

MINNESOTA TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting
September 11, 2010 at Del-Tone Gun Club

Board members present: Glen Lonneman, Keith Koosman, Tom Brooks, Mark Zauhar, Tom Sletta, Steven Shane, Dave Smith, Perry Nodsle, Cindy Townsend, Tim Mackey, Mark Stevens, David Stearns, Glenn Linden, Ron Noren, George Pappas, Scott Steffen, Sally Stevens

Also present: Sheri DeJong, Brody Pagett, Steve Schmidt, Carmen Nodsle, Darrel Terning, Tom Townsend, Mark Claycomb, Bob Amey, Mary Amey, Lew Boyko, Sid Schmidt, Richard McCoy, Eric Munson, Glen McLeod, and others.

Meeting was called to order at 5:31pm.

Secretary Report

Glen Lonneman requested that the minutes be forwarded in a more timely manner to the board than has been occurring in the past, specifically that they be sent within 10 days following the meeting. Sally Stevens stated that she would get the minutes out during that time. Mark Stevens moved that the both sets of minutes be approved with spelling changes noted; Keith Koosman seconded. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report

Darrel Terning reviewed the Statement of Financial Position dated August 31, 2010. The MTA paid for extra shells for next year's Youth Day which are being stored at Alexandria Shooting Park. He reported that it has been a good year for the MTA and thanked Mark Zauhar for his fund raising efforts this past year. The MTA is currently showing a positive cash flow of \$17,000. **(I have asked Darrel to expand on the treasurer's report with actual numbers).** Darrel Terning detailed both income and expenses in his report. He stated that our trophy costs are up this year, but our daily fees are also up this year. The new website costs are reflected in the report. Expenses not yet debited include payment to clubs for the new shooter rebate and bank service charges from State Shoot.

Darrel reviewed the State Shoot attendance numbers and stated that, while the preliminary days were greatly increased in participation, the championship days were flat. Approximately 1/3 of the shooters were nonresidents. Diamond Badges refund cheques have been sent out.

Dave Smith moves that the Treasurer's Report be approved; Glenn Linden seconded. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer Audit

Glen Lonneman suggested that it would be a good practice to audit our accounts with new Treasurer Tom Books taking over. Darrel Terning stated that the bylaws do request an audit but also suggested that the word 'audit' may not be exactly what was meant as that process is very costly, approximately \$8000-\$10,000. He reviewed the different methods that may be more appropriate and suggested that the MTA have a review of an 'agreed upon procedures'. Darrel Terning knows of a firm in Bird Island that he would recommend and, while he has no association with the firm, knows they do good, economical work. A review would be approximately \$2000-\$4000 and an 'agreed upon procedures' report would cost approximately \$1500-\$3000.

Darrel Terning feels that, in light of what is happening with the ATA at this time, the MTA should proceed with some process. He also stated that he would finish out this fiscal year as Treasurer and then turn those duties, with the exception of the accounting needs, over to Tom Brooks on January 1, 2011. Sally will continue to get all the daily fees, record all the information, and send cheques and bills to Tom who will complete the deposits and write cheques as needed. Darrel Terning told the board that, if they would like him to report at a meeting, to please let him know or call him if there are any questions.

Tom Sletta suggested a change of the bylaws to read, instead of 'audit', we use a review of the MTA's financials instead. Tim Mackey suggested that the board form an audit committee of three willing board members instead of outsourcing the review which would save us funds. Discussion revolved around finding three people who would be willing to spend the time to do the review; Tom Sletta reiterated that the bylaws stated that the audit committee of non-board members. Sally Stevens said she thought it would be a better practice for the MTA to send the review to an outside source independent of our board. George Pappas moved we task Darrel Terning to choose a firm to send the MTA financial statements to for an external and independent firm for review; Scott Steffen seconded. Carried unanimously. Darrel Terning also stated that his accounting procedure would include sending Tom Brooks a statement ten days before each board meeting.

ATA Delegate Report

Ron Noren shared that it was a very active Grand this year for many reasons. Attendance was up 4-5% with \$275,000 in sponsorships. WSRC (Sparta) added six banks and forty more employees but ended up paying less in payroll as things running smoother. Lead reclamation at the Vandalia site will probably be completed this year. The AIM program was excellent with 3300 participants in 2010; over 1000 participated at the Grand. They feel that they are getting closer to a deal with SCTP. Several items were defeated at the meeting, including the Larry Potterfield (Midway Shooting Supply) one-to-one match. They are keeping the new category declaration rule implemented last year but have changed it to allow those who qualify for champion but lose in shoot-off to fall back to place. The lease at Sparta was extended for another 10 years, which is in addition to the 5 years for a total of 15 more years. The ATA has formed an audit committee regarding the Executive Committee. The \$200,000 Lewis Option should have a huge impact on the attendance at the Grand for 2011.

State Team Proposals

Glen Lonnenman passed out three State Team Proposals to all board members. He reiterated that those in the audience would not be able to participate in the discussion as they had the opportunity to talk to the board between the State Shoot meeting and this meeting. The three proposals were listed in the order they were received.

Glen Lonnenman shared that he has had people say and email to him they did not want to exclude marathon targets or shorten the teams, etc.

George Pappas felt that the proposal should not be called the Wiltse-Hoppes proposal, but instead it should be called the MTA Subcommittee Proposal as three people from the board have adapted it from the original plan. It was agreed to make this change.

Ron Noren said that people he talked to, approximately nine to one, said to leave it the same as

we haven't had the new State Team requirements tested yet. He also said that about 75% of those people said they'd like to see the Men's Singles Requirements from 2500 to 2000. He also had a couple requests to add doubles to Senior Veterans requirements but was unsure as to how many Senior Vets shot doubles targets and would look into it.

Mark Stevens was also approached by many shooters who would like to see State Team Requirements stay the same, and leave it alone for a few years to give it a chance to work.

Keith Koosman said he felt that the requirements should be left the same as changes really only affects a handful of people in the Association.

Mark Zauhar agreed that the change really affects very few people and that there may be just two or three people who have made the State Team who probably shouldn't have. He also stated that some people believe that marathon targets are the same as event targets but the difference is that a shooter can choose to not shoot marathon targets due to bad weather, unlike an event. Mark Zauhar also expressed concerns with the possible tampering of scores at one MTA gun club and that the issue was not handled by past ATA Delegates. Mark Zauhar stated that there has been a point made that marathon targets will hurt youth and women shooters' chances to make the State Team but those teams don't fill out now. He asked the board what the purpose of the State Team, and shouldn't it consist of our best shooters, not just those who qualify? Mark Zauhar stated that, while he does not have a board vote, he would support the MTA subcommittee proposal if the board chose that.

Tim Mackey talked to a lot of people and many supported the MTA Subcommittee Proposal but he looked at the last 20 years and hardly any of those people really use marathon targets to make the team. People did state that they would like the Men's Singles requirement to be lowered from 2500 to 2000 targets. He also liked that we only had to shoot at three clubs instead of four clubs.

Keith Koosman stated that he personally finds marathon targets more difficult because there is nothing to shoot for. He believed that making the change to remove inclusion of marathon targets would be a mistake.

Sally shared that she spoke at length with Denny Steinhaus who had recommended that the requirements stay the way things were, lower the Men's Singles Target requirement from 2500 to 2000, and allow people to submit personal achievements, giving examples of those individuals whose percentages were the highest but had great success at shoots.

Glen Lonneman stated that he was part of the committee that created the MTA proposal. He stated that he did have difficulty with the fact that out-of-state shooting would not be included. Even though 25% of his out-of-state targets would not count, Glen would still support the MTA Subcommittee Proposal due to the fact that he thinks it would be a betterment for the state team and more prestigious to be on the team.

Sally Stevens asked how the MTA Subcommittee Proposal would support Minnesota trapshooting and Minnesota clubs.

Mark Stevens shared that he is one of the heaviest users of marathon targets in the State, as they are a way of him to go out and have fun and count towards his ATA averages, but his event scores

are better than his marathon targets.

George Pappas stated that the State Team should be reserved for the top shooters in Minnesota and currently there are people on the State Team who do not belong on that team.

Ron Noren stated that Minnesota gun clubs make money by throwing targets and questioned why the MTA Board would choose to limit the opportunity throwing marathon targets brings.

Cindy Townsend was concerned that a change would impact the other State Teams to a greater degree than would impact the Men's Team, which was the original intended audience for the change.

Steve Shane reiterated that people who contacted him want to keep the State Team requirements as they currently are, with a reduction of the Men's Singles requirement from 2500 to 2000.

Glen Lonneman handed out pre-made ballots; he felt that a ballot vote would provide a true representation of the board members beliefs rather than how they feel they should vote based on who is watching in the audience. The votes were cast, collected, tallied and are as follows:

MTA Subcommittee Proposal (Wiltse/Hoppes)	4 votes
Munson Proposal	0 votes
Winston Proposal	0 votes
State Team Requirements Remain the Same	12 votes

Based on the vote, the MTA State Team requirements will stay the same as in 2009.

Glenn Linden moved that we lower the Men's Singles requirements from 2500 to 2000 targets; Sally Stevens seconded. Carried unanimously.

Note: While the vote was being tallied Sally Stevens reported that she was able to do a cursory review of 2009 ATA data to determine that, of the eleven Senior Veteran State Team members, only four shot 500 or more doubles targets.

State Shoot Dates for 2011

The MTA Board received a letter from Bob and Lou Ann Munson asking to reconsider the dates chosen at the July 8th meeting for the 2011 State Shoot. Glen Lonneman talked to Steve Schmidt to see if it would be possible to have the Youth Day and the Preliminary Shoot on Tuesday at the same time, and Steve felt it was. Cindy felt that it would be helpful to pre-squad youth teams. Sally Stevens suggested that she and Mark Stevens help coordinate youth team shooting times for 2011. Discussion revolved around the logistics of putting the two events together and the potential for losing adult shooters with a busy Tuesday.

George Pappas moved that we change the State Shoot start date to July 5, 2011; Tom Sletta seconded. Carried unanimously.

Minnesota Youth Shooting Foundation Bylaws

Mark Zauhar stated that it is important to obtain a 501(c)3 designation to elicit larger tax-deductible donations to the Foundation. He stated that the process will take several months and

that he would like approval from the board to hire an attorney and accountant who specialize in nonprofit organization to help facilitate finalization of the necessary paperwork. Mark Zauhar reviewed changes he would like to see added, including board member terms from 1 year to 5 years, and the need for a special meeting as some examples. He felt the cost would be under \$5000.

George Pappas moved that we give Mark Zauhar the authority to consult with an attorney and accountant to create youth foundation bylaws using youth funds; Scott Steffens seconded.

Discussion: Sally Stevens asked what the focus of the Foundation would be. Mark Zauhar said that this organization would raise money to support money, primarily youth costs at the State Shoot (1/2 price targets and 100 shells) in exchange for them using Friday night's Silent and Live Auction as one of their fundraising tools. He said the other priority would be the High School State Shoot. In addition, the Foundation would be a vehicle to raise funds for a shooting facility. Sally Stevens asked if the High School State Shoot would continue to throw non-registered targets. Mark Zauhar said that the change to non-registered targets, though he fought it, was at the request of the coaches due to the loss of eligibility for some students as youth participants in other sports.

Mark Stevens asked why MTA donated money was being used for non-registered shooting. He stated that the number of shooters at the Youth Day was down this year and questioned why youth shooters would choose to shoot registered targets the Youth State Shoot for more money when they could shoot non-registered targets at the High School State Shoot for less. Mark Zauhar stated that people who donate know that the money is going to youth shooting, whether they are registered or non-registered targets. He also stated that there was less money spent on 249 High School State youth shooters than the 179 shooters at the MTA Youth Day.

Some discussion revolved around an increasing sentiment among MTA shooters that youth shooting is all the board is focusing on, and that there needs to be a marketing plan to help increase registered shooting.

Mark Zauhar stated that if the board did not want to support the High School State Shoot with the Foundation then he would take the Foundation and work with it independently of the MTA.

Sally Stevens stated that, when the board originally started talking about a youth foundation, it was specifically to support youth trapshooting programs and growth in Minnesota. She believes it has morphed into something else that now includes all shooting sports and is now also a facility fund, and feels that it should be a non-profit independent of the MTA.

Sheri De Jong stated that Youth Foundation donors would be able to direct where they would like their donation to go, such as the Minnesota High School State Shoot, the MTA Youth Day at the State Shoot, or any facility support.

Sally Stevens stated that we cannot approve bylaws without a concrete document to approve. Mark Zauhar said that he is asking the MTA Board for approval for the funds to work with an attorney and accountant to create a viable set of documents.

Cindy Townsend stated that she was under the impression that, once the Foundation was formed, the MTA Board would not have input on where the money is going.

Tim Mackey suggested that, regardless of youth shooting registered or non-registered targets, this new Foundation will directly and indirectly benefit the MTA.

Opposed: Keith Koosman, Mark Stevens, Sally Stevens. Carried.

Alexandria Shooting Park and State Shoot Lease

Steve Schmidt stated that one day of work, with the support of Rich Ronning, is needed to finalize a draft to bring to the group of six of Alexandria Shooting Park. Currently our lease with Alexandria Shooting Park for the Minnesota State Shoot runs until 2012.

Board Member Job Requirements

Glen stated that a lot of the work done previously by Mark Zauhar needs to be shared by the whole board and asked that board members step up to the plate and help where needed. Jobs include marketing & sponsorship for the State Shoot, creating the State Shoot program, as well as many others. Discussion revolved around the cost of sponsorships for the different events and the specifics of putting together the program.

A trophy volunteer also needs to be determined, and Steve Richards has stated in past board meetings that he will help the new volunteer order trophies for 2011. Mark Zauhar suggested that a list be generated of all the items needing completion so board members can help.

New Business

Tom Sletta commented that a change in our classification system is needed. Glen Lonneman suggested that we look again at the cost and procedure of making a change to an electronic classification system. Cindy Townsend stated that she would look into it and report at the next board meeting.

Shoot dates for 2011 are currently being chosen. Sally Stevens has sent a 1st draft out to MTA gun clubs and will attempt to finalize the schedule through email, mail and phone. She will be holding a meeting for everyone who would like to add/change a date or has concerns or questions on Sunday, September 26 at 10:00am at Buffalo Gun Club.

Some people had pre-ordered Centennial Shoot patches at the State Shoot and were added to a list at the cashier. The list has been misplaced and we will look for it. Sally Stevens suggested that if we don't find the list we should add the information, requesting those who have prepaid to contact us, into the newsletter. Sally Stevens moved that we ask Mark Zauhar to purchase two hundred patches to cover these preorders; Glenn Linden seconded. Carried unanimously.

Steve Schmidt asked if, with the new Youth Foundation, the MTA would no longer have a youth program. He asked if there would be a bylaw within the new Youth Foundation that would protect the Youth Day and keep it connected with the State Shoot. Discussion focused around the emphasis of the new Youth Foundation being a fundraising vehicle that may not keep the Youth Day paired with the State Shoot, as well as raising and gifting funds to other shooting sports.

Perry Nodsle commented that the MTA needs to keep some sort of Youth Program in place and the Youth Foundation needs to fund it. Mark Zauhar stated that, if the MTA comes to the Youth Foundation for funds, they would look at what funds they have to see if the request can be

granted. Sheri DeJong commented that, if a MTA board in the future chooses not to allow the Youth Foundation to run the auction, funds available to the MTA for use would be less.

Glen Lonneman suggested that we keep Jim Walkowiak as our website liaison as he feels he does a good job. Sally Stevens stated that she opposed having a non-board member as the liaison to the MTA website as it flies in opposition to the reason a board-controlled website was created in the first place. George Pappas stated that the MTA website will still be controlled by the MTA board and if there are issues with Jim Walkowiak the board can replace him. Dave Smith stated that he has been waiting almost a month for scores sent to the website to be posted.

George Pappas moved that we keep Jim Walkowiak as our website liaison; Tom Sletta seconded it. Carried; opposed by Keith Koosman, Mark Stevens, Sally Stevens. Abstained: Dave Smith, Cindy Townsend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Stevens
MTA Secretary