



PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

ORGANIZED 1975

Dedicated to the Conservation of the Wild Turkey and
Preservation of the Turkey Hunting Tradition

Pa. Chapter NWTF home page www.panwtf.com E-mail: panwtf@go2pa.com

ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS

The Executive Board meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn in State College on Friday, August 3, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

The regular State Board of Directors meeting will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ramada Inn in State College.

The State Chapter's President meeting will be held on Sunday, August 5, 2007 at the Ramada Inn in State College at 9:00 a.m.

Pennsylvania State Chapter NWTF Board of Directors Meeting Centre County Solid Waste Authority June 2, 2007

Director's Present: D. Burdge, G. Alwine, R. Henry, P. Ferrare, J. Panaro, G. Beatty, D. O'Brien, D. Butler, T. Bunty, J. Drolet, E. Couch, F. Shields, J. Pries, G. Huff, S. Motts, D. Heckman, and B. Schmid

Director's Absent: R. Johnson, B. Mackereth G. Caldwell, K. Fernberg

Guests: John Dunn, PA Game Commission

The June 2, 2007 Board Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman of the Board, Dave Burdge. After the Welcome, Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and reviewing of the ground rules, Chairman Burdge asked for the Officer Reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: Gene Alwine had a written report.

Vice – President: Jon Pries had no written report.

Secretary's Report: Rhonda Henry had a written report. There were a few corrections to the last meeting minutes. **They are as follows:**

- **1st Correction:** On page 3 under the Senior Field Supervisor – Larry Holjencin's report. The award Local #1 received was the first year this award was given out.
- **2nd Correction:** On page 4 under Regional Director – Carl Mowry's report. On the calling contest section it should be Matt Van Crise.
- **3rd Correction:** On page 22 under Report Card. It should read 5 – 6 topics and not 5 – 6 people.

Motion made by Don O'Brien to accept the minutes, second by Phil Ferrare as amended. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Panaro had a written report.

Motion made by Don Heckman to accept the treasurer's report, second by Skip Motts. Motion carried.

Chairman of the Board: Dave Burdge had a written report.

NWTF REPORTS

Senior Regional Director: Larry Holjencin had a written report.

Leadership Conference: Sunday, August 5, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. will be the President's meeting at the Ramada Inn in State College. August 4 after the Board of Directors meeting we will be going to the Tyrone Sportsmen's Association for the Barbeque, trap shooting, and sales representative from Beretta will be there with a bunch of guns.

Letters will be going out to all chapter presidents in the next week or so.

One Team/One Voice Leadership Conference: This event will be held on June 29 – 30, 2007 at Edgefield. We have 25 volunteers attending from Pennsylvania. Rooming lists have been completed. Letters will be going out next week with more information to the attendees.

Conservation Seed: Larry is reporting for Reed on this. Two loads of corn was distributed in Western Pennsylvania. Eight pallets are left. Reed would like to get it out of storage. One load of alfalfa and 1 load of wheat are coming in August.

Dale Butler stated he has 1 pallet of corn left and Jersey Shore has 13 pallets of seed left.

JAKES Gun Raffle: Bob's Army and Navy has been contacted. We will be having 40 guns again. Letter will go out to the chapter presidents in the next few weeks. We will distribute the tickets at the President's Meeting on August 5, 2007.

3rd Annual Millcreek Chapter Guns and Hunt Fundraiser: This fundraiser will benefit the Wheelin' Sportsman Program. The event will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2007. Ten hunts so far, box calls by Dale Rohm, Scott Bashore, and Mike Lapp, as well as other NWTF items. The cost is \$20.00 per ticket which includes meal/drink, chance on 2 guns. Larry has some flyers for anyone who is interested.

Regional Director: Carl Mowry had a written report.

85 Chapters in PA: The latest edition being one that Ray started up – the Bucks County Double Beards Chapter in Plumsteadville, Pennsylvania.

We still have over 20 chapter banquets that will be happening this summer and fall, if you would like attend one of the banquets, please see Larry, Ray, or myself.

Wheelin' Sportsmen Fundraisers: We have a Hunt Auction in Bookville in June, a gun bash at Bass Pro in Harrisburg with the Micheax Chapter on July 19, 2007, and others happening across the state.

Adopt – A – Unit Program: Originally when the Pennsylvania Chapter agreed to fund the program the money was going to be used for helping out with memberships for the program. Since then there has been some changes to the program and we are currently looking at how to fund it without using any superfund money for the memberships. The amount (\$10,000) that Pennsylvania pledged will remain in the Pennsylvania Superfund to be used for chapter projects that the chapter feels are important. Carl Brown and the NWTF would like to thank the Pennsylvania Chapter for supporting this program.

Regional Director: Ray Smith was not at the meeting, however, he had a written report and Carl Mowry gave the report for Ray.

New Chapter: There are 2 new chapters in the East – The “Southern End Strutters” in Quarryville-Southern Lancaster and their banquet date is June 8. the other new chapter is the “Buck County Double Beards” in Plumsteadville – Northern Bucks County and their

banquet is July 15. If anybody would have an interest in attending either of these banquets, please let me know.

Diamond Life Dinner: On June 11 we will be conducting Pennsylvania's first Diamond Life Dinner. Things are really shaping up with verbal commitments to date. If anyone knows a candidate that would be interested in attending, please contact me.

National Women in the Outdoors Coordinator: Tammy Mowry had a written report. She has 3 events going on at this time. .

Things are continuing to move right along for the events.

Our One Team One Voice volunteer leadership meeting will be occurring at the end of the June. This will be a great event with our volunteers going down to Headquarters to have a lot of fun and a great learning experience.

I've included a list of events that occurring through September. They are as follows:

June 16, 2007

Jerry Zimmermand Memorial Chapter and Walking Purchase Chapter
Katrina Skrapits: (610) 760-1689, kskrap@ptd.net
Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club, New Tripoli (Lehigh County)

Nittany Valley Longbeards Chapter
Margie Ross:(814) 349-5041
Lisa Luse: (814) 349-7292, imlijal44@aol.com
Spring Mills Fish and Game, Spring Mills (Centre County)

Sherman Valley Strutters Chapter
Judy Bitting: (717) 834-5908, judybitting@hotmail.com
Duncannon Sportsmen's Association, Duncannon (Perry County)

June 23, 2007

Wilhelm Chapter
Annette (Sis) Tobin: (814) 734-1691, lattobin@peoplepc.com
Meg LeSuer: (814) 734-5029
Lake Edinboro Sportsman League, Edinboro (Crawford County)

Keystone Sportsmen's Club Women in the Outdoors
Tammy Parks (724) 354-3595, tspjat@icubed.com
Keystone Sportsmen's Club, Creekside (Armstrong County)

June 23 – 24, 2007

Michaex Yellow Breeches Chapter and Bass Pro Shop

Shyla Rakers: (717) 448-3517, shylaspm@pa.net

Brenda Gossard: (717) 791-0835, bgossard@hotmail.com

Carol DeCosta: (717) 657-8906

Bass Pro Shop and Mechanicsburg Sportsmen's Club, Harrisburg & Mechanicsburg
(Dauphin/Cumberland County)

July 14, 2007

Moraine Chapter

Tammy Mowry: (724) 284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net

Butler City Hunting & Fishing Club, East Butler (Butler County)

July 21, 2007

Mason Dixon Chapter

Missy Rohrbaugh (717) 225-3549

Izzak Walton League, Dallastown, (York County)

August 3 – 4, 2007

Muncy Creek Chapter

Clare McWilliams: (570) 323-7947, hurwitzbatteriescqm@verizon.net

Nancy Craft: (570) 482-4364, rockrun@dishmail.net

Theresa Sheets: (814) 625-2413, tsheets329@chilitech.net

North Mountain Sportsman Club, Muncy Valley (Sullivan County)

August 4, 2007

Lower Bucks Longbeards Chapter

Dawn Secrest: (267) 253-9002, girlshunt2@comcast.net

Langhorne Rod & GunClub, Southhampton (Bucks County)

Allegheny Mountain, Terrace Mountain, and Tussey Mountain Chapters

Jackie Couch, (814) 667-2308, jkkcouch@aol.com

Amy Wertz: (814) 93-2123, apwertz@cs.com

Bonnie Wentz (814) 766-3769, jacinc@cove.net

Canoe Creek State Park, Hollidaysburg (Blair County)

August 11, 2007

Mt. Pisgah State Park

Nicole Carman: (570) 297-2734, nicolecarman@yahoo.com

Mt. Pisgah State Park, Troy (Bradford County)

August 18, 2007

Ten Mile Valley Chapter

Roxane Palone: (724) 324-2753, roxane@greenepa.net

Michelle Benedict: (724) 938-7233, michbndct@yahoo.com

Roscoe Sportsman's Association, Roscoe (Washington County)

August 24 – 26, 2007

Adams County Longbeards Chapter and Carlisle YMCA

Tammy Mowry: (724) 284-9201, tammynwtf@zoominternet.net

Bonnie Berk: (712) 243-2525, ext. 222, bonnieberk@comcast.net

Camp Thompson YMCA Camp, Gardners, PA (Adams County)

August 25, 2007

Shippensburg Strutters Chapter

Janelle Hippensteel: (717) 776-4055, hippnellie@aol.com

Shippensburg Fish and Game Association, Shippensburg (Cumberland County)

Bald Eagle Longbeards Chapter

Mary Probst: (570) 748-3339

Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association, Hyner (Clinton County)

September 14 -15, 2007

Whitehorse Mountain Longbeards Chapter

Rhonda Henry: (814) 443-6241, rhondapa@hotmail.com

Frank T. Soles YMCA Camp, Rockwood (Somerset County)

Northeast Regional Biologist: Bob Eriksen had a written report.

Meetings and Presentations:

- Attended the Delaware Chapter Board of Director's meeting.
- Attended a meeting for the New Jersey NRCS Technical Committee.
- Represented NWTF at the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Connecticut.
- Represented the PA Chapter at a meeting of the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners in support of opening county park property to hunting and other recreational uses.
- Met with Representative Ed Stayback and members of the Northern Counties Full Fans and Red Rock Chapters to discuss legislation including hunting license increases, all day spring hunting, Sunday hunting, the use of dogs in fall turkey season and other issues.

- Presented seven “Wild Turkey 101” presentations to high school students in Clearfield and Elk Counties.
- Presented a power point called “Catching Critters” a Lopatcong Elementary School in New Jersey.
- Attended New Jersey Chapter Board of Directors meeting.

Writing Projects:

- Prepared three articles for the spring issue of “PA Turkey Talk”.
- Wrote an article on the gobbler banding study for “PA Outdoor Times”.
- Prepared an orange information packet for the chapter presidents.
- Wrote a letter to legislators in New Jersey encouraging them to provide the authority for the Division of Fish and Wildlife to control feral cats and other undesirable non-native invasive species.

Super Fund Projects:

- Reviewed and send out 125 Super Fund requests for Pennsylvania, 5 for New Jersey, 3 for Delaware, and 2 for Maryland.

Wild Turkey Woodlands:

- Held a landowner field day at the Pennsylvania Power and Light Montour Preserve in late March. The field days was planned in cooperation with the Game Commission, Bureau of Forestry, NRCS, and Pheasants Forever. Nearly seventy people attended the all day event.

New Tips and Information Requests:

- Prepared news tips and legislative alerts on Wheelin’ events held by the Terrace Mountain Chapter in Pennsylvania and the Spruce Run Chapter in New Jersey.
- Prepared a news tip for the Communications Department on the gobbler banding project.
- Wrote legislative alerts regarding legislation in Pennsylvania aimed at reinforcing the limitations on landowner liability when hunting is allowed on their property and another requesting that hunters and anglers contact New Jersey legislators about funding for the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund.

Operation Oak:

- Received and distributed 10,000 trees to landowners in Pennsylvania.

Information Requests:

- Handled 43 information requests; 28 from Pennsylvania, 9 from New Jersey, 3 from Maryland, and 1 each from Delaware, Wisconsin, and New York. Requests

- were mostly from hunters and ranged from questions about gobbler behavior to habitat management.
- Provided on-site consultation to 2 Pennsylvania landowners on habitat improvement techniques.

NWTF Technical Committee: Mary Jo Caselena had a written report.

Harvest Management

The preliminary 2006 fall turkey harvest was 21,500 (see table). That compares with 23,321 in 2005; 25,868 in 2004; and 27,400 in 2003. Fall harvests haven't been as substantial as spring harvests, partly by management design (shorter seasons) and largely because fewer people are hunting in the fall. In 2005 – the latest year for which data is available – turkey hunters recorded more hunter-days afield in the spring, about 1,038,000 than in the fall about 685,000. The number of turkey hunters afield in the spring was about 20 percent higher than in the fall, which has seen a slide in participation over the past decade.

Harvest report cards received to May 30, 2007 for the spring 2007 turkey season are 7% below the previous 3-year average for the same time period. We continue to receive report cards until the 4th Wednesday after the close of the season (June 20th this year), at which time we will make our final count. The harvest began somewhat slowly, and has rebounded during the second half of the season, possibly due to the cold weather during mid-April which may have delayed some nesting. Half-way through the season report cards were 16% below the previous 3-year average.

There were 7,582 Special Spring Turkey Licenses sold compared to 8,041 in 2006. As of May 30th we received 1,079 reports from special licenses (491 kills, 138 no kills, 450 to be entered), compared to only 400 reports (all kills) last year. The mandatory reporting is beginning to catch on.

Wild Turkey Management Plan Revision

Submitted an article regarding the revised wild turkey management plan to PA Turkey Talk Newsletter for the summer issue. Bob Eriksen and I completed the Turkey Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) section for the PGC website and submitted the package to the Bureau of I & E, as per management plan Information and Education Objective strategy 3.4. The 94 questions are arranged into 10 different sections ranging from turkey biology to turkey hunting to turkey oddities.

Wild Turkey Spring Harvest Rates and Annual Survival Rates Study

Turkey trapping and leg banding concluded at the end of March for this winter as part of this study, with 995 gobblers banded across the 3 states (NY – 382, PA – 334, OH – 279).

There are two more winters of leg banding. The Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State maintains the toll-free number for reporting for leg band returns.

As of May 23rd, 108 leg-banded gobblers have been reported within PA, 8 of which were found dead (5 banded in 2006 and 3 banded in 2007) and 100 were harvested. Fifty-four of the 108 were reward band birds. Of the harvested birds, 30 were banded in 2006 and 70 were banded in 2007. Of the reward-banded turkeys, 37 were banded this year and 17 were banded in 2006. Distance traveled from banding to harvest location will be analyzed. Thus far we know of 3 turkeys banded as jakes in 2006 traveled about 10 miles from the capture location. Conversely, one turkey banded as a jake in 2006 traveled on 1.5 miles from the capture location.

In Ohio, 103 leg-banded gobblers have been reported, two of which were found dead and the other 101 were harvested, 59 of which were reward-banded turkeys. Ohio researchers attached transmitters to 70 gobblers this winter, 24 of which were harvested and one additional transmitted gobbler was found dead. Eighteen of the 101 harvested gobblers were banded in 2006.

In NY, 105 leg-banded gobblers have been reported, 8 of which were found dead and 97 were harvested. Thirty-four of the harvested gobblers were banded in 2006 and 63 were banded this year. Forty-nine of the 105 were reward-banded turkeys.

Micheaux State Forest Summer Sighting Surveys

Thanks to a well-established cooperative effort among the PGC, DCNR, Bureau of Forestry (BOF), and volunteers from the National Wild Turkey Federation, the tenth year of weekly Summer Sighting Surveys on the Michaux State Forest will be conducted to provide an additional index to turkey population trends besides our harvest and hunting success trend date for WMU 5A. This is the area of the turkey radio-telemetry study where we investigated the causes of the suppressed wild turkey population and closed the fall season in 2003 to aid in population recovery. Six routes (approximately 30 miles each) are conducted from June through August. Additionally, since 2002, Bureau of Forestry staff record on a daily basis, all turkeys they see and miles driven, to get an index of turkeys seen per mile driven and productivity (poults/hen), as additionally indices of the turkey population.

Preliminary Pennsylvania 2006 Fall Wild Turkey Harvests

WMU	Calculated Harvest	Harvest per Square Mile	Percent State Harvest
1A	864	0.47	4.0%
1B	1,355	0.64	6.3%
2A	805	0.44	3.7%
2B	726	0.53	3.4%
2C	1,362	0.44	6.3%
2D	1,504	0.60	7.0%

2E	797	0.63	3.7%
2F	775	0.32	3.6%
2G	1,965	0.48	9.1%
3A	797	0.53	3.7%
3B	1,358	0.60	6.3%
3C	1,070	0.50	5.0%
3D	939	0.43	4.4%
4A	1,227	0.71	5.7%
4B	1,231	0.78	5.7%
4C	1,160	0.64	5.4%
4D	1,695	0.62	7.9%
4E	1,531	0.88	7.1%
5A	--	0.00	0.0%
5B	--	0.00	0.0%
5C	266	0.12	1.2%
5D	19	0.02	0.1%
Unknown	52	--	0.2%
TOTAL	21,500	0.47	100%

Don Heckman stated he has no questions with regard to the Wild Turkey Management Plan.

Discussion

Don Heckman had a few questions for Mary Jo. At what point will the PGC start looking into the hen study or at the feasibility (can they do it)? Mary Jo stated in 2008.

When will the Wild Turkey Population Model be completed? Since we funded \$15,000.00? Mary Jo stated hopefully it will be done by the October Board Meeting.

Wheelin’ Sportsmen Coordinator: Jim O’Brien – Jim was unable to attend, however, he had a written report.

Event that have taken place in Pennsylvania in the last couple of months where:

- Cabin Fever Sporting Clays Shoot Benefit
- Night at the Races Benefit
- Northwestern Human Services Autism School Field Day
- Western PA School for the Deaf Fishing Event (with help from the North Boro’s NWTF Chapter and Carl Mowry)
- Northwestern Human Services Autism School Fishing Event in Ligonier
- PNC Park Disability Awareness Game

Upcoming Events in Pennsylvania are:

- June 16, 2007 - Autism Awareness Night at PNC Park
- June 21, 2007 – Fishing Event with assisted Living Facility in Greensburg at Twin Lakes

Jim is also working on scheduling a couple fishing events with Autism Link and also in conjunction with Wounded Warriors.

Jim would like to thank the Pennsylvania State Chapter for sponsorships of his Night at the Races and his benefit shoot.

Jim forwarded a check to Jim Panaro in the amount of \$500 from the New York State Chapter as a contribution toward the trailer.

Again this year, we were awarded a grant from the Pennsylvania Fish Commission in the amount of \$4,000, so any chapters interested in hosting a fishing event are to please contact Jim O'Brien.

If any chapter or PA NWTF member has access to any land or private waters where he could do a fishing or a hunting event, please contact him for information on how to make it happen.

NWTF Board Member: Ron Fretts did not attend the meeting and had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YHEC Report: No Report.

JAKES/EXTREMEAKES/JAKES GUN RAFFLE: No Report.

PA Chapter NWTF/JAKES Fund Report

Checkbook Balance (6/2/2007) **\$8,253.26**

Directors Handbook: No report.

Homepage/Internet Committee: Joe Drolet gave a verbal report. Has started to move over to the new website. Any interested party that would be interested can go over and look at www.panwtf.org. The new website is there and if you have any comments please contact Joe Drolet by email. If no one contacts him the committee will continue to move forward with the new website.

Safety and Education Committee: No report.

JAKES 1st Bird Awards: No report.

Paper Supplies: No report.

Expos/Shows/Conferences Committee: No report.

Information/Education Seminars: No report.

Nominating Committee: No report.

POWA Contact: No report.

Art/Promotion Committee: Gary Beatty gave an up-date. Fuzzy Shields graciously agreed to take the stuff to his house and do the mail orders that come in. The rest of the committee is going to help with setting up a booth during the August and January meeting.

Any one that has ideas for a promo item please see one of the committee.

Habitat Committee/Seed Committee: No report.

Calling Contest: No Report.

Dart System Committee: Tom Bunty had a written report.

The second system is here and has been used pretty often. Twenty-five events total on the calendar website.

With the new system we got 2 new small screens. One to replace the current one which was too big and one for the second unit. Screen on original (East) unit was replaced with smaller unit.

We've approved and bought two new guns a 410 and another Marlin, which are with the original system (East). So the East system will have 3 guns with it and the West system will have 4 guns. Second gun case for the West, I donated a slightly used case.

I've check with Dart about the Shut-down/Freeze-up problem. They are attempting to port that software to Windows XP, but having driver issues for some of the older style boards.

On the old Dart system tent, Tom offered it to Bob Ericksen for his use and he will be checking it out to see if it will work for him.

Super Fund Budget: No Report.

Rendezvous Committee: No Report.

Legislative Committee: Don Heckman gave a verbal report.

Don got onto Federation of Sportsman's Clubs website for game bills that are being tracked and firearms bills that are being tracked under legislation. There are 46 game bills and 46 firearms bills.

The ones that we need to be looking at right now, although we have discussed the first one HB13 – Landowner Liability.

- **HB13** – Landowner Liability. Please contact your State Senator ASAP and ask that they support this bill as written, no amendments.
- **SB580** – Turkey Dogs – Passed the senate now in the House.
- **HB863** – Legislation that would move spring gobbler season length from noon to 5:00 p.m.

The Board agrees to not support legislation setting seasons and bags limits. That it is strictly a Pennsylvania Game Commission title 58 regulation.

There are 46 bills out there and 35 are anti-gun, anti-NRA, anti-second amendment, and anti-protection. That is what we are dealing with and Philadelphia has the power to move those bills.

The 2 firearms bills that we are watching and pushing are:

- **HB641** – Castle Doctrine : Self-protection outside of your house. Pro-gun, pro-protection, and pro-second amendment rights.
- **HB1292**- Concealed Carry in State Parks. You would still have to have your concealed permit. As of right now you cannot carry concealed in State Parks.

HB641: The Castle Doctrine (this bill is pro gun) – We tried to get this bill passed last year and it died. This is with a Republican House and Senate. This bill has again been introduced in the House, which are Democrats, which further defines self-defense. This bill will be going to the Judiciary Committee and if it comes out of committee we will let everyone know so we can start tracking it.

Federation of Sportsmen’s Club: No Report .

Turkey Management Plan Committee: No report.

Publications/“Turkey Talk” Committee: No report.

Orange Committee: Phil Ferrare gave a verbal report.

This week the committee mailed out to all the local chapter presidents a cover letter along with a letter that each chapter president can send to the PA Game Commissioners. We also sent a basic letter that can be handed out to other individuals so they can send letters to the PA Game Commissioners.

Phil is going to send the all the letters we sent out to Joe Drolet to put on the website.

Public Relations Committee: No report.

Awards Committee: No report.

By-Laws Committee: No report.

Upper Gun Raffle: At this time, we have approximately \$15,400. Jim will have the exact figure at the next meeting. The expenses with the guns and framing costs were about \$9,141.48.

Any checks and tickets that are at Jon's house when he gets home, he will contact those people and let them know they didn't make the drawing and find out how they want the money handled, such as a donation or if he needs to return the checks or tear them up – whatever the individuals want to do when he contacts them.

Communications

We received numerous communications which are posted.

Old Business

Agenda for the PA Game Commission: The executive committee will meet at lunch to put together the agenda for the Game Commission meeting.

Report Card: Jim had done the original at the January Board Meeting. There were approximately 6 sections at that time. Tried to get it into the last Turkey Talk, at which time Walt Young stated he didn't understand the information and didn't feel the average reader would understand it either. No matter what we do, we definitely need to make sure there is cover letter explaining this report card.

We will work on this chart and try to make it more user friendly and present it at the Chapter President's meeting to get feedback from the members. After that meeting, we will then take the suggestions back and put them into the report card and hopefully have it ready to go into PA Turkey Talk by the September 1 deadline.

SB580 – Turkey Dogs – We discussed the status of the bill and what the PA State Chapter Board will support in our motion. The Senate approved said bill, SB580, as written, no amendments, 49 to 1, so it now has moved over to the House and has been assigned to the House Game and Fisheries Committee. The House Game and Fisheries Committee will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 and that is a topic.

This is one of the bills that they will address. They will either report out of the committee or they will keep it in the committee from that public meeting.

Don found out within the last couple of weeks that the way SB580 is written, this bill does not allow the PGC to look at any kind of possible regulation, whatever that might mean under Title 58. Don was unsure if someone would introduce an amendment at the public meeting to change the wording, they would certainly have that option. That is the status at this time.

The bottom line, as Don believes it, would be that if that bill would get reported out of committee, goes to the full House for a vote and if they vote in favor of the bill without any amendments it will then go to the Governor's desk and he will be asked to sign that bill. If he signs that bill under Title 34 it changes the Game Law Code. There is nothing in that bill to allow the PGC to look at Title 58 – Regulation.

Which means that any dog, sporting, non-sporting, hunting, non-hunting, would be legal for anyone hunting fall turkey.

Hunting License Increase: There is no support for this increase in the House or Senate, however, the Senate seems to be our best avenue to a hunting license bill prepared and have it introduced. The Pennsylvania Sportsman Coalition, along with Joe Neville, are trying to figure out the ways and means of getting something introduced this fall. Budget is top priority along with a few other bills they are working on until the end of June. July and August is their recess, they will come back in mid to late September, that will be the time to find a Senator to ask for a hunting license increase to be introduced.

Turkey Hunting License: As part of that hunting license increase, again we come back to that table with a turkey hunting license as part of the package. Again we are going to ask for the Coalition and the Legislators to support a \$5.00 resident and \$20.00 non-resident turkey hunting license to be included in the hunting license increase package when it gets written as a bill.

Alternate Funding: Several other avenues that are being explored right now, alternative funding being one of them. Possibility we are looking at a figure of \$15 million. Breakdown would possibly be \$10 million for PGC, \$5 million for Fish and Boat, as alternative funding from the Pennsylvania State Sales Tax. We are looking at approximately 1/16 of 1% of the state sales tax. We know that the sales tax funds of 6% that we use today is already allocated. We also know that the budgetary process is looking at raising the PA Sales Tax to 7% which is a 1% increase possibly. Possibly under that 1% increase we have a Financial Chairman of the House that would be willing to go to bat for us, David Lavansky.

Possibly there is a chance they will consider a line item in that budget. Possibility that something might be accomplished through alternate funding. Question that is going around the Sportsmen's Coalition Organizations that are asking for alternative funding

considerations and the boards, not necessarily the membership, is “Are you all (the boards) supporting game and fish revenue coming from other sources besides what both organizations say. They receive no state tax money”. That is a huge statement. That is a huge mountain to climb. Maybe it is time that the PGC look at alternative funding seriously. Alternative funding meaning money being used out of that sales tax. We will hopefully have more information by the August meeting.

New Business

PA Sportsman’s Coalitions request to sign on to a letter authorized by the PA Sportsman’s Coalition, which is now 14 conservation and environmental organizations for the Whitetail Deer Audit - Don sent this letter around to the Executive Board Committee and the Executive Committee signed off on this as Don was under a fairly restricted time line because we had to have that letter done on Tuesday so they could take it to a House Game and Fisheries Committee Meeting on Wednesday. The deer audit letter is a letter that requests the legislators to not pass any deer management regulations in a legislative bill. It is a way to ask the legislators to get past this deer management hang-up concept they are under and allow the PGC to create a deer management presentation to be given to the deer hunters of Pennsylvania. It is called a Deer Management Audit and it is to work with the legislators to help them get by this impasse they are having for the hunting license increase.

The Sportsman’s Coalition offered a letter to the Executive Committee were we made a few changes, sent it around for approval to the Executive Committee. Don then sent the letter on to the appropriate people. The next day this letter was in front of every House Representative, every Senator, and the Governor’s office. Is this letter going to work, probably not, however through this letter we are on record, as hunters and trappers, as supporting wildlife management, supporting habitat and land management, as being sound scientific wildlife management based.

PGC Commissioner: Jay Delany from District 7 is the new appointed PGC Commissioner and he will be seated at the June 25 - 26 Game Commission meeting.

This Game Commission Meeting will be a first ever event in the 112 year history of the PGC for a trial of a disposed Game Commission President.

Ned Smith Center: Don Heckman brought to the board about paying our membership to the Ned Smith Center.

Motion made by Don Heckman that the PA Chapter of NWTF join the Ned Smith Center of Nature and Art for a 1 year subscription in the amount of \$50.00, which would be a sustaining membership. Don’ O’Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jerry Zimmerman Habitat Project: Don walked up to the Jerry Zimmerman Habitat Project. The Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Sign is there at the food plot. The plot is a little dry – we need some rain. But the sign is in place.

Telling the Story: We still are having a problem communicating to turkey hunters. We have done one-half of a news release since September 1, 2006. The PA NWTF has done a lot of things this year.

There are 3 ways of getting our story out:

- News Releases
- Turkey Talk Articles
- One on One

What can we do as a Board to correct the mistakes of the past in this organization so that we can communicate better to turkey hunters and the general public, through a better mechanism of news releases, articles, and communication for turkey hunters?

We need to get people to write these articles and get them to Bob Kasen, who can then get them to the outdoor writers. We need to get the Chapter President's on board with this also. Bob Kasen has the avenue to get these news releases out to the outdoor writers.

Joe Drolet will be sending the Chapter President's email addresses out to Bob Kasen to be used to send out news releases.

Dart Systems: Should we have one of the dart system units at the President's Meeting in August so we can show how it is set-up to anyone who is interested? We could possibly do it during the trap shoot on Saturday evening. We will have a system at the event.

For the Good of the Order

- Larry stated that on May 5, he got a phone call from Audrey Zimmerman. That morning Audrey had her granddaughter, Colleen, out turkey hunting at Jerry's old camp. Audrey called a longbeard in and Colleen shot it at 21 steps. Audrey will be writing an article in the PA Tukey Talk.
- Michaux Yellow Breeches, the Wheelin' Sportsmen, and the Army Wounded Warrior Program ran a turkey hunt for 2 wounded Iraqian war veterans. Randy Raker, the new Michaux Yellow Breeches President, put the program together and worked with the Walter Reed Hospital. He pulled this event off in 3 weeks, from start to finish.

- **Drawing for the Upper Level Gun Raffle:**

1. Tim McGinnis – Latrobe
2. S. R. Stout – Mifflinville
3. Jane Pasdon – Sugar Loaf
4. Jay Hoy – Carlisle
5. Randy Barr – Hegins

Motion made by Fuzzy Shields for the PA NWTF State Board of Directors meeting to adjourn. Tom Bunty seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Henry
PA State Chapter Secretary