

WTA Board of Director's Meeting

January 18, 2025

Ashley Shooting Club, Mosinee, WI 54409

Meeting Called to Order – President Scott Zimmermann @ 9:02 AM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – present

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

District 1 - Kevin Austin (via internet)

District 2 - Ron Kwasny

District 3 - Mike Kortenhof

District 4 - Steven O'Mary

District 5 - Jim Gordon

District 6 - Ron Koltis

District 7 - Brian Riske

District 8 - Jacob Van Schyndel

District 9 – Patrice Rhodes

District 10 - Larry Meyer

District 11 - OPEN POSITION

A Quorum is Present

Reading of the WTA Mission Statement – Scott Zimmermann

Agenda Repair – Scott Zimmermann

None required

Secretary Report – Larry Meyer, Scott Robb

Motion to accept September 7, 2024 Secretary Minutes as presented, by Jacob Van Schyndel, seconded by Jim Gordon, motion passed unanimously.

Future secretarial minutes to be approved by the Board of Directors and sent to Steve Van for inclusion on the WTA (wistrap.org) website. Also to be published in "The Wisconsin Trapper" magazine.

Treasurer's Report – Russ Warmka

- Dan Bush Memorial Fund was been eliminated. Funds transferred to the WTA General Fund.
- WTA General Fund has limited funds available. ~\$10,000.00 working funds.
- Insurance is currently \$1000.00/month, alternatives need to be investigated.
- Board members are requesting quarterly cash flow reports for Districts from Steve Van.
- Discussion of tuition payments for Erinn Kiesow-Webb; Approved \$5000.00, Paid out ~\$7962.00

Motion to table discussing the Treasure's Report and tuition, by Jim Gordon, seconded by Scott Robb, motion passed unanimously.

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President Report – Scott Zimmermann

- Funeral for Greg Schoeder – WTA sent flowers. WTA had good representation.
- Events – put all events on the website Events Calander.
- Insurance – had an audit of our insurance.
- Scott Zimmermann is be attending the NTA sponsored Leadership Convention, September 20-21, 2025 in Nebraska
- No FTA donations for the raffle this year.
- Trapper heritage patches will not be available; generated revenue/person - \$20.00, patch cost - \$17.00
- Committee representation:
 - Pine Martin - Lee Sellars
 - Wolves - Mike Kortenhof
 - Beaver - Richard Clark
 - Fur Bearer Advisory - Scott Zimmermann
- Discussion updates from the above committees – wolves, pine marten, and beaver.
- Discussion of joining Hunter's Nation – need more information about their organization.
- Wake boat legislation, state wide - WTA supportive in an effort to protect shorelines.
- Trailer Decals – Trapper Ed - paid for by WTA, District trailers- paid for by each district.

Vice President's Report – Deb Koltis

Membership program – Deb has found a program, cost is ~\$600.00 but requires a dedicated network server; Deb continues to have discussions, as the WTA does not have a dedicated server available and also continues to look for other alternatives.

National Trapper's Association Report – Scott McAuley

- 2025 National Convention will be in Harrison, VA, July 17-19, 2025
- NTA Regional State Directors conference call - if a state's convention doesn't have resources to man a NTA booth, other nearby states will send people to represent the NTA.
- The NTA has several prominent people in the organization with strong connections to political leadership in the new Trump Administration.
- Discussion of 'the Ballot Initiative' and how it may be detrimental for sportspersons.
- Safari International, a WTA affiliate, is using a NTA White Paper in their efforts to delist wolves and address shortcomings in the current Endangered Species Act.

Personnel and Finance Committee – Lee Sillars

- Discussion of how-to effectively use social media platforms and improve the WTA media presence going forward. P&F will create a detailed job description for the board to review; reference the existing contract for the media coordinator's position.

Motion to table discussing the position and stipend for the social media, by Ron Kwasny, seconded by Jim Gordon, motion passed unanimously

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Personnel and Finance Committee – Lee Sillars (continued)

- Discussion of the positions of District Director and District Treasure being in the same household – ethical and personnel considerations.
- Discussion of authorized signatures for district checks and checks and balances for checking accounts and procedures for alternative signatures in the event authorized person is unavailable. P&F and the Treasurer to get additional information from the WTA banking institution as to what specifically is allowed by law and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

Merchandise Report – Jody Zuelsdorff

Total WTA merchandise 2024 sales \$11727.98 (2.8% decrease from 2023)

Total WTA merchandise 2023 sales* \$12064.26

*(2023 sales does not include the 2023 FTA Convention Merchandise sales of \$3453.11)

The board of directors is interested in **NET SALES**, what is the merchandise profits?

Sweepstakes – Brian Riske

This year the sweepstakes will be a total cash raffle –

Grand prize = \$2000.00, 1st prize = \$500.00, 2nd prize = \$400.00, 3rd prize = \$300.00,

4th prize \$200.00, 5th prize through 10th prizes \$100.00

Total prize payout of \$4000.00

Estimated profits after est. expenses (printing & mailing) ~\$18,000.00

Ticket price: 1 ticket = \$20.00, 6 tickets = \$100.00

A single free ticket/person must be made available for any sweepstakes and only available by an individually, mailed request and must contain a self-addressed, stamped envelope as outlined in State of Wisconsin Sweepstakes Law. Raffle tickets, in contrast, *cannot* be mailed.

Motion to conduct a cash raffle (using the prize amounts recorded above) for the 2025 WTA Sweepstakes, by Steve O'Mary, seconded by Jim Gordon, motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Report – Larry Meyer

- The Wisconsin Department of Resources has a new Secretary, Karen Hyan. She will start in the position January 27, 2025.
- Wisconsin Conservation Congress as several open county delegate positions that are empty. Sportspeople need to attend their Annual Spring County Hearing on April 14th and consider becoming and/or voting for favorable delegates.
- A committee of sporting groups has been formed, lead by Cody Kamrowski (Wisconsin Wildlife Federation) to suggest opportunities for increased revenue to the financially strapped WIDNR, especially the fish and wildlife departments. The WTA is represented on the committee.

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Conservation Report – Larry Meyer (continued)

- February 12, 2025, sporting groups will be in Madison to talk with legislators regarding funding for the Stewardship Fund. Kyle Rorah (Ducks Unlimited) is leading the committee of sporting groups of which the WTA is a committee member.
- Do not pay for WTA memberships in other organizations using personal credit cards, get an invoice to be paid by the WTA.
- The Annual Skinning Party at the Fur Shed, N4439 Buckley Road, Deforest, WI will be held Saturday, April 12, 2025, starting at 8:30 AM. Funds raised from the sale of fur of animals collected by the WIDNR benefits the Wisconsin Trapper Education Program (WCTEP). It's suggested to bring your own knife as the fur shed knives are dull!

Ladies Trap Camps – Scott Zimmermann

- Ladies Trap Camp is looking for a larger, 16-foot trailer extra height and width (est. \$9,000.00-\$11,000.00) to haul their increasing inventory of equipment. They would like to have this trailer before the Woman's Camp in May. They have some funds available from grants. The WTA would like to retain the current trailer for storage of WTA records, etc.; which are being stored at Jody's parents' shed.

Old Business – Scott Zimmermann

- Still no interest for the open Future Trappers of Wisconsin Coordinator position.
- Spring Banquet – Saturday, March 15, 2025 in a new location:

Le Sure's Hall Banquets & Catering

3125 South Washburn Steet, Oshkosh, WI 54904

- General membership meeting is at 1:00 PM
- Cocktail hour @ 5:00 PM Dinner @ 6:00 PM
- Tickets are: \$45.00 for adults \$35.00 for 12 & Under
- Tickets are available at: www.wistrap.org
- or
- WTA, P.O, Box 305, Oregon, WI 53575-0305
- Looking for additional donations for the Youth Camp auction tables
- Volunteers are always welcome to help out (contact Russ Warmka).
- Announcement of the banquet is on page 3 of "The Wisconsin Trapper", copy ad to post and get the word out in local businesses.
- A new recipes page, 'Let's Eat' was started in "The Wisconsin Trapper" magazine, we need to support Jody by submitting recipes from the WTA membership.
- Establish a committee to investigate liability and property umbrella insurance options. Jody Zuelsdorff will start investigating rates, needs last year's policy and event COIs to compare apples to apples rates between companies before adding any new requirements. Anyone, within the WTA, that has insurance experience is encouraged to step forward and help the organization with this critical issue.

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Old Business – Scott Zimmermann (continued)

- Jim Gordon is pretty sure he is retiring after 18 years ... Thank you Jim for all your years of service.

A motion to bring back and continue the discussion relating to tuition funding for Errin Kiesow-Webb's graduate program, made by Scott McAuley, seconded by Jim Gordon, passed unanimously.

- Private donations are pledged from several members toward Errin's tuition to be donated through the WTA general fund.
- Districts Directors will ask their individual districts to add funds into the WTA general fund to support Errin to the extent they, the districts are able.
- The WTA sees the future value of the research that Errin is doing related to "Urban Policy Perception on Regulated Fur Trapping and How Education Impacts It."
- The WTA has available funds to cover Errin's tuition until donations can roll in and replenish the general fund from private and district donations.
- Discussion regarding the pro and con of removing the caps from districts' account and the funding limits they control.

Motion to provide \$6,162.00, the current cost of Errin's graduate studies tuition, for the upcoming semester only, by Jacob Van Schyndel, seconded by Ron Koltis, 14 yah, 1 nah, motion passes.

New Business – Scott Zimmermann

- Letter to Members – for Heritage Trailer donations.
 - Two additional lines to be added to the letter
 - The Wisconsin Trappers Association is a 501-C3 non-profit organization.
 - All donations are tax deductible.
 - Trailer committee is looking to budget for the finishing of the heritage trailer.
 - The interior is still being designed. The layout of the cabinets and amount of electronics will influence costs.
 - Availability of climate-controlled storage of the trailer.
- Ron Peters is proposing a program similar to the Minnesota Trapper Warrior 99 Club. A limited 99 patch release. Ron Peters will donate \$500.00 for the first year's patch purchase to get the program up and running. Est patch cost \$3.34 each. Patches will be sold through the E-store with advertising in "The Wisconsin Trapper."

Motion to support Ron Peters efforts in establishing a program similar to the Trapper Warrior 99 club for the WTA, by Jim Gordon, seconded by Jacob Van Schyndel, passed unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn made by Jacob Van Schyndel, seconded by Steve O'Mary, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned 12:55 PM by President Scott Zimmermann

Submitted by: Scott Robb, Secretary