

Wisconsin Trappers Association BOD's meeting at Gorskie's Restaurant, Mosinee, WI. on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020.

Meeting called to order by President Arnie Groehler at 9:05 AM

Pledge of Allegiance to Flag.

A moment of silence to Trapper Art Simmerman who passed away this year.

Roll Call: President Arnie Groehler-present; Vice President position is vacant; Treasurer Russ Warmka-absent-excused; 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-present.

District 4-Steve O'Mary-absent-excused.

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-present.

WTA Merchandise Coordinator Jody Hamerla-present.

WCTEP Coordinator Jim Binder-absent- report given.

FTA Director Dick McCarthy-absent-report given.

President Groehler read the mission statement.

No agenda repair.

Secretaries Report: Motion by Jim Gordon; to accept the minutes from the July 11, 2020 BOD's meeting. Seconded by Scott McAuley. Motion passed.

Page Two

Treasurer's report: WTA Balance sheet as of August 31, 2020 was presented to each BOD's member. Total assets were at \$146,261.90. Motion by Jim Gordon to accept the financial report. Seconded by Judy Floistad. Motion passed.

President's Report:

1. Political Ad's in The Wisconsin Trapper
2. Fur sale auction by WTA.
3. WDNR is in financial troubles, will be making financial cuts.
4. Need to renew our insurance for WTA liability.
5. Insurance for nuisance animal trapping and trapper education.
6. Doing animal damage control-many clients are asking for insurance liability policy from trappers.

Vice President (Vacant position) report given by Arnie Groehler. Still looking for a Vice President. Heritage Club membership update. Trapper Art Simmerman left traps and items for the WTA. Some of these items will be placed in the WTA historical trailer.

Personnel and Finance report-Lee Sellars  
Budget discussion and WTA Vice President position

Sportsmen for wetlands Coalition update-Larry Meyer. Gave short written report. No group meetings because of Covid 19 virus. NRCS in process of obtaining a 1000 acre easement on the Kincaid Farm north of Palmyra in Jefferson County. This 1000 acres would be put back into wetlands and will be a big help in flood control. More on this at the next BOD meeting.

NTA Report by Scott McAuley. NTA had a zoom (virtual) meeting. Next NTA convention will be in Spencer, Iowa, July 22-24, 2021. 2022 Convention will be in Lima, Ohio. NTA magazine can be put into libraries at a special reduced rate.

FTA Report by Ron Peters. FTA 2020 Presidents Award went to the Wisconsin Trappers Association. The Beaver trapping ban in Oregon has been dismissed. Can still trap beavers in Oregon. FTA and NTA are allies handling trapping matters and made this official agreement at the South Dakota Trapping Convention 2020. FTA has not set any dates for their Convention in 2020.

Page Three

Larry Meyer suggested that the WTA representative to the FTA (currently Ron Peters) become an active WTA BOD's member, same as the NTA representative. After some discussion, it was decided that Personnel and Finance Committee will check on this and report back. May need an election or approved by the general membership to add a board member.

Future Trappers of Wisconsin report; FTW has been quiet. The summer youth trappers camp was cancelled because of Covid 19 virus. The 14-16 kids signed up will be given first choice 2021. The FTA trailer is being kept at the Ranger Station in Rhinelander for the winter months.

WCTEP report: a lot of trapper education classes were cancelled in 2020 because of the Covid 19 virus. Trapper Education classes may not have any insurance. The WCTEP is having a virtual meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 5 PM, and one of the topics is insurance for our trapper education classes.

Motion by Jim Gordon: That the WTA will not conduct any in person trapper education classes until all (instructors, students, and location) our insurance requirements are met. Seconded by Scott McAuley. Motion passed.

On-line and Correspondence Course Trapper Education report for 2020: As of October 1, 2020; 131 on-line trapper education students and 21 correspondent students.

Merchandise Coordinator report by Jody Hamerla (written report): As of October 7, 2020 we have \$14,756 in current retail value of all merchandise. Third quarter sales have increased over the previous two quarters. The hot seller was t-shirts.

New Business: President Groehler recommended that we give Nathan Roberts (Furbearer Research biologist for WDNR that moved to Missouri) an Honorary life-time membership to the WTA. Motion by Scott McAuley: The WTA give Nathan Roberts an Honorary life-time membership to the WTA. Seconded by Mike Korten Hof. Motion passed.

Page Four

President Groehler reported that the WTA insurance is going to expire in November 2020 and current insurance prices are very high because of covid 19 virus. President will get general liability insurance for WTA, and check on prices for our convention, meetings and events and report back at the next BOD meeting (January 9, 2021).

President Groehler reported that our Fall sweepstakes is doing well and we should have an approximate profit of \$12,000. The drawing will be at 12 noon, October 11, 2020 at Gorskie's Restaurant, Mosinee, WI. More information of the fall Sweepstakes will be given at the next BOD meeting (January 9, 2021).

Discussion on possibly having WTA Fur Auctions in Wisconsin in the future. A lot of questions on getting buyers, location, possibly one auction in North and one auction in the south and what time of the season to have the auction. Motion by Chris Hamerla: That the WTA obtain more information on having fur auctions in Wisconsin. Seconded by Jim Gordon. Motion passed.

WCTEP Course insurance. WCTEP is having a virtual meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 to discuss the problem with insurance. Jim Binder will report back, probably with email.

Discussion of political ads in The Wisconsin Trapper Magazine. Several complaints from members that we should not support any political candidate as we are a nonprofit organization. Motion by Jim Gordon: The WTA will have no political affiliation and will have no political ads in any of our publications and on social media. Seconded by Scott McAuley. Motion passed 9 to 1.

Natural Resources Board Wolf Committee: The wolf committee is starting up again. Mike Wilhite is our WTA Wolf Education Coordinator. Motion by Scott McAuley: That the WTA have a member on the NRB Wolf Committee. Seconded by Mike Korten Hof. Motion passed.

New Business from Districts/board members:

1. Judy Floistad reported an otter problem on a lake by Eagle River(District 3). Mike Korten Hof is aware of the problem and will try to take care of it.

Page Five

2. Jim Gordon (District 5) reported that Junior Prudlick has the gun that will be using in a sweepstakes at \$20 a ticket.
3. Scott McAuley stated that he is planning on attending Farm Tech days and other events that does not cost WTA money with the WTA display.
4. We are looking for the next WTA Convention Coordinator, possibly Russ Warmka's sister.
5. Ron Peters talked about the Wildlife Control Association. Peters stated that persons doing ADC work have to be responsible, including checking traps regularly.

Next WTA BOD's Meeting: Saturday, January 9, 2021 (9 AM till 2 PM) at Gorskie's Restaurant, Mosinee, WI.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Gordon. Seconded by Scott McAuley. Passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:04 PM.

Larry Meyer  
Acting recording secretary