The WTA is supporting Wake Boat Legislation as it protects wetlands.
- The membership option to join WTA for \$10 annually with The Wisconsin Trappers magazine has been removed. Only one person used that option in the last five years.
- Trapper's Post had in the past sent 3 renewal notifications going forward only 2 notifications will be sent to reduce mailing costs.
- There is a Trapper Education Survey online. The existence of this survey was not well communicated to the WTA and the initial response was not to participate. After researching and contacting the DNR, it is a legitimate survey ... ok to participate.

Communication between organizations needs to be better!

- ~~The Woman's Trap Camp is a separate 501C organization.~~ <<< Incorrectly reported. WTA will investigate if they can be an affiliate for insurance under the WTA's insurance umbrella.
- Upcoming events WTA will be represented at –
 - Farm Tech Days, August 5-7, Bear Creek, WI
 - The Waterfowl Expo, August 25-26, Oshkosh, WI
- Sales of public lands was removed from the Federal (Big Beautiful Bill) appropriations bill. As members of both the USSA and Hunter Nation, the WTA did not receive any information about the issue from either organization.
- The President asked if the board wanted him to continue forwarding information on the DNR mentorship program and other similar information ... the board agreed they would like to continue receiving information via email.
- DNR just finished interviews for the Wolf Management Committee, they have not started to interview for the Beaver Management Committee. The beaver lawsuit against the DNR has been quiet. Beaver Unlimited contacted Scott Z. for the WTA to join them, the WTA has politely refused.

Vice President's Report – Deb Koltis

- Luci Tyler and Brookelynn Barnett are getting out to take pictures at several of the events for the WTA Facebook page. They are watching the content and comments that are being posted. To posters, don't engage on posts that can negatively reflect back on the WTA. Thank you, women, for a job well done!

Vice President's Report (continued) – Deb Koltis

- Districts cannot use WTA bulk mailing because addresses were not on the original application.
- If members are not getting notifications in the mail, have them check that their membership has not expired. There have been instances where notices of membership expiration had not been delivered in conjunction with The Trapper's Post.
- **Please advise all members to bring their WTA membership cards when they vote for elections at the Fall Convention Rendezvous.** Directors, pay close attention to your district mailing lists.
- WTA trapping instructors have brought to the attention of the WTA that Jim Bender is offering an 8-hour ADC trappers' workshop rather than the required 12-hour course. The DNR had approved the changes to the course for ADC trappers only, removing fur handling and other parts. Again, the DNR did not communicate these changes with the WTA which has shared responsibility for the trapper ed program. Two programs ????. Have any 8-hour class certifications been issued by the DNR?
- District 1 is in need of a new director, Kevin Austin's work schedule prevents him from continuing. Deb Koltis has talked with a potential individual about the position.

President's Report (continued, backing up) – Scott Zimmermann

- The use of technology in trapping and new regulations will be presented at the Fall Trapper's Convention General Membership Meeting.

Regulation summary – In order to use technology to check traps:

- Must have a control unit or camera that reports to an application at least every 24 hours.
- Must keep records.
- System must have on-demand capabilities for determining signal strength and battery condition.
- Must report signal strength and battery condition on-demand via a remote system check-in.
- Trapper must physically visit the trap within 24 hours once notified by system of an animal in the trap.
 - If the system isn't working the trapper must physically check the trap within 24 hours of the last communication with the system.

National Trappers Association Report – Scott McAuley

No report – Scott McAuley is traveling to the 2025 NTA National Convention and Business Meetings in Harrisburg, VA, July 14-19, 2025

Events Co-Ordinator's Report – given in the President's Report

Sweepstakes Report – Brain Riske

- Sweepstakes will be finishing up this week, ready for mailing to the members.
- Directors note, the WTA has a Sweepstakes/Raffle Number from the state, use that number for all your district sweepstakes/raffles. All sweepstakes tickets must include instructions on how to receive one ticket/person, free of charge by USPS mail via self-addressed and stamped envelope. Raffle tickets must be an in-person purchase, cannot be mailed.

Conservation Report – Larry Meyer

- In spite of the best efforts of the **Sporting Coalition for Stewardship**, which the WTA is a member, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship fund has not passed by any legislative committee.
- Governor Evers has proposed \$100M each year over the next 10 years to manage: wildlife areas, flood control and wetland management, fish management, etc.
- Even with the proposed increase in hunting, fishing and trapping license fees, the DNR's Fish and Wildlife Account would still not be fully funded.
- Missouri and Minnesota have gone to funding their Department of Natural Resources by adoption a 1/8 of 1% sales tax (1 penny for every 8 dollars spent) and it has worked out well. Missouri generates \$160M annually for fish and Wildlife management using the tax. A WWC resolution similar to Missouri's and Minnesota's tax was introduced to fund the WIDNR at the 2025 Spring Conservation Hearings; but that is not enough, Wisconsin sportspersons need to push this solution through the Wisconsin legislature. Everyone benefits, everyone should contribute to the fund.

Merchandise Report – Jody Hamerla

- Second quarter sales are down which is typical for this time of year.
- Aging merchandise is selling on clearance. New product is being brought in for the Fall Rendezvous
- Total annual budget for merchandising is \$10,000.00

Personnel and Finance Committee – Lee Sillars

- Discussion regarding annual budgets.
- Financial Manager position.

Old Business:

Fall Rendezvous – Scott Zimmermann

- Alternative sites were entertained, but no information was available by the July 1, 2025 deadline. A 5-year contract was signed for use of the Langlade County Fairgrounds.
- Discussion of district responsibilities and location to sign-up for duties.
- Paul Antczak's appearance is being privately sponsored again this year. Use Paul Antczak for more reaching promotions.

Fall Rendezvous (continued) – Scott Zimmermann

- Marketing and advertising activities are in the works. Antigo has a radio station and community bulletin board. Consider labeling the event as a 'Sportsperson's Flee Market' to bring in more people. Al Nickle will reach out to Julie Gabris next week.

Insurance – Jody Hamerla

The WTA INSURANCE RENEWAL IS IN NOVEMBER

- Multiple districts have not provided Jody with trailer information to include:
 - Proof of purchase – bill of sale, title, or certificate of origin.
 - List of trailer contents and each item's current value; include pictures.
Rule of thumb – record market prices, value at half the new item purchase cost for existing items. New items at their full purchase price.
- If complete information is not received by Jody before the Fall Rendezvous, current minimum insurance values will be used for quotations ... \$2000 trailer, \$1000 contents. In the case of a loss, the district will be financially responsible for the short fall for under-insured items.
- Trailers and their contents will be covered as ACV (actual cash value) at the time of loss, not the full replacement cost.
- In the past, trailer info w/contents list were required sent to the WTA treasurer.
- The WTA does not have any employees; only volunteers, some which receive a stipend for the efforts they provide the organization. Steven Van handles these matters with a 1099NEC (non-employee compensation) form.

NOTE TO THE PERSONEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

THE NON-EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION CLASSIFICATION SHOULD BE ADDED TO ALL VOLUNTEERS' JOB DESCRIPTIONS WHICH RECEIVE A STIPEND.

- Yes, to including Bond Protection Coverage
- Yes, to including Director and Officers Liability Coverage

New Business:

- Chris Bezio is looking for nominations for awards at the Fall Rendezvous – see his Email.
- Nominations are open for the positions of Vice President and Secretary.
After due consideration and improvements in his health, Scott Robb will accept the nomination for the position of WTA Secretary.
- Russ Warmka (Treasure) has check signing authority in the event the President is not available.
- A private Trapper Education Course is in the works for next year exclusively for veterans with disabilities with the 'Wounded Warriors and Action Project' in Phillips, WI.

Motion to Adjourn made by Al Nickle, seconded by Scott Robb, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:53 AM by President Scott Zimmermann

Submitted by: Scott Robb, Secretary