



## ILLINOIS STATE CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

Marcia Polhamus-Secretary  
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### Fourth Quarter Minutes – January 12, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve McNeil, Mike Lowder, Ken Polhamus, Marcia Polhamus, Bob Reich, Gerald Lively, Terri Lively, Greg Shaffer, Gerald Bois, Todd Batten, Heath Jordan, Al Helton, Alison Reynolds

**NWTF STAFF:** Cindy Spillman, Jeff Ravenscraft, Jim Garver, Tylor Flynn, Stacy Lindeman, John Burk, Olivia Rauen, Jeff Pratt, Jason Lupardus

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kent Bushman

**GUEST:** Luke Garver (IDNR)

**NOTE:** Board members are required to attend 2 of the 3 meetings to retain a seat on the board.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Heath Jordan motioned to approve the September 30<sup>th</sup> minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Gerald Lively  
**Motion Passed**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** State Balance - \$38,641.84; 4th Qtr Expenditures - \$5,698.18; 4th Qtr Deposits – \$39,844.00. A complete summary was handed out.

Greg Shaffer made a motion to approve treasurer's report. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Todd Batten **Passed Unanimously**

**SUPER FUND SUMMARY:** A complete summary was handed out and will be attached with the minutes. Ken Polhamus questioned the Habitat Fund Grants that were approved. There was much discussion on our partnership with the IDNR. John Burk replied that position support funding will be brought up at the Habitat Fund March meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Regional Field Staff Report:** Regional Director Jim Garver thanked the board and volunteers for all their support with recruitment and would like to continue the progress. He said it has really helped raise his banquets net revenue. Heath Jordan made a motion to budget \$10,000 for advertising and recruitment. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Steve McNeil. **Motion Passed.** RD Jeff Ravenscraft reported that the calendars are real close to being sold out. He said one of his bright spots was a recruitment event that reinvigorated one of his chapters. RD Cindy Spillman thanked everyone and said she also reaped benefits from recruitment events. She submitted a full page advertisement to Illinois Outdoor News with a complete schedule of banquet dates. This will also be posted on the web page. Cindy stated there was not much change as far as membership and Illinois was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. RD Tylor Flynn thanked the board as well and reported his chapters are looking up significantly from last year. There are a lot of people attending recruitment meetings and looking promising. He will have a table at the Bass Pro Bollingbrook event on Saturday January 19<sup>th</sup> with the Dixon chapter volunteers. Jeff Ravenscraft reported that Illinois will be the model for a pilot partnership program. The Bass Pro/NWTF Gun Bash is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dome in Pekin, IL. The \$50 cost includes food, membership and a \$25 Bass Pro gift card. All the RD's are involved in this and would like all chapters to assist with selling 3000 tickets. Bass Pro will not charge a fee to transfer the guns. They are a "TRUE partner". State President Mike Lowder welcomed Jason Lupardus, Midwest Director of Conservation Operations and Jeff Pratt, Director of Development. Jeff thanked the board, the staff and all the volunteers for their hard work. He said Illinois is the shining star and sets the bar as far as teamwork and events. Jason gave National Conservation Program updates:

Grant Revenue Up \$2.3M - Palmetto Shooting Complex Up \$85K – Convention Up \$230K

2018 STH2 Accomplishments:

Conserved 647,798 acres  
Access 118,850 acres  
Created 15,123 hunters  
NRCS Agreement \$5.3M  
24 Forester positions  
\$500K to bottom line  
Anticipate 350K acres to be impacted

Overall 6yr STH2 Accomplishments:

Conserved 2,924,029 acres  
Access 559,833 acres  
Created 1,277,938 hunters

Jason also reported that the National Leadership meeting in Edgefield, SC will be October 3-6, 2019.

- 2) **Regional Biologist Report:** A full report was provided by John Burk and will be attached with the minutes. Foresters Stacy Lindemann and Olivia Rauen gave updates included in the report. They both stressed the need to educate private landowners on timber management. Dr. Reich suggested brochures to have at banquets. John Burk reported Regional Biologist Matt Weegman has taken a new position as District Biologist for MN, WI, & IA.
- 3) **IDNR Update:** Luke Garver reported that IDNR hired a new Forest Wildlife Program Manager, Dan Skinner. He fills the position Paul Shelton formerly had. He stated the hunter satisfaction survey project should be completed this fiscal year. Marcia Polhamus added that it is on the NRAB agenda this month. Preliminary brood survey results indicate reproduction is much better than last year. Some suggested rule changes under review include: Over the counter permits this fall, the timeframe to report harvested birds in the spring season pushed out from 3pm to 10pm, the addition of 9 new sites for fall turkey archery season and 2 new SHA sites added for spring season 1 youth and 1 regular. The 3<sup>rd</sup> lottery is open now, closes February 11<sup>th</sup> and any remaining permits will be sold over the counter on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The fall archery season is 5% ahead of last year's total at this time and 10% ahead of the 5-year average.
- 4) **The Caller:** Field Editor Marcia Polhamus stated she receives very few articles. She requested that this position be combined with Facebook and web page duties and considered Social Media. Please submit articles to [alisonmichelleoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmichelleoutdoors@gmail.com). It should also be noted that we have no control over when articles will be included in upcoming issues of Turkey Country. All submittals will also be considered for the web page and Facebook.
- 5) **Web Page/Facebook:** Alison Reynolds has updated the web page and done some research concerning the Facebook page. She brought up exploring other avenues to get our word out and the need to capture the younger audience. She asked what our goals are and rules or guidelines for posting. After much discussion, including quotes from a social media consultant, RD Tylor Flynn agreed to head up a media sub-committee. Alison Reynolds, Al Helton and Luke Garver will work together with Tylor to analyze, improve and manage our social media. Ken Polhamus made a motion to budget \$10,000 for social media development. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Todd Batten **Motion Passed.** Please continue to send your information to [alisonmichelleoutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmichelleoutdoors@gmail.com). Please visit the web page at [www.illinoisnwtf.org](http://www.illinoisnwtf.org) and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/illinoisnwtf](http://www.facebook.com/illinoisnwtf).
- 6) **National Award Nominations/National Convention:** Gerald Lively reported that the Illinois CPO nominee is William Gilmer from Mason County and he will be attending the National Convention in Nashville.
- 7) **Land of Lincoln Scholarship/State Scholarship:** Dr. Reich stated that all of our NWTF Scholarship winners will be in attendance at the Rendezvous to receive their scholarships. Ryan Askren, U of I \$1500 – Ethan Dittmer, SIU \$1000 - Morgan Meador, U of I \$1500 - Ed Davis WIU \$1500. Dr. Reich said the number of State Scholarship applications have been down and we might consider increasing the amount of the scholarships. He has only 1 State Scholarship application so far and the deadline to get it to him is February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Wheelin Sportsmen Report:** Lisa Davis had no report.

- 2) **JAKES Report:** Ken Polhamus reported receiving 23 applications for the Spring Turkey Hunt held at the Torstenson Center in Pecatonica, IL. It was on NWTF and ICF's Facebook pages and websites. Jeff Ravenscraft and Alison Reynolds both said they had applications coming in yet. Please pass on to anyone you know that may be interested. Contact Ken or Marcia if you are interested in hosting one of the weekends. For information on JAKES and the use of the Take Aim trailers, you can contact Heath Jordan at [hjordanwtf@gmail.com](mailto:hjordannwtf@gmail.com) for the Northern chapters and Gerald Lively at [glivelyg@netscape.net](mailto:glivelyg@netscape.net) for Southern chapters.
- 3) **STH2:** Heath Jordan asked the board to please encourage chapters to send in the recruitment report form for any mentored hunts. He stated that National has restructured registration sites for outreach events.
- 4) **IFOR:** Ken Polhamus reported IFOR signed up Abate Motorcycle Club which helped with membership numbers. They discussed the effect of crossbows and reported deer harvest numbers with crossbows were 39% compared to compound at 60%. The IFOR Banquet is May 4, 2019 in Godfrey. Ken also asked the board to consider adding IFOR back into the budget as they work hard for us. Bob Reich made a motion to budget \$2,500 to IFOR and evaluate each year. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Al Helton **Motion Passed**
- 5) **2019 National Leadership Conference:** Mike Lowder reported the Leadership Conference is scheduled for October 3-6, 2019 in Augusta, GA and Edgefield, SC. Jim Garver asked for discussion on travel budget. Steve McNeil will put together some numbers and the RD's will look for new volunteers to attend. Ken Polhamus made a motion to budget up to \$15,000 for Leadership. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Todd Batten **Motion Passed**
- 6) **Board Seat Elections:** Mike Lowder announced that Marcia Polhamus will resign from the State Board as she has been elected to the National Board of Directors. Congratulations were given by all. Three seats expire after January 2019. Heath Jordan, Gerald Lively and Greg Shaffer all expressed interest in running again. As Dan Daly's seat was vacated earlier there are 5 seats open and no new applicants for board seats. After discussion it was decided to waive the two meeting rule and President Mike Lowder will personally interview new candidates. Mike asked for volunteers for the Secretary position being vacated. Ken Polhamus volunteered and was appointed for the remainder of the Secretary's term. A vote was taken for the 3 incumbents and passed to re-elect as board members Heath Jordan, Gerald Lively and Greg Shaffer.
- 7) **Other Business:** Jim Garver ordered a turkey sculpture for the Taxidermy Association. Mike Lowder asked for volunteers to judge the calling contest this afternoon. Todd Batten offered to judge.
- 8) **Next Meetings:** Date: June 30, 2019; Time: Lunch 12pm; Place: Sheels - Springfield.  
Date: August 25, 2019; Time: Lunch 12pm; Place: Sheels

Motion to adjourn was made at 12:20 by Ken Polhamus; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gerald Lively **Passed Unanimously**

#### **REMINDERS:**

Share these minutes with your chapter committee. These minutes will be published on the State Chapter's website. The address is [www.illinoisnwtf.org](http://www.illinoisnwtf.org)

Please contact Ken Polhamus at [kendw1@aol.com](mailto:kendw1@aol.com) or 815-985-1855 for all changes in address, telephone number, chapter president, etc.