

MINNESOTA TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 2, 2010 at Minneapolis Gun Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Draft – May 13, 2010

**Board members present:** Mark Zauhar, George Pappas, Jim Walkowiak, Steven Richards, Glen Lonneman, David Stearns, Perry Nodsle, Cindy Townsend, Mark Stevens, Ron Noren, Tom Sletta, Sally Stevens

**Absent:** Paul Cyr, Glenn Linden, Dave Smith, Darrel Terning

**Also present:** approximately 20 MTA members

Mark Zauhar called this special meeting of the MTA Board of Directors to order at 9:59am. A formal agenda was presented.

### **Review of Minutes from December 5, 2009**

Approval of meeting minutes dated December 5, 2009. Mark Zauhar reviewed the minutes in general as they had been previously approved and posted to the MTA website. During the reading of the minutes there were several points of discussion sharing new information. Sally stated that one typographical correction was required, changing the end of the voting time from Sunday 10pm to Sunday 10am. George Pappas moved the minutes approved with the one amendment; Glen Lonneman seconded. Carried unanimously. Sally Stevens clarified that the approval of the minutes applied to the actual minutes presented, not the added information during discussion.

### **State Team Qualification Proposal**

Mark Zauhar invited Bob Wiltse to present his proposal, requesting that all comments and suggestions from the floor be saved until after the full presentation. Mark Zauhar stated that board debate would begin after hearing all information. He also instructed those in attendance that questions would be dealt with first, then opinions, and reminded everyone to keep the conversation professional and appropriate.

Bob Wiltse handed out and then read aloud his and Jeff Hoppe's nineteen-point "Minnesota State Team Qualifications Requirement Proposal (revised)", (attached) to those in attendance. He noted that all costs incurred with the creation of his proposal were paid for personally. Bob also stated that several Minnesota four-trap club managers were under the assumption that 80-90 people were attending marathon shoots at Buffalo Gun Club (BGC), but that simply wasn't the case; at most 25-30 shooters attended a marathon. Bob Wiltse shared that he was acting as an advocate for clubs throwing marathon targets by sharing correct information with other clubs, and believed that marathon target events did not impact other MTA/ATA events throughout the year. He also stated that, in his proposal, both Buffalo Gun Club and Waseca would get 52 weekends a year to throw marathon targets.

Marathon targets do account for a lot of targets that get thrown in the state, however, and he felt that the competition factor of these targets vs "trophy tournament" targets made them easier. He stated that he and Jeff Hoppes believe that head-to-head competition, shoot-offs, carry-overs and trophies create more competitive environment than can be achieved during a marathon event.

Based on this belief, Bob Wiltse suggested that marathon targets--both in target-count and score--be excluded from use to determine MTA State Teams. He then concluded reading the Proposal. Bob Wiltse also noted that he had traveled to gun clubs over the winter and shared his and Jeff Hoppe's proposal, gathering support in writing from the nine (9) following gun club manager/owners: Alexandria Shooting Park, Del-Tone/Luth Gun Club, Metro Gun Club, Minneapolis Gun Club, Monticello Sportsman's Club, Owatonna Gun Club, Fairmont Gun Club, Worthington Gun Club, and Winona Gun Club. Sally Stevens requested that, in discussion of this issue, the name of the club be used instead of any individual names.

Mark Zauhar requested that questions on the proposal from the floor be taken, saving opinion for later. Many questions revolved around clarifications of the 19-point proposal, including prizes restrictions, who would be responsible for choosing shoot dates, how the State Team would be determined, a reduction of number of targets required for men, and which shoots (state and national) would qualify for inclusion in Minnesota State Team consideration. Neil Winston asked Rich Ronning if this board could implement any rule that could not be modified until 2020; Rich Ronning's response was that any future board action could make whatever changes it thinks advisable. Neil Winston also asked if the marathons scheduled by BGC and Waseca would appear as they do now in the wall chart and pocket cards; Jim Walkowiak replied that they will look exactly as they do now.

Mark Zauhar opened up floor discussion regarding the proposal. Keith Koosman commented that the elimination of marathon targets would increase costs to Minnesota shooters, especially those unable to travel outside the state. Steve Schmidt stated that shoot-off specifics should be left off the proposal as that was club prerogative; Mark Zauhar agreed and stated you mostly only see shoot-offs at big shoots. When Bob Amey queried if there were State Team members included or missing, Dennis Steinhaus answered that this was all about one MTA shooter. Sally Stevens cut off his comments when they turned inappropriate and Mark Zauhar reiterated that personal comments do not belong in this discussion and are unnecessary. Ray Steffenson stated that he believed All American Team members should automatically be on the State Team, regardless of team requirements. Rich Ronning felt the board should consider defining the term 'asterisk shoot' as any event with a cap on the maximum of 400 targets then. He also suggested that clarification of national tournaments be changed to Grand and all ATA Satellite Shoots and other state tournaments. Steve Schmidt stated that any changes implemented would have to be very specific about the details. Mark Zauhar asked if there were any further comments; hearing none he closed comments from the floor and turned the discussion to the board.

Cindy Townsend felt that an issue would arise with determining which shoots are marathons and which are not, especially out of state, as these are not differentiated in any way when submitted to the ATA. In addition, determining which out-of-state shoots would be included for determination on the MTA State Team is far from clear. George Pappas suggested that we may consider only including shoots that have All-American points. Mark Stevens commented that there would need to be more definition as to what constitutes a 'trophy' in an asterisk shoot. Cindy Townsend requested that this proposal also have a glossary of terminology attached. Sally Stevens shared that she felt this was two different components: 1) Shoot schedule and 2) state team requirements. In preparation for the meeting she contacted all ATA Secretaries by email and requested information on their state team requirements and their use of marathon targets on their State Teams. Sally Stevens also shared the percentage of the Men's State Team who shoot their targets out of state and expressed concern for the costs to less affluent shooters with this proposal. Bob Wiltse stated that, in his discussion with the nine clubs supporting the proposal,

each club said they would be willing to throw one more shoot each year. Discussion about the size and requirements of the state team continued.

Mark Zauhar suggested a board vote whether to continue discussion of this issue. George Pappas moved that the MTA Board of Directors have a discussion whether to continue using marathon targets for State Team averages; Jim Walkowiak seconded. Yeas: George Pappas, Steve Richards, Glen Lonneman, Jim Walkowiak, David Stearns, Cindy Townsend, Tom Sletta, Perry Nodsle, Mark Zauhar. Nays: Sally Stevens, Mark Stevens, Ron Noren. Carried.

Steve Richards moved that we do not accept marathon targets for average and/or target requirements for the Minnesota State Team for all Minnesota shooters; George Pappas seconded. Discussion: Mark Stevens stated that eliminating marathon targets for our youth shooters would negatively affect them. Glen Lonneman suggested that the MTA BOD come up with a proposal but that the final decision should be made by the membership at the State Shoot. Sally Stevens suggested that we should not be making this decision yet, and instead we should convene an *ad hoc* committee of board members as this proposal was brought from outside the current board of directors. Ron Noren stated that we shouldn't be changing rules based on just a couple of people, and that we haven't really had a good opportunity to test the requirements we already have in play. Yeas: George Pappas, Steve Richards, Jim Walkowiak, Tom Sletta, Glen Lonneman, Mark Zauhar. Nays: David Stearns, Perry Nodsle, Sally Stevens, Cindy Townsend, Mark Stevens, Ron Noren. Motion failed.

Glen Lonneman moved that the board form a committee of three people to work together and come up with a proposal for the board to look at the July meeting. Cindy Townsend seconded. Discussion: George Pappas suggested this information should be brought to the Zone Shoots too, which would require the work to be completed earlier. Mark Zauhar suggested Bob Wiltse should be committee chairman and Glen Lonneman and Cindy Townsend volunteered to help. Carried unanimously.

John Farrell suggested that the man who prepared the proposal should not be a member of the committee and suggested instead that only board members be voting members of the committee. Mark Zauhar proposed that Tom Sletta be included in the committee and that Bob Wiltse be invited but without vote; Jim Walkowiak seconded. Carried unanimously.

### **MTA Board of Directors Election 2010**

Bob Wiltse reviewed the candidates he has found for the upcoming 2010 Board of Directors Election. They are as follows:

President:	Glen Lonneman
Vice President:	Keith Koosman Bob Wiltse
Treasurer:	none at this time
Secretary:	Sally Stevens
ATA Delegate:	Ron Noren Mark Zauhar

ATA Alternate Delegate: George Pappas  
Scott Steffens  
Mark Stevens

Mark Zauhar thanked Bob Wiltse for working so diligently toward getting qualified candidates for the board of directors. He reiterated that it doesn't exclude anyone who would be nominated from the floor at the State Shoot meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Perry Nodsle moved that we accept this list of viable candidates and their names be put forward for election; Jim Walkowiak seconded. Carried unanimously.

Discussion revolved around the best way to disseminate information on the candidates to all MTA members. Mark Zauhar moved that biographies be mailed out to MTA shooters with 500 targets shot in 2009, post the biographies on the website and advertise their location in the State Program; Steve Richards seconded. Carried unanimously.

### **Trophy Director**

Mark Zauhar stated that the Trophy Director, Steve Richards who has worked so hard for six years, has done a remarkable job with the trophy position. Bob Wiltse read his proposal in detail (attached). No one on the board volunteered to take over the job starting in 2011. After discussion it was decided that all board members would try and recruit a trophy person. This individual does not have to be a board member but should have good computer skills, be willing to order trophies and work the State Shoot. Steve Richards is willing to work with the new trophy person and show them exactly what to do, as well as help out with the 2011 trophies including purchasing and setting up the spreadsheet.

### **Website**

Sally Stevens reported on the meeting she and Mark Stevens had with Ron Baker regarding his website, mn-trap.org. Mark Zauhar stated that the MTA board of directors needs to have complete control of the website. He talked specifically of an instance where leaving unapproved minutes on the website made him look bad and repeated requests to remove it were unheeded. George Pappas agreed that Ron Baker had done a lot of work but Ron needs to release total control of the website or we need to go elsewhere and have our own site.

Jim shared the bid for the individual who does the Pennsylvania website. The source of the material would have to come from a board member. The website would cost \$400 for the initial set-up, \$800/year for the upkeep of the site, and \$25/year for the domain name. Sally Stevens asked if the \$800/year included all changes, additions and entry, whether it was a few times monthly or a few times a week; Jim Walkowiak stated that it was all-inclusive and would be included in the contract. The total cost to the MTA would be under \$1500 and the vendor would like to see a two-year or less contract.

Sally Stevens proposed a dual website continuing to use Ron Baker's website for shoot dates, results, Hall of Fame and club information, and a second 'social' website she would provide which would include announcements, obituaries, promotions, etc. and would be updated by her. The cost would be \$9.95/month. Sally Stevens felt Ron Baker's website too valuable to let go

and that the two websites would link to each other, a way of building a bridge between the two entities rather than cut it out. She shared that his work is copyrighted and belongs to him.

Mark Zauhar stated that, while Ron Baker has not received any cash for the website management, he did receive free targets at the Minnesota State Shoot. Mark Zauhar felt the Pennsylvania website provided a more professional website. Glen Lonneman stated that, even if the MTA started a new website, it would probably still have two websites as Ron Baker may very well continue to run his own. Mark Zauhar felt we needed to have complete control over our own website and the board should come up with what we want presented. Mark Stevens stated that inappropriate submissions, such as nicknames for shooters, shouldn't be allowed. Mark Zauhar also commented that there are posts on trapshooters.com about this issue that reflect us very badly on us; Sally Stevens stated that there are also other posts on trapshooters.com that make us look bad. Glen Lonneman moved that we accept Jim Walkowiak's proposal for a new website; George seconded. Yeahs: Mark Zauhar, George Pappas, Jim Walkowiak, Steven Richards, Glen Lonneman, David Stearns, Perry Nodsle, Mark Stevens, Ron Noren, Tom Sletta. Nays: Cindy Townsend, Sally Stevens. Carried. Cindy Townsend wanted it noted that the reason she voted against the proposal is because the only way the MTA will have total control over a website is to do it in-house, as whomever is hired will have rules and stipulations as well.

Jim Walkowiak stated that he believed the website could be started immediately as the domain name is already in place. Mark Zauhar felt that we need to have a procedure for the funneling of information to the website provider. Jim Walkowiak will get a contract stating how data should be submitted and the board will reach a consensus via email. The board will have a week to comment. Mark Zauhar moved to follow this procedure; Jim seconded. Carried unanimously.

### **Minnesota Youth Chain Shoot**

Mark Stevens shared that the Minnesota Youth Chain Shoot has moved out of the metro area only and is piggy-backing on three other larger ATA shoots for 2010. Each shoot provides 24 trophies per shoot (3 categories with 4 classes each) for 7 shoots. Mark Stevens stated that the program is now planning themed shoots for the kids using prizes they would be interested in, such as iTunes gift cards. Mark Stevens told the board that, last year, his out-of-pocket costs were over \$800 plus lots of extra prizes for kids.

Mark Stevens shared a comparison of the benefits of the MNYCS and the MN High School State Shoot. He also presented a budget for this year's program totaling \$3500. Mark Stevens shared that Harold Ibach's family has donated several leather items for use within the Minnesota Youth Chain Shoot and that he would work hard to honor this donation. Mark Zauhar asked how, with such a large donation, the membership can be assured that the money go towards the Minnesota Youth Chain Shoot. Sally Stevens shared that all receipts are kept and expenses spread-sheeted; Mark Stevens stated that, if there's any excess funds, they will be returned to the MTA. George Pappas moved that \$3500 be given to the Minnesota Youth Chain Shoot; Steve Richards seconded. Glen Lonneman suggested that \$3500 is a lot of money and maybe less would be better. Mark Zauhar stated that, at a shooter to cost ratio, it's a good value for kids. Sally Stevens shared that the Minnesota Youth Chain Shoot is planning a fundraiser to help offset costs in the future and that, in the future, the hope is to be able to ask for less from the MTA. Carried: Mark Stevens and Sally Stevens abstained due to conflict of interest.

## **Raffle**

Mark Zauhar shared the raffle ticket issue and is asking for board members to sell. The retail price of the gun is \$9995; Mark Zauhar forwarded our cost of the gun (\$5000) on behalf of the MTA. The gun is a Blaser combo set with lots of options with barrel length being 34"/32". The tickets would also be sold at the State Shoot. Mark Zauhar stressed that this is the way that we support all our wonderful youth programs and asked board members to consider helping sell tickets too. Sally Stevens requested that the information on the gun raffle be placed on the website. George Pappas thanked Mark Zauhar for getting this gun for the MTA to raffle.

## **State Shoot Program**

Mark Zauhar stated that the mini-program would be mailed to Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota shooters with 500+ targets in 2009. Sally Stevens will resend the spreadsheet with those names to Mark Zauhar as soon as possible.

## **Industrial Shoot**

Mark Zauhar asked if the Alexandria Shooting Park would be holding the Industrial Shoot this year as the date is July 4<sup>th</sup>. It was understood that there would be no Industrial Shoot held.

## **State Shoot Lease Agreement**

The contract the MTA has right now with Alexandria expires in 2013. Mark Zauhar shared the contract he and Alexandria Shooting Park are working on to renew at that time. Discussion clarified that the reason the lease was being worked on early was to have the time to do a good job on both sides.

George Pappas moved that the MTA stay with Alexandria Shooting Park for our State Shoot; Sally Stevens seconded. Steve Schmidt shared that the new lease was created so that outdated items were addressed, such as the old lease stating that a Minnesota State Shoot Program must be sent to every ATA shooter. There is continued negotiation regarding how we will be charged for targets in the future. Carried: Glen Lonneman, Perry Nodsle and Cindy Townsend abstained due to conflict of interest.

## **Election**

The MTA election procedure for 2010 was discussed. Sally Stevens stated that the list of candidates will be presented at the Annual Meeting at the State Shoot. Those candidates, as well as any nominated from the floor, will be printed on numbered ballots by 12:00pm (noon) on Saturday. Discussion revolved around the fact that we currently have two separate sets of voting requirements, one for the ATA Delegate and Alternate Delegates and one for the MTA board of directors. Sally Stevens read the current MTA voting bylaw and it was decided by the board to minimize the workload by changing the bylaws to mirror the ATA voting requirements. Steve Richards moved that the MTA voting procedures mirror the ATA voting requirements; Tom Sletta seconded. Carried unanimously. Sally Stevens will have a list of eligible voters as well as online access to check any voters who are not listed. A locked ballot box will be supplied and locked in the safe overnight. Ballots will be counted by the three senior Zone officers; if any are

running then the next senior Zone officer will assist. If there are no other candidates for Secretary, Sally Stevens will also assist with the tally. When the vote is tallied the vote totals will be posted for the membership.

### **State Shoot Prep**

The starting hours will continue as in the past. There was discussion regarding changing start times but the problems occurred in 2009 were weather related.

Mark Zauhar moved that we use Presquad.com and advertise on it, Jim Walkowiak seconded. Carried unanimously.

Cindy Townsend requested that she needs the names of this year's special events.

Mark Zauhar reviewed the evening meals and changes for 2010. Tuesday night's meal will now be pork instead of steak; the purchase of the meat is already being taken care of. For Wednesday's fish fry, George Pappas will need volunteers to help with cooking and breading. Steve Schmidt will ask if Sid Schmidt will run the Miss N Out event on the microphone. Cindy Lonneman and one other volunteer will collect money and schedule.

We need a complete trophy list and classifications from Dave Smith for the Monday and Saturday youth shoots.

Sally Stevens shared that she received a letter from the ATA Trapshooting Hall of Fame Contributor Purse and asked if we participated. Steve Richards stated that the MTA did this on the Sunday Handicap and Sally Stevens agreed to send the paperwork in.

We need to ask a couple of different people from the Alexandria Fire Department to come out and provide onsite medical assistance for a small fee. Mark Zauhar motioned that we find someone for up to \$1000 for the week; Jim Walkowiak seconded. Carried unanimously.

Mark Zauhar shared the board of directors work schedule for the State Shoot. Please note that the regular Thursday night board of director's meeting start time will be flexible depending on that evening's shoot-off.

Steve Richards suggested that someone be found to shadow Paul Cyr with shoot-offs, as it is a very important part of keeping things running smoothly and this is Paul's last year on the board.

Jim Walkowiak shared that if anyone asks for a reset of the targets at the State Shoot, they should receive that but resets must be completed by an official.

### **Patches**

Mark Zauhar arranged to have 100<sup>th</sup> celebration patches made for sale at \$5 each. Cindy Townsend suggested a concern that they will walk away if sold at the classification table; it was agreed that the classification table would support the sale but the cashiers would take the money for the patches.

### **Classification Table**

Tom Sletta will be in charge of the classification table for 2010.

## **Treasurer Info**

Tom Sletta suggested that, with the change of treasurers, an audit should be performed according to Article 8 of our bylaws. He also stated that the audit committee be made up of non-Board members. The MTA currently pays the treasurer \$4000 annually for our accounting needs, such as our reporting to the IRS. With no treasurer candidate yet found, Sally Stevens asked if Darrel Terning could be asked to continue the financial requirements of the MTA if he is continued to receive the stipend. Mark Zauhar will follow up with Darrel Terning to see if he would be interested.

## **Minnesota Junior Trapshooting Foundation**

Sally Stevens suggested that possibly 'youth shooters' would be a better term than 'junior shooters' as, in trapshooting, the term 'junior' applies to those aged 15-18. Mark Zauhar stated that he wanted to extend the Minnesota Youth Trapshooting Foundation to more than just trapshooting and include all shooting sports. He feels that this change would allow this new organization to support those sports as well as gather donations from a wider base and we should not limit ourselves to only trapshooting. Sally Stevens stated that she disagreed and that the MTA needed to focus on youth trapshooting so that we grow the sport, and that the funds we've raised should remain in trapshooting. Mark Zauhar stated that he felt that making this new foundation a fundraising body for only trapshooting would tie our hands from participating in the organization and support of a new multi-discipline facility. Cindy Townsend asked if this new organization would be focused towards a new metro facility. Mark Zauhar stated that the donors would have the option of stating how their donations would be used, including a new facility.

Mark Zauhar moved to change the word 'junior' to 'youth' and 'trapshooting' to 'shooting sports'; George seconded. Yeas: Mark Zauhar, George Pappas, Steve Richards, Glen Lonneman, Dave Stearns, Jim Walkowiak, Perry Nodsle, Ron Noren, Tom Sletta. Nays: Mark Stevens, Cindy Townsend, Sally Stevens. Carried.

## **DNR's New Proposed Facility**

Mark Zauhar shared a proposal for a Metro Shooting Sports Facility, a new \$20,000,000 facility without the land costs in the metro area. It appears the DNR hired a consultant to put this proposal together. Ron Noren commented that, in the budget, only \$5000 is allotted for trapshooting and that wouldn't be enough to purchase one Patt Trap. Mark Zauhar stated that there are still quite a few things wrong with the proposal that need to be worked out.

## **MN High School State Shoot**

Mark Zauhar stated that there are concerns with the Minnesota High School State Shoot regarding the requirement of using registered targets for the shoot. Mark Stevens shared that the money that is being donated to put towards these youth events is being donated by registered ATA shooters and we should be supporting ATA registered shoots. Mark Zauhar stated that it would save the MTA \$10/youth shooters by not making the targets ATA registered. He also said that Mark Czech is not interested in working on this project anymore because of increased pressure from certain areas. One individual is also asking that all the labels be changed to say MN State ATA/MTA Shoot, not the MN High School State Shoot. Mark Zauhar stated that the

biggest reason that Nebraska does well with their high school program is that it is not run through the schools but instead run through the DNR.

Mark Stevens stated that one of the biggest reasons there's a problem is because the event happens outside the school year. He asked what the chances of having youth shooters pay for their targets to give Mark Zauhar some bargaining power. The biggest problems concern the High School League Rules. Mark Zauhar is going to talk to the people involved and get a better understanding of the issues at hand. Tom Sletta shared that Prior Lake was listed as a club, not a sport, and that is how it has been successful. Mark Stevens stated that, in Buffalo, the school board has been cutting sports and will not support trapshooting as a school sport. Perry Nodsle and Cindy Townsend stated that they are experiencing the same concerns, and that they also have shooters on the Sub-Junior and Junior State Teams who would like to participate in the Minnesota State High School Shoot but aren't allowed to.

Mark Zauhar believes we need to grow the high school shoot so that, when there are thirty participating schools instead of just twelve high schools, other high schools will feel the pressure to be included.

### **Hall of Fame**

Cindy asked if we could have a form on our new website so that people could make application for the Hall of Fame electronically. Jim Walkowiak will check into the possibility with the new website provider.

Steve Schmidt was asked if the Hall of Fame Wall, with all the new frames and pictures, could be set up for this year's Centennial State Shoot. Steve stated that it would be ready for this year's shoot.

### **ATA Shooter Recruitment**

Mark Stevens shared that the Buffalo Gun Club and his company, Air Climate Control Inc, have a new incentive focused on getting lapsed ATA members back to shooting registered targets. He gave a general outline of the incentive program which included reduced target rates and free ATA membership. Mark Zauhar asked if there is a written commitment from the ATA for the membership fee reduction. Mark Stevens was unsure but would check on the specifics.

Glen Lonneman moved that the meeting be adjourned; Cindy Townsend seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Stevens  
MTA Secretary  
June 14, 2010