

WTA Board of Director's Meeting

March 18, 2023

Hotel Mead & Conference Center, 451 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Meeting Called to Order – President Arnold Groehler @ 9:05am

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – present

President - Arnold Groehler, Vice President - Jeremy Ebner, Acting Secretary - Larry Meyer,
Treasurer - Russ Warmka, NTA Director - Scott McAuley, Personnel & Finance - Lee Sellars

District 1 Judy Floistad (proxy)

District 2 Ron Kwasny

District 3 Mike Kortenhof

District 4 Steve O'Mary

District 5 Jim Gordon

District 6 Ron Koltis

District 7 Brian Riske

District 8 Ken Skattebo

District 9 Dan Carrol (proxy)

District 10 Larry Meyer

District 11 Scott Schoenike (proxy)

Also present- Jacob Van Schyndel (future District 8 Director), Scott Robb (Secretary nominee)

WTA Mission Statement - read by President Groehler

Call for New Business:

Ron Koltis brought up problems district treasurers were having access to performing their duties.

Secretary Report – Larry Meyer

January 7, 2023 minutes presented

Motion to accept January 7, 2023 Secretary Minutes as presented, by Jim Gordon, second by Brian Riske, motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Russ Warmka

Total Assets (February 28, 2023) \$179,169.31

WTA is financially stable using a conservative approach through the past economic environment.

Spring Banquet: last year – 205 tickets, this year – 185, there are no #s on the tickets

Tables will be either 8- or 10-person seating.

Motion made to accept the February 28, 2023 Financial Report as presented, by Jim Gordon, second by Ron Koltis, motion passes unanimously

President Report – Arnold Groehler

- There are currently no political issues
 - Wolves remain under Federal control
 - Next state wolf plan update, estimated June 2025
 - Out of state, Animal Control Businesses are having violation: licenses, trap check intervals, cages. This is having a poor reflection on state trappers. Trappers are not charging enough for animal control work. Increase in the volume of control businesses could lead to increases in trapping memberships and future control business political clout. Question of who will regulate animal control businesses – DATCP vs DNR.
 - Meeting with the new WIDNR Secretary, Adam Payne on April 4th.
 - Trapper Ed fees proposed to increase from \$12 to \$20
 - Future ADC Ed class possible
 - Tour of the Langlade Fairgrounds for the fall convention, Saturday, May 20th
 - 2023 Hall of Fame Nominees are:
 - Shaw and Kathy Bazille
 - Ron Klebs
 - Virgil and Schroeder
- Russ Warmka – Possible future nominees for 2024?

60th Anniversary Gun – Brian Riske

Henry Commemorative 22LR: pictures were shown, cost \$450, retail to the public \$600, minimum order of 10 firearms, limit of 20 serialized guns 60 (01 - ...) to ensure value. Manufacturing turnaround is 60 – 90 days. Private sales close the end of March.

Motion made to purchase first 13 firearms, 60(01-13) [@ \$450 ea. = \$5850.00] for fund raising activities. First 11 firearms, one serial number for each district; districts, as able, to repay WTA costs. 1 firearm for WTA sweepstakes and 1 firearm for WTA auction, made by Brian Riske, second by Ron Koltis, motion passes unanimously.

Important Dates:

April 22, 2023 Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
May 10, 2023 Midwest Outdoor Heritage Event Expo (MOHEE), Milwaukee, WI
volunteers needed
May 17-18, 2023 MOHEE, Poynette, WI
May 23-24, 2023 Fur Bearer, Kemp Natural Resource Station, Woodruff, WI

Vice President's Report – Jeremy Ebner

Quotes have been received for various sized trailers.

Trailer purchase expected within a year timeframe, trailer completion within 2 years.

Personnel and Finance Committee – Lee Sillars

Scott Robb has stepped forward for nomination to the position of Secretary.

Jeremy Ebner affirmed his interest to continue as Vice President.

Todd and Sarah Jesko will be the new FTW Coordinators

WTA By-Laws

Convention maps – Fairground Facility and Tailgate Layout are available on the website.

A discussion to rename the FTW to better reflect the mission of the FTW – “Future Trapping Leaders”?

Or possibly create 2 groups: a group for younger trappers and a second group aimed to develop older youths to become leaders in the trapping industry.

Sporting Coalition for Wetlands – Larry Meyers

\$3.5M from the Pittman-Robertson Act is being used to purchase the Kincaid property in Jefferson County. Expecting \$4M of work projects at the Kincaid property.

Wetland work continuing at Pleasant Prairie and Ashland County.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings

- * Pilot program this year *

- * County Open Houses – April 4-6 (see DNR website for county schedule). Doors open at 6:00 PM, Election of 2 delegates at 7:00 PM, must be a county resident to vote.

- * Online Advisory Questions are available Noon, April 10th through Noon, April 13th.

- * There are 12 county Anti proposals in the Advisory Questions

- * WTA will conduct a phone/email blast.

Future Trappers of Wisconsin Report – Mike Korten Hof

Youth Trapper ED Camp @ Trees for Tomorrow has 20 participants

No Name Gang Youth Trapper Ed Camp full

Wolf Management Plan Report – Arnie Groehler

6000 replies were received during the open comments portion of the current Wolf Plan.

A resolution to allow 350 or less wolves to be harvested registered when a season is available.

Currently it is quiet right now.

Probably no 2023 season, minimum of 60 days after the federal release of wolves to the state for management before a season could happen.

Merchandise Report – Jody Hamerla

Total online sales for 2022 - \$3337.00. 42.8% decrease, year over year from 2021.

Merchandise trailer maintenance - \$237.90.

WTA now has 2 card readers, should make card processing faster.

FTA Convention Report – Arnie Groehler

A lot of vendors have registered.

Need to compile lists of people to help. Fairgrounds has limited employees to assist.

Schedule:

Tuesday – fair grounds setup

Wednesday – open for vendor setup, help is needed.

Discussion about the traditional Vendor Feed on Wednesday night
Requirement for everyone in the kitchen to have certified Food Handling Class.

Kitchen and Insurance Costs.

No vendor feed from the Kitchen

Motion to have an ‘open air’ Vendor Feed (similar to the Trapperman Feed) Wednesday night, June 21st, made by Jim Gordon, seconded by Scott McAuley, motion passes unanimously.

**** STAY OUT OF THE KITCHEN ****

Past vendor participation ~ 100 vendors.

Russ Warmka to lead efforts.

Thursday – 8:00 AM Opening Remarks, Convention opens

Breakfast Vendor Food Trailers TBD. (fairgrounds has a list of authorized vendors)

Friday evening - Trapperman Feed followed by

Auction: Wayne Smith Auctioneer, need articles for the auction.

Saturday – Trapper Contests

Evening Bonfire, depends on securing a permit

District Responsibilities-

Demo Area (Building #6): District 10

Construction on Wednesday

Audio/visual ‘always better than before’

Auction: District 5

Gates: Districts 11, 4, and 2

Transportation around the fairgrounds by UTV and golfcart

National Trapper’s Association Report – Scott Mc Auley

National Convention, July 27 – 29, 2023 @ Upper Peninsula Fairgrounds, Escanaba, MI

WTA will be located in the Kid’s Cave

Mention of anonymous letters

March 24 – 26, 2023 Open Season @ Kalahari Resorts and Conventions, Wisconsin Dells, WI

May 10, 2023 Midwest Outdoor Heritage Event Expo (MOHE)

@ Havenwoods State Forest, Milwaukee, WI

May 17-18, 2023 MOHEE @ MacKenzie Center, Poynette, WI

July 18 - 20, 2023 Farm Tech & Stream Show, Baraboo, WI

Fur Takers of America Report – Arnie Groehler

Ron Peters and Skye Goode are Directors from Wisconsin

Jason Wisniewski is President

Open Treasurer's position

New Business – Arnie Groehler

WCTEP Women's Trap Camp, August 25 – 27, 2023 @ Treehaven, Tomahawk, WI

Youth Camps are filling up

WTA Elections, positions up for election this year are Vice President and Secretary.

Procedures for Voting

Voting occurs during the General Meeting at the Fall Convention

Voting closes at 6:00 PM followed by counting of the ballots.

Skye Goode to transition out of the Social Director's position over the next 2 years.

Associated Bank Procedures follow the Dotti-Frank Act

The following have access to make changes to accounts

Steve Van (Accountant) has authority over personnel access

WTA President

District Directors

Not all District Treasurers have access to their respective district accounts

Motion for the WTA Board to reaffirm the District Treasurer's ability to access respective district accounts for the sole purpose of performing treasurer's functions as outlined in the WTA Bylaws, made by Jim Gordon, second by Scott McAuley, motion passes unanimously.

Next BOD Meeting: Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 9 AM at the Ashley Shooting Club, 2290 Cty Road X, Mosinee, WI 54455

Motion to Adjourn made by Jim Gordon, second by Scott McAuley, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 11:55 AM by President Arnold Groehler

Submitted by Scott Robb, acting recording Secretary

WTA Board of Director's Meeting

September 9, 2023

Langlade County Fairgrounds, Antigo, WI 54409

Meeting Called to Order – President Arnold Groehler @ 7:30 PM

Roll Call – present

President - Arnold Groehler, Vice President - Jeremy Ebner, Acting Secretary – Scott Robb,
Treasurer - Russ Warmka, NTA Director - Scott McAuley, Personnel & Finance - Lee Sellars

District 1 absent

District 2 Ron Kwasny

District 3 Mike Kortenhof

District 4 Steve O'Mary

District 5 excused

District 6 Ron Koltis

District 7 Brian Riske

District 8 Chris Bezio (proxy)

District 9 Al Nickels (proxy)

District 10 Larry Meyer

District 11 Mike Kluetzman

New Business – Arnold Groehler:

Membership Promotion Test Program for trapper education students

Cost sharing program to run for a one-year trial, \$10.00 paid by student, WTA pays remaining balance.

Open only to Trapper Ed Student Graduates that request WTA membership.

Based on past student enrollment cost is estimated to be \$5000.00 - \$7000.00

Discussion to defray cost by eliminating 'Trapper Post' subscription – rejected

Motion to start a trail membership program for a one-year time frame effective this date, September 11, 2023, to cost share a WTA (one time) Annual Membership to include magazine subscriptions, (\$10.00 for the student, WTA to supplement the balance) for only those Trapper Education students that request WTA membership upon graduating. Motion made by Al Nickels, second by Brian Riske, passed unanimously.

Printing of the 2023 Wisconsin Trapping Regulation Pamphlet.

The WTA has shared the cost of printing trapping regulation, paying half the cost, with the WIDNR in the past.

Half the printing costs to be \$1293.00 this year.

Motion to pay \$1293.00 of 2023 trapping regulation pamphlet's printing cost for 2023 made by Brian Riske, seconded by Jeremy Ebner, passed unanimously.

New Business – Arnold Groehler (continued):

Ratification of election results.

Deb Koltis is confirmed as Vice President by majority election of the membership.

Scott Robb is confirmed as Secretary by majority election of the membership.

Arnold Groehler and all the members thank Jeremy Ebner for his past service as Vice President to the WTA.

Motion to ratify the 2023 election results for the positions of Vice President and Secretary made by Scott McAuley, seconded by Al Nickel, passed unanimously.

Next BOD Meeting: Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 9 AM at the Ashley Shooting Club, 2290 Cty Road X, Mosinee, WI 54455

**Motion to Adjourn made by Scott McAuley, second by Al Nickel, passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 7:43 PM by President Arnold Groehler**

Submitted by Scott Robb, Secretary

WTA Board of Director's Meeting

October 14, 2023

Ashley Shooting Club, Mosinee, WI 54409

Meeting Called to Order – President Arnold Groehler @ 9:03am

Pledge of Allegiance

WTA Mission Statement – read by Arnold Groehler

Roll Call – present

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

District 1 - Judy Floistad (proxy)

District 2 - Ron Kwasny

District 3 - Mike Korten Hof

District 4 – Steven O'Mary

District 5 - Jim Gordon

District 6 - Ron Koltis

District 7 - Brian Riske

District 8 - Jacob Van Schyndel

District 9 - Al Nichel (proxy)

District 10 - Larry Meyer

District 11 – Mike Kluetzman (absent)

Present also - Ron Peters (FTA), Erinn Kiesow-Webb, Chris Hamerla, Christine Engelhardt

Reading of the WTA Mission Statement – Arnold Groehler

Agenda Repair – Arnold Groehler

Wolf plan draft

Funding request for schooling and research project – Erinn Kiesow-Webb

Recognition plaque at Sandhill

Website organization: By-laws, Job descriptions; Direct control of the WTA website;

Removal of new trapping graduate membership from the website

Frank de Carpenter's (sp?) Donations to WTA – full tuition to the FTA College + others

Motion made to discuss tuition for Erinn Kiesow-Webb (WDNR Assist. Furbearer Biologist) by Jim Gordon, seconded by Judy Floistad.

Considerations – position is currently only funded as a part-time position.

Terrible history of funding state employee enrichment and then employee leaving WI.

Vote to send Erinn to FTA Furbearer's College passes unanimously.

Erinn presented information for the WTA to consider professional development assistance as she pursues a Master's degree.

She will be working on a research project with Dr. David Drake at UW – Madison related to, "Urban Public Perceptions of Regulated Trapping and How Education Impacts on those Perceptions". The study will include surveying urban individuals on their perceptions, thoughts and knowledge of trapping and animal management before and after receiving education about research and recreational trapping and experiencing an actual trapping experience.

Erinn doesn't qualify for a tuition waiver from the college because she will be continuing employment with the WIDNR. She is asking for any assistance the WTA might be able to offer with tuition and presented a schedule of projected costs for the next four semesters. Total estimates amount to \$24,000 to cover tuition.

A motion was made to discuss funding to Erinn's Graduate education and research project by Steven O'Mary, seconded by Ron Kwasny

We are agreed that the WTA needs to take an expanded approach to education beyond advertisement.

Recommended searching for additional funding sources: FTA, Pitman - Robinson, etc. WTA should receive progress reporting and use of the final completed research paper. Should not interfere with attending FTA College.

Currently using Facebook to invite participation, 'targeted' invitations could be used to involve key legislators and political advocates. The project is being presented as a research project. Currently looking for about 100 surveys in the study.

Of all the projects WTA has participated in, this project has the greatest potential for producing science-based information the WTA can use to promote trapping. Immediate need for funding is for this year, the subsequent semesters will allow Erinn to pursue additional funding partners.

Erinn to investigate ways to receive funding, to minimize tax ramifications to herself.

Motion to fund Erinn's Master's program tuition up to \$5000.00, from the general fund, for the first year (semester) with the expectation that the WTA would be receiving updates and WTA recognition by Scott McAuley, seconded by Jacob Van Schyndel, passes unanimously.

Arnold asked Erinn to accompany him to his meeting with DNR Secretary Paine in December.

Secretary Report - Scott Robb

July 15, 2023 and September 9, 2023 minutes presented

Motion to accept March 18, 2023 Secretary Minutes as presented, by Jacob Van Schyndel, seconded by Ron Koltis, motion passed unanimously with spelling correction.

Treasurer's Report – Russ Warmka

NO new financial report since September, 2023

Added one more step to the check writing process to eliminate duplicate checks being sent out.

All checks will go from Steve Van to Arnie for signature before being sent out, slows the Process down about n3 days.

Sweepstakes provided a surprising revenue return.

1400+ gate attendance at the WTA Fall Convention.

President Report – Arnold Groehler

- District director positions -
 - District 11 (Mike Kluetzman) has been very busy, would like to step down. Another member, Jerry Godivan (sp?) in an interim position.
 - District 1 (Stanley Hoeft) is looking to step down, may have a person interested.
- DNR and Legislator interaction –
 - Trap Management Plan moves to the Natural Resources Board on October 25
 - Green Sheet for the Wolf Plan is online, no hearings yet, only public input.
 - Two bills in Congress, Baldwin bill allows judicial review, Tiffany bill does not.
 - Wolf Plan, DNR is concerned about public uproar
 - No goal established (1200 goal, without saying it)
 - Zone changes
 - Northern rural population not being heard.
 - MB750 was removed because it holds to many bears. BMP allows an 8" trap.
 - Groups are suing WIDNR over the Beaver Management Plan. WIDNR is developing a strategy and will not discuss it. On October 31 there is a scheduled nation-wide Beaver Panel which Arnie has been invited to.
 - The Beaver Institute is pushing for a population study for each wildlife species before a season can open as an attempt to shut down hunting and trapping.
 - **TS-85 is not legal for use in Wisconsin for water or land trapping.** DNR has established trap measurements are outside to outside.
 - Cage traps cannot be used in water? Commercial Comstock Beaver Trap designed for drowning sets?
 - A trap committee has been started. Ambiguity in the regulations need to be addressed, send regulation question to Arnie.
- WTA trailers need attention, check tires, bearing, roof leaks, etc.
- Membership: low fur prices we are losing members. Ideas to increase membership, please forward to Arnie.
- Sweepstakes sales were very good. Many thanks to Brian. Multiple ticket packets brought in extra dollars. Many sent in more than the ticket value as a donation.

Vice President's Report – Deb Koltis

- Heritage trailer has been handed to Scott Mc Auley. Specifications are established for the Heritage Trailer and final quotes are being submitted. Trailer is anticipated in 2024.
- Membership Lists – looking to find new software for updating the membership list.
- Trademarking – looking at both state and federal requirements to register a trademark for the WTA
- Creating a Vice Presidents report and “Meet Your Warden” for the Wisconsin Trapper magazine. Deadlines: Wisconsin Trapper is October 20, Trapper Post is 15th of the month prior to publication.

Personnel and Finance Committee – Lee Sillars

Budgets are ok.

Looking for District Directors to identify a possible coordinator for the Future Trappers of Wisconsin.

Reviewing the position descriptions. Rewriting the description for Vice President. (reduced to 5 areas of responsibilities)

Conservation Report – Larry Meyer

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Fur Harvest Committee

- Bounty system for predators – resolution was rejected.
- Annual hunting season for coyotes – resolution was rejected.
- Muskrat/mink season opening at 6:00 AM on both private and public lands – resolution passed will be forwarded to the Spring 2024 Hearings as a WCC advisory question.

Wetlands

- SB222 passed the WI Senate, AB222 waiting for assembly action. Bills provide for establishing wetlands upstream from flood problem areas (roads & cities).
- Pittman-Robertson fund is paying for construction of 4 water control areas in the Princess Point Wildlife area. The Kincaid property in Jefferson County has been purchased. A lot of work needs to be done and the property will not be open until 2025. Primary purpose of this wetland project is for flood control; protecting 1000 acres of farmland downstream.

Sporting Coalition for Wildlife is planning to meet October 20 to discuss the Phragmites Australis (an ornamental grass) invasive species and how to possibly control its spread. East of HWY 39 is restricted, west of HWY 39 is prohibited (meaning it must be removed by the owner).

Conservation Report – Larry Meyer (continued)

As trappers and Sport persons, we have a responsibility to teach the urban population about wildlife conservation!

Case in point: Catalina Island Conservancy (California) conservation disaster - mule deer population has grown out of control and defoliated all vegetation. No hunting is allowed! The conservancy's proposed solution - hire sharpshooters in helicopters to kill 2000 mule deer on the island and leave the carcasses to rot on the ground. California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife must decide to allow the plan to move forward.

National Trapper's Association Report – Scott McAuley

- 2024 National Convention is in Sioux Falls, SD
- 2025 National Convention will be in Harrison, VA (same site as the 2024 FTA Convention)

Virginia was the only state to bid for 2025. We have said 5 years moratorium, but we are one of the few states with volunteer resources to host a national convention. The possibility of co-oping a national/state convention was an idea.

- Discussion of the 2024 NTA Presidential Election
- Discussion of the NTA proposed By-Laws change

Fur Takers of America Report –Arnold Groehler for Ron Peters

June 13-15, 2023 56th FTA Rendezvous @ Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Harrisonburg, VA

FTA is following the NTA is sending out Affiliate Reports to open the communication lines with state affiliates.

FTA and the NTA are working better together. It's not seen that the two organizations would merge given their differences in emphasis (education vs political action).

Future Trappers of Wisconsin Report – Mike Kortenhof

>>>> FTW coordinator position is still an open, continuing to look for someone. <<<<

Last year's expenses for Trees for Tomorrow Trap Camp = \$7000.00

District 3 donated \$1200.00 to cover additional bus and tee shirts.

This year's camp is tentatively scheduled for July 17-20 pending assurance of funding.

NO Name Gang Trap Camp is mostly self-supporting.

Future Trappers of Wisconsin Report – Mike Korten Hof (continued)

Motion was made to support both youth camps in 2024 made by Lee Sillars, seconded by Larry Meyer, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of FTW raffle tables and donations and guns.

District 8 will be having activities for FTW members at their January district meeting.

Merchandise Report – Chris Hamerla

E-store was down for a couple of days, it is back up and running. All remaining products are clearance priced including 60th anniversary items. New inventory is being developed and ordered.

2023 WTA Fall Convention

Cash/Check	\$ 4153.00		
Credit Cards	\$ 2007.00		
(Fees)	(\$ 48.87)	Total Convention Sales	\$ 6111.13
Membership CC Sales	\$ 750.00		
(Fees)	(18.39)	Total Membership Sales	\$ 731.61

Note: when using a credit card, sweepstakes and merchandise needs to be kept separate, there is no way to differentiate in the card reader.

New Business – Arnold Groehler

- Antigo Fall Convention -
 - Shout out to Julie Gabris for a job well done. She is growing into the position.
 - People are stepping forward for helping out with set-up and tear down.
 - Signage is being addressed.
- Associated Bank Procedures / District Treasures - Just a follow-up to ensure that everything is corrected for the districts.
- WTA Membership List –
 - Steve Vans' wife handles the WTA membership list now
 - Addresses are the biggest area of concern for mailing out sweepstakes tickets.
 - Membership list needs to be run on a different software. District Directors are not in favor of having responsibility for the accuracy of their individual district's membership list. Deb is looking for new software. District directors work with Deb to improve the list.

New Business – Arnold Groehler (continued)

- Ways to increase memberships – forward suggestions to Arnie
 - Guns seem to be attractive
 - NTA uses ‘plea’ letters including membership forms, 3 times a year
 - Reduced membership rates with sponsors picking up the remaining balance – tracking may be an issue.
- Area 4H groups looking for furs for their programs.

Board broke for lunch @ 12:05 PM returned to session at 12:36 PM

- District 1 Fund Raising Raffle gun – gun can be transferred to an FFL for a fee and held there until such time as the raffle. Deb to coordinate with the supplier.
- Heritage Trailer – rebidding for the completed specifications. Purchase expected in January.

Board entered into private session @ 12:45 PM, returned from private session @ 1:00 PM

- Vice Presidents award – what is the criteria. Deb to contact Junior Puerderic (sp?) for information.
- Question of term limits was brought up by Arnold Groehler. He will have served 4 years at the time of the next Presidents Election (2024). Looking if there is any interest, make it known. Arnie is looking to steer more toward a legislative liaison with the contacts he has made in Madison.
- Trapper Education Graduation membership promo can’t be on the WTA E-store.
- Winter BOD Meeting: Saturday, January 13, 2023 at 9 AM at the Ashley Shooting Club, 2290 Cty Road X, Mosinee, WI 54455
- 2024 Convention Animal discussion

Motion to have the Fisher as the 2024 convention animal made by Jake VanSchyndel, seconded by Larry Meyer, passed unanimously.

**Motion to Adjourn made by Jim Gordon, second by Steve O’Mary, passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 1:11 PM by President Arnold Groehler**

Submitted by: Scott Robb, Secretary