



ILLINOIS STATE CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

Ken Polhamus-Secretary
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Illinois State Chapter web address:
www.illinoisnwtf.org

3rd Tri-Annual Minutes – January 12, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve McNeil, Mike Lowder, Ken Polhamus, Bob Reich, Heath Jordan, Greg Shaffer, Alison Reynolds, Kent Bushman, Jeff Erb, Mike Frye, Gerald Lively, Terri Lively, Gerald Bois

NWTF STAFF: Jim Garver, Tylor Flynn, John Burk, Jeff Ravenscraft, Stacy Lindemann, Olivia Rauen, Al Clark, Chase Seals

MEMBERS ABSENT: Al Helton, Todd Batten

GUEST: Luke Garver (IDNR), Marcia Polhamus, Mike Polhamus, Jeremiah Frye, Helen McNeil, Terry Day, Michael Howie, Lisa Howie

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 August 25th minutes. 2nd – Steve McNeil
Motion Passed

TREASURER'S REPORT: State Balance - \$49,161.98; 2nd Tri-Annual Expenditures - \$9,295.32; 2nd Tri-Annual Deposits – \$47,630.47. Terri Lively stated it was mostly calendar activity. A complete summary was handed out. Ken Polhamus made a motion to approve treasurer's report. 2nd – Heath Jordan **Passed Unanimously**

SUPER FUND SUMMARY: A complete summary was handed out and will be attached with the minutes. Terry Day stated that Super Fund recipient Middle Rock Conservation displayed equipment with our signage at the Autumn on the Prairie event.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) **Regional Field Staff Report:** National Director of Development, Al Clark, thanked everyone for all they do. He stated he wished he could clone our State. Al reported that we have surpassed 2 of our goals, opening hunting access and creating new hunters, and very close to the 3rd - habitat acres conserved or enhanced. He also stated our 50th anniversary is only 3 years away. National has started work on a capital campaign and wants it to be a huge celebration. RD Jim Garver reported we are geared up for a really good year. He thanked the board and volunteers. Jim stated he has expanded his territory and has 8 more chapters in Missouri. Jim passed out box calls as board member appreciation gifts. RD Jeff Ravenscraft thanked everyone for all they do. Jeff reported he has added 1 new chapter and working on a 2nd. Jeff gave a calendar report and stated this was our most successful year. There are only a few calendars left and should sell out. Jeff reported adding \$2500 income from selling advertising in the calendars. Tylor Flynn stated he had a great banquet season last year. It was much more productive than his 1st. Tylor reported that he is working on getting more chapters in the Chicago area and holding different types of events. Tylor reported Illinois is 3rd in our group under 10,000 adult members. Regional Director Cindy Spillman regretfully was not available and has since lost her father. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her and her family.
- 2) **Regional Biologist Report:** A full report was provided by John Burk and will be attached with the minutes.

- 3) **IDNR Update:** In addition to the RB report Luke Garver stated there was a 60% response rate to the turkey survey. Luke also reported getting positive brood survey reports from September and will look at the jakes harvest in the spring. Kent Bushman asked about buffalo gnats. Doc Reich stated that one of the scholarship recipients this year is researching what effect buffalo gnats have on the turkey population.
- 4) **National Board Report:** Marcia Polhamus extended a huge thank you for everything that the volunteers and supporters do for this great organization. The National Board has two high priorities in strategic planning. They are IT and Marketing. They are trying to do a better job telling the NWTF story and sharing our accomplishments. Investing in modern technology will better meet the needs of volunteers, members and staff. It will also help the ability to increase membership. Marcia also wanted to thank everyone for their part in exceeding two of our Save the Habitat Save the Hunt initiative goals 3 years ahead of schedule.
- 5) **Social Media Report:** Alison Reynolds reported the website is still being looked at. She would like to meet with the committee soon and asked for a couple volunteers to join. Kent Bushman asked to have the additional December calendar winners added. Mike Frye and Michael Howie will join the committee and Michael will be added as an administrator for Wheelin Sportsmen. Tylor Flynn stated they are waiting to hear from National as they are still working on social media upgrades and hope to have some type of play book by August. They are looking for consistent branding to follow the National model. Tylor will get some sort of plan together setting days and times for certain posts. Facebook is doing ok but looking to start an Instagram account. Please continue to send your information to alisonmichelleoutdoors@gmail.com. Please be patient when checking our web page at www.illinoisnwtf.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/illinoisnwtf.
- 6) **National Award Nominations:** Gerald Lively reported that Lisa Haggerty from Union County is our nominee for CPO of the Year. Gerald would like local chapters to be more involved in nominations for CPO of the Year. If you know of a CPO that helps with the NWTF mission please let your RD know.
- 7) **National Convention:** Jeff Ravenscraft announced that Steve McNeil will be receiving the Roger Latham Award at National Convention in February. A round of applause followed.
- 8) **National Leadership Conference:** Steve McNeil reported that 20 participants are going. He asked that participants get their receipts to him ASAP in order to be reimbursed. The State Board will pay the registration and up to \$400 for rooms and travel.
- 9) **Land of Lincoln Scholarship:** Dr. Reich reported 2 great recipients will be attending the Rendezvous to accept their checks for \$1500.00. The winners are Morgan Meader from U of I and Katherine Rexroad from WIU. Morgan is researching the buffalo gnats and also woodland habitats. Katherine is researching the flying squirrel. Dr. Reich stated this is his 23rd year handling scholarships and wants to get more applicants. He will work more with social media in the coming year. Kent Bushman agreed with Dr. Reich that the response rate in general is very poor. Ken Polhamus suggested raising the amount of the scholarships. That issue will be discussed more during the Super Fund meeting. Dr. Reich said that top bobcat researcher Dr. Jacques will be attending the Rendezvous this evening. The scholarship applications are on the website and Face Book. Please share.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Wheelin Sportsmen Report:** Mike Lowder introduced Michael Howie as the new Wheelin Sportsmen Coordinator. He was welcomed by the board. Michael reported that since his start in September he has been quite busy. He had 6 weeks to put together the deer hunt at Touch of Nature in Makanda, IL. He was given donations that included 2 crossbows. He has a pheasant hunt in Pekin and 2 turkey hunts in Pope County scheduled and working on the details of a deer hunt at this time. These details will be attached to the minutes and posted to social media. Please share them! Michael wanted to discuss the possibility of getting a side by side to make events easier. The board suggested talking to dealers and possibly make a partnership agreement.

- 2) **JAKES Report:** Ken Polhamus stated it's a struggle and reported having very few applicants for the spring Jakes turkey hunts. It has been advertised in the Outdoor News and Heartland Outdoors. The application is on NWTF and ICF's Facebook pages and websites. Please share it often. The deadline is January 30th. This will be our 10th anniversary of the hunt and we will contact media for coverage. Ken reported having met with the IDNR about the mentor program and will be inviting NGO's to the next meeting in February. Ken passed out literature on the 1st Hunt Foundation and asked the board to please check them out, share with chapters and sign up to become mentors. They are doing good work and this could fill the void while we work with the IDNR to get a statewide program here. Heath Jordan reported that the trailer was used more this past summer and most bows needed to be repaired or replaced. As this is a budgeted line item, some new bows will be ordered for both trailers. For information on JAKES and the use of the Take Aim trailers, you can contact Heath Jordan at hjordannwtf@gmail.com for the Northern chapters and Gerald Lively at glivelyg@netscape.net for Southern chapters.
- 3) **IFOR:** Ken Polhamus reported that IFOR is doing a great job of watching Legislature and IDNR. Ken asked the board to consider increasing our supporting level in the Super Fund line item. I-Gold is scheduled for March 29, 2020. The IFOR banquet will be May 2, 2020 in Alton, IL.
- 4) **STH2:** Heath Jordan thanked Cindy for chapter support of submitting report forms and asked RD's and the board to please encourage chapters to send in the recruitment report form for any mentored hunts. Heath stated he is getting a good response from Hunter Safety instructors and that we are currently first in the nation for hunters created. He reminded the board to use the NWTF resource library and to pass out information at their events.
- 5) **Board Seat Elections:** Mike Lowder reported that four board seats expire after January 2020. Bushman, Frye, Helton and Reynolds; Helton & Reynolds were not seeking re-election at the time the ballots were printed. Alison Reynolds circumstances have changed and has since requested to seek re-election. Heath Jordan made a motion to add Reynolds to the ballot. 2nd - Gerald Lively **Motion Passed** There was one applicant, Terry Day, present at the meeting. Ballots were tallied and the Board Members elected were Bushman, Frye & Reynolds. All officer seats also expire after January 2020. After little discussion and nominations accepted Dr. Reich made a motion to nominate and re-elect all four current officers to their same positions. 2nd – Greg Shaffer **Motion Passed Unanimously** Officers are: Mike Lowder, President; Steve McNeil, Vice President; Ken Polhamus, Secretary; Terri Lively, Treasurer
- 6) **Next Meetings:** Date: May 31, 2020; Lunch 11:30; Scheels - Springfield (Super Fund Meeting @ 10 am)
Date: September 20, 2020 @ 10:00 am; Scheels - Springfield; Date: January 9, 2021 TBD

Motion to adjourn was made at 12:08 by Ken Polhamus 2nd – Heath Jordan **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 Please be patient while the site is under construction.

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