

Wisconsin Trappers Association

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Stoney Creek Inn Rothschild, Wi

March 20, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Arnie Groehler at 1:04 pm. The pledge to the flag was recited by all present. The WTA mission statement was read. Roll call of the WTA districts showed all districts were present except District No. 9. A legal quorum of members was present.

Sec. Report; A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 09, 2019 WAS MADE BY Jim Gordon and seconded by Ralph Papesch. MOTION CARRIED.

Finance Report: WTA Treas. Russ Warmka gave a report on the financial status of the WTA. Some questions were asked and answered. The WTA is financially stable at this time. A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED WAS MADE BY John Irwin and seconded by Ralph Papesch. MOTION CARRIED.

Russ Warmka reported that there were around 240 people signed up to attend the banquet tonight. He will need some help selling tickets.

Pres. Report: Pres. Groehler commented that he is looking forward to this year's Fall Convention in Marshfield. There have been some increases on some furs. The delisting of wolves and the past harvest season will be causing some discussion in the next few months. The Eastern Timber wolf is considered a "Trophy Animal" to trappers. 2021 is considered "The Year of the Wolf" by the WTA. Arnie thanked John Irwin for his past leadership, time, and effort he put into the previous held wolf trapping classes he helped set up. The proposed opener for the 2021 wolf harvest season is set to start on November 6th, 2021. The WTA is having some problems getting insurance to cover our events.

V.P. Report; Interim VP Jeremy Ebner introduced himself.

The 2021 Mike Abrahamson Scholarship was given to Blake Raymer. There will be 2 inductees to the WTA Hall of Fame. The new inductees are Gary Mathers (2020) and John Olson (2021). They will be inducted into the WTA Hall of Fame at the Fall Rondy.

P&F Comm. Report; Lee Sillars said there is going to be some by-law changes that need to be done. The last time any changes were done was in 2015. The P&F committee is trying its best to keep all key positions of the WTA filled. Pam Mathers the present convention coordinator is considering retiring so the committee is looking for a replacement. The 2022 WTA budget will be ready for a vote at the Fall Membership meeting.

NTA Report; Scott McAuley reported that the annual NTA convention will be in Spencer, Iowa on July 22-24. The NTA is going to have an antler donation event at this year's convention. Farm Tech days will be held on July 20-22 in the Eau Claire area.

FTA Report; Ron Peters said the NTA and FTA are working on a few trouble areas that will protect trappers rights in different states. The annual FTA convention will be held in Charleston, Indiana on June

17-19. The WTA BOD approved putting in a bid to host the 2023 FTA convention which possibly could be held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

FTW Report; The Trees for Tomorrow trap camp will be held on July 28-30. Anyone or any district can donate monies to the trap camp to help offset the cost of the camp for the youth attending. This year and every year a table at the Spring Membership Baquet will be designated to help support the two trap camps that are held each year.

WCTEP Report; Jim Binder reported that the WTA BOD approved getting insurance so Trapper Ed. courses can start after April 01, 2021. Work is in progress to start doing Wolf Trapping Classes in the next few months. It is not mandatory to take this class, but it will help to learn good trapping ethics and skills from professionals.

Wolf Trapper Ed. Cord; Mike Whilhite said there is a need for 6 wolf trapper instructors which he feels he has the volunteers at his time. The estimated cost of this class is \$20.00. The WTA BOD supports the change of the application date for applying for a Wolf Harvest permit from August 01 to December 10 of the previous year you are applying for. The Eastern Timber Wolf is considered by the WTA a Trophy Animal to trap.

Media Cord. Report; Skye Goodie reported that a number of u-tube videos have been made and are available. Face book has been working good to promote trapping events.

WCC/DNR Spring Hearing questions; Ed Harvey

DNR Questions;

- 1) Increase the time you can use cable restraints- WTA Supports.
- 2) Return to 3 muskrat mink trapping zones in the state plus Miss. River zone. WTA supports.

WCC Questions;

- 1) Ability to use cable restraints by landowners during current trapping seasons. WTA Supports.
- 2) Change opening day trapping start time on public lands only from 12 am to 6 am. WTA Supports.
- 3) Allow 9 ½ " Jaw spreads for water sets only. WTA Supports.
- 4) Lengthen Beaver/Otter season statewide. WTA Supports.

Spring hearings are to be held on April 12, 2021

Nominations were open for the position of WTA VP. Chris Hamerla nominated Jeremy Ebner. No other nominations were made at this time. Nominations can be submitted to the WTA Sec. and or at the Fall Rondy Membership Meeting.

Nominations were opened for the WTA Sec. position; Richard Kirchmeyer declined any nomination and informed the membership that he would be resigning as the WTA Sec. at the conclusion of this membership meeting stating that he was elected Vice President of the Wisconsin Bowhunters assoc. and is also President of a new Church he helped start which will be taking up much of his time.

New Business; Brian Riske informed all that WTA Dist. No. 7 will be donating \$1,000.00 to WTA. Jim Gordon informed all that WTA Dist. No. 5 will be donating \$1,000.00 to WTA. A number of WTA members said they would donate to the WTA to help pay for insurance for Trapper Ed. classes.

The Editor of the WTA Trapping magazine would like to see more articles written and submitted by members.

V.P. Award; The 2021 VP Award was given to Richard Kirchmeyer for his past dedication to WTA.

The next scheduled WTA Membership meeting will be at 6:00 pm. Sept. 11, 2021. The meeting will be preceded by the WTA Awards Ceremony starting at 5:00 pm.

A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY Jr. Prudlick and seconded by Jim Gordon at 2:47 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted By;

Richard Kirchmeyer WTA. Sec.