

**Minnesota Trappers Association
DRAFT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Location: Pizza Ranch, Wadena, MN
March 5, 2022**

Board of Directors Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Fischer

Roll Call

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

District 1 Director

District 2 Director

District 3 Director

District 4 Director

District 5 Director

District 6 Director

District 7 Director- Absent

District 8 Director

Legal Counsel- Absent

DNR

MTA Membership- Absent

MTA Souvenirs Chair

MTA Raffle

NTA Director- Absent

FTA Director

MOHA - Absent

Education

Tanned Fur

MTA Magazine

MTA Website- Absent

Reports: Board of Director Minutes: Approval of the January 21, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.

District 8 motioned to approve the minutes; District 4 seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer Report: The treasurer provided the balance sheet and profit and Loss Statement for the organization as of February 28, 2022. Current general fund is \$49,723, legal defense fund \$58,273, education fund \$60,260 and other savings \$156,485.

District 4 motioned to approve the financial statements as presented, District 3 seconded; motion approved.

Banking Authorization update: Wells Fargo required the verbiage to the motion on the October minutes be updated to reflect exact names and titles on the bank account.

Treasurer will submit updated motion to Wells Fargo.

District 2 motioned to amend the October board of director minutes bank authorization motion; district 5 seconded; motion approved.

Membership Coordinators report- Beau & Jesse Vivant provided a report to President Fischer, new memberships and renewals are constantly coming in due to sign up on the online store. Currently there are 2361 members. They will be sending out renewal post cards to those who have lapsed. There was some mix up with the mailing list, if anyone doesn't receive their newsletter, please contact Beau & Jesse and they will look into your membership information and get it corrected ASAP.

Education –Shawn provided a report BOD Letter Today & Tomorrow: Shawn receives many calls from people not understanding trapping. He proposes that an informational brochure containing information regarding trapper education, tools of the trade, etc. be made and put on the website/made available to instructors and members to pass out so people can read through it to help them understand trapping better. Shawn has already started working on this this, any suggestions with information to be added contact Shawn.

Trapper Program under 16: since graduates of the Trapper Ed Program under sixteen are now receiving MTA JR memberships upon completion Shawn is requesting additional copies be sent to him for distribution along with certification cards and patches that the recipients receive.

District animal track kits are temporarily out of stock until this spring. Once available they will be dispersed. Go to acornnatralist.com for more information regarding these kits.

Tanned Fur Project – Tim Caven provided an update to the board. Things are going well except tannery costs will be up 25% and the time it takes to tan furs will be longer than normal right now. Donations have been good; there were some large donations from individuals. Teachers have showed interest in getting tanned fur. Tim explained that the big traveling plaque ends up back at his shop shortly after individuals receive it because they are worried about getting it back to him in time. Tim proposes that the recipient will get a smaller engraved plaque to keep and also still get their name engraved on the large traveling plaque. Then the large traveling plaque could become part of the MTA booth at shows. *District 5 motions to give a small plaque to the top producer of fur donations, with their name and year being engraved on the larger traveling plaque and the smaller plaque; district 8 seconded. Motion approved*

Sustaining Donor Program – President Fischer provided an update from Denise and Leon Windschitl. So far in 2022 patches have raised \$1400, past year patches purchased have raised \$400 and a \$5 donation was made. Money raised from 2022 patches will be donated to promotions and marketing of the MTA.

Souvenir Coordinator – Current inventory is at \$15,200. Almost half of inventory is hat pins and patches. An order has been placed for summer convention items. This coming week volunteer shirts and buttons will be ordered. This year's shirt will have a bobcat on it and at the MTA booth there will be a voting sheet for what animal to be put on next year's volunteer shirts.

Legal Counsel – Attorney Gary Leistico provided the following update to President Fischer. On behalf of the MTA Gary filed to intervene on the Lynx litigation, there's a motion hearing with court on March 9th, 2022. He will have more of an update after that hearing. They will be introducing several bills this session in the state senate on dog-proof traps within 50ft of water, changing the time on opening day and allowing a 24-hour trapping day for setting and tending traps. If any anti-trapping bills get a hearing Randy and him will notify the board of directors and deal with it accordingly.

DNR –Furbearer Specialist Jason Abraham provided a report. There are rumblings about bobcat/ fisher dates. It seems folks aren't as happy with the current dates; the DNR might be looking at changes for 2023 season. The DNR is looking forward to hearing from the MTA on otter limits to start working toward those changes. The committee met in late January to increase otter harvest, there's plenty of them around, it's just a matter of logistics to get limits changed. The DNR is looking at doing a public input survey in 2023. The survey will be sent out randomly to those who've purchased a trapping license.

MOHA –Randy Goldenman provided a report to President Fischer. There's not much going on trapping related with MOHA right now. Any active bills MOHA is active on right now are mainly where money is being allocated from.

NTA – Wayne Thompson provided a report to President Fischer. A circuit judge from California just relisted the wolf on the endangered species and soon after about 40 other states followed suit. Virginia defeated bill #HB725 that would've outlawed the use of steel leg hold traps. Colorado defeated bill #SB22-031 which would outlaw the hunting of bobcat and mountain lions. These wins are accredited to the teamwork of several groups including the NTA, FTA and Sportsman Alliance.

FTA – Dan provided an update. In the FTA magazine there is information about a bank account that was set up to help fund the New Mexico legal battle, 100% of that money goes to help fight the lawsuit in New Mexico. The lawsuit approved no trapping on public grounds except Native Americans. 2022 convention in Lawrence, Kansas June 16-18. 2023 convention in Wisconsin dates to be determined.

Education Raffle –Tom Boser updated the board on the 2022 raffle, he's received many calls for more tickets to sell, there's potential to be close to last year in sales. Still tying up a few loose ends with the 2021 raffle winners. If you have a change of address, please be sure to update that with the membership coordinators, Tom has received a large amount of returned mail due to change of address.

Legal Defense Fund Banquet– Dale Jindra provided an update. The banquet did better than last year; it netted \$24,590. In 2018 there were 110 attendants with an average \$128/person; 2019-127 attendants averaged \$193/person; 2020-140

attendants, averaged \$221/person; 2021-116 attendants, averaged \$259/person; and 2022-126 attendants, averaged \$274/person. Next year's banquet will be January 14th, 2023, at the Brainerd American legion, ticket prices will be raised \$10 due to the increase in meal costs, \$60 for a single and \$100 for a couple. Districts are starting to donate more than when Dale first took over the banquet, this helps immensely on keeping our costs down for the organization. Any donations for the 2023 banquet please contact Dale.

Fundraising Committee – President Fischer provided an update. 300 out of the 350 calendars produced have been sold. Antique trappers have ordered the calendars from other states. 2023 calendars are in the works. Trapper 99 club kicked off in January, there are 12 currently signed up, all proceeds go to the MTA general fund. The first 99 to sign up get to be a part of the club, participation is \$100. Recognition will be posted in the newsletter.

Summer Convention 2022 – August 4-6, 2022 at the Wadena County fairgrounds. List of hotels and extra camping will be listed on Facebook, website and in the magazine. They're working on a list of food vendors and the last few things to be organized are golf carts, entertainment, and Friday night supper. It's been suggested for the awards for contests during convention to do medals instead of plaques. All demos will be under a roofed area.

Old Business – none. **New Business** –

It's been suggested to approach someone to be our official photographer for MTA events. Further discussion will take place before anyone is approached. The board suggested having a group of people who coordinate between themselves who will be at what event. Any suggestions on this email Brian Fischer.

Alexandria Youth Outdoor Activity Day: last Sunday of August every year, has been happening for 7 years. NTA puts together a goodie bag to pass out to youth \$6 per bag. Volunteers needed for the event please reach out to Don McGaffey if you can help.

District 3 motions to donate \$5000 from education to the Alexandria Youth Outdoor Activity Day August 28, 2022; district 4 seconded. Motion approved

District 3 motions to purchase 500 bags for \$3250 from the NTA for the Alexandria Youth Outdoor Activity Day August 28, 2022, pending Grant approval from the NTA; district 2 seconded. Motion approved.

Convention 2023 Proposal: district 5 proposes convention to be at Kandiyohi County fairgrounds near Willmar, MN. It will cost \$2000 to rent the fairgrounds; there are many options for food vendors, showers onsite, and large amount of buildings for our use. The fairground has concern about 50amp usage on campers. It's suggested to charge more for campers that need the 50-amp power.

Vice president Highland motions to have district 5 hosts the 2023 convention in Willmar MN on August 3-5, 2023; district 3 seconded. Motion approved.

MTA sound System: looking for some type of system the MTA can buy to use at conventions and any other events where it's needed.

Minnesota Sharp tailed grouse society: looking for the MTA to sponsor a shooting station at their spring fling and double gun shoot on April 30, 2022

District 8 motions to sponsor a shooting station at the Spring Fling April 30th, 2022; district 1 seconded. Motion approved.

Duluth Sportsman show sold 1300 raffle tickets, 4583 in tanned fur and sold 5 new memberships.

The need for volunteers to help provide a survey to vendors at the convention was brought to the board's attention. Andy Shoemaker and Bill Alders volunteered to join Bert and Brian on the committee.

Reminders : **Minnesota Deer & Turkey Classic** March 11-13

May 1st deadline for Newsletter

Next board meeting August 4th, 2022, 6pm

General meeting August 6th, 2022, 3pm

Game Fair Aug. 12-14 & Aug 19-21

August 28th **youth activity day in Alexandria, MN**, Need volunteers

Adjourn

District 8 motioned to adjourn. District 4 seconded; motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Katelyn Jindra, Secretary