

United Northern Sportmen's News

Conservation Pledge: I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste, the natural resources of my country - its' air, soil and minerals, its' forests, waters and wildlife.

VOLUME 65

NOVEMBER 2020

NUMBER 11

\$12.00

Club Calendar

- Oct. 31 - Fall Sight-In**
Nov. 6 8am to 1/2 hour before sunset, Rifle Range
- Nov. 4 UNS Board Meeting**
7pm, UNS Retreat
- Dec. 2 UNS Board Meeting**
7pm, UNS Retreat
- Dec. 9 UNS Annual Meeting**
7pm, UNS Retreat

2020 UNS ANNUAL MEETING

The UNS Annual Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 9th, at 7 pm. The order of business will consist of approval of the 2021 annual budget, the elections of five officers including vice president, treasurer, and three members of the board of directors, as well as any other business conducted for the good of the order. It is likely the meeting will be held virtually due to COVID-19 concerns. Instructions on how to attend will be in the December newsletter.

2020 UNS ELECTIONS AT THE DECEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

The Nominating Committee will propose a slate of candidates at the November BOD meeting and elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on December 9th. All members nominated must be in good standing for a minimum of one year by the December Annual Meeting.

Duane Lasley, Nominating Committee Chair

UNS 2020 FALL FUNDRAISER

Our 2020 Fall Fundraiser will consist of raffling off \$1,500 in various gift certificate prizes at some of our local businesses. They could really use all of our continued support this year. Tickets are a \$5.00 donation, and everyone has been sent 5 tickets.

Our drawings will be held at the Wednesday, November 4th Board of Director's meeting. No need to be present to win.

See page 4 for complete detail.

2020 FALL SIGHT-IN

The Fall Sight-In will be held this year with new procedures. Mark your calendar for October 31st plus the whole week before the opener November 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. Hours of operation are from 8:00 am to 1/2 hour before sunset.

Because of COVID-19, we will be observing the distance rule of 6 feet. We will use only 7 of the 14 benches. The check-in will be outside of the retreat building. After checking in, if there are more than seven shooters waiting their turn, then please wait in your vehicle until space is available.

Call Bob Kuettel at 218-393-2000 if you have questions.



SHOOTING HOURS

Range opening and closing times are posted on the ranges and also on the bulletin board on the Retreat Bldg. Please obey the rules or you may lose your shooting privileges.

RANGE USE CALENDAR

may be found on our Website:

www.unitednorthernsportsmen.org

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE: Monthly newsletters are sent before the end of the previous month. Articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. November's will include the Sept. and Oct. BOD Meeting minutes. December's will include the Nov. BOD Meeting minutes.

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

Call to Order: by President Tom Wasbotten at 7:04 pm. Conservation Pledge.

Board members present: Tina Sund, Bob Kuettel, Tom Wasbotten, Duane Lasley, Judy Foy, Gene Shaw, Vickie Jensen, Lance Parthe and Cody Privette.

Excused Officers: John Bathke, Mike Foy, Kyle Berg, Lance Haavisto and Dan Smestad. **Members Present:** Eric Hansen

Correspondence: Wildwoods Donation Request, CLP Annual Meeting, Second Harvest Donation Request, and Gnesen Township Newsletter .

Motion to approve the agenda was moved, seconded and carried (M/S/C).

Minutes were read and motion to approve the minutes from the August 5th BOD meeting (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report - Tina Sund: As of 8/31/2020. Bernicks Bill was for 179.65. Discussion followed. Motion made to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report- Tina Sund: 1,778 current members; Member renewals: 92 singles and 53 combos. 61 second notices were sent.

Committee Reports:

Web Master – Eric Hansen: Updates of range reservations – on website and Facebook page. Will update with sight-in dates.

Newsletter Editor – Sue Bathke: Sue not present.

Incident Report – Bob Kuettel: We had a large group for the MNDNR field classes. Things were a bit out of control and unorganized.

Facilities Committee – Bob Kuettel: Steve Holt has a class on 9/3 with the retreat and pistol range reserved. Ranges are closed for labor day weekend. 9/21 & 9/22 the border patrol has the rifle range reserved 8am to 12pm. Have an issue with dead trees. Had to fix the shower. Somebody pulled the faucet out of one of the showers. Discussion followed. Motion made to close the showers the day after Labor Day (M/S/C).

Grants Committee – Gene Shaw: Nothing new to share. UMD will not be having their shooting class.

Volunteer Committee – Dan Smestad: Dan not present.

Finance Committee – Tom Wasbotten: We did meet on a number of topics.

Communications Committee – Tom Wasbotten: We will spend some time over the off season to rewrite some of the facility rules and regulations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Umbrella Liability & Property Insurance Update/Property Appraisal – Tom Wasbotten/Dan Smestad: Dan reached out to some appraisers and awaiting a response. Have not heard back from the insurance company.

Fall Sight In – Bob Kuettel: Bob gave an update on the Fall Sight in event and the COVID19 response. We will only use every other bench.

Fall Fundraiser – Tina Sund: Tina gave an overview of the Fall Fundraiser raffle prizes. Decided on using gift certificates for raffle prizes this year.

Mice Issue In Garage – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave overview of the mice/rat issue in the garage. Jon Polecheck set some traps first. Pat Dodge cleaned the droppings with a vacuum cleaner. Will be an ongoing problem.

Local Donation Requests – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave overview of the ongoing discussion about local donation requests. Will decide at the October meeting for the donations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Planning for 2021 – Tina Sund: Tina gave an overview of the need to put together a budget for 2021. Will need to propose a budget for 2021 after the October meeting before the November meeting.

2020 Elections Nominations Committee – Tom Wasbotten: Vice President, Treasurer, and three BOD positions are open for re-election this year. We need to form a nominating committee.

UNS Newsletter Calendar & Interval – Tom Wasbotten: The newsletter may work better if there was an annual calendar of topics. Work in progress. We are considering having the newsletter every other month. Motion made and 2nd to only publish the newsletter every other month through the end of year. Discussion followed. Revised motion made and 2nd to combine the September/October Newsletter and have a separate November and December newsletter. Discussion followed (M/S/C).

2021 UNS Ice Fishing Contest – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave an overview of a call from Dan Woollett checking on the status of planning the Ice Fishing Contest. Discussion followed about possibly not hosting the event. Discussion followed. Motion made & 2nd to not host the 2021 UNS Ice Fishing Contest. Discussion followed (M/S/C).

Misc Items – Jon Polecheck: Some of the shrubs that were planted by the Boy Scouts are Hazlenut. Gave overview of protecting the plastic tables from hot items and protecting milkweed.

Members Sick or in Distress: Mike Foy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm (M/S/C).

Respectively submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary.

Next BOD membership meeting is on October 7th, 7pm at the retreat.

UNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 2020

Call to order: by President Tom Wasbotten at 7:02 pm., Conservation Pledge

Roll call of officers: Tina Sund, Bob Kuettel, Tom Wasbotten, Gene Shaw, Vickie Jensen, Lance Haavisto, Lance Parthe, Cody Privette, John Bathke, Kyle Berg, Dan Smestad, Duane Lasley

Members Present: Sue Bathke, Eric Hansen

Excused Officers: Mike Foy, Judy Foy

Correspondence: Gnesen Township Newsletter

Agenda additions: Motion to approve the agenda with the new additions (M/S/C).

Reading of Minutes: From the September 2nd Board of Directors meeting. Motion made to accept the minutes (M/S/C).

Treasurer's Report: Tina Sund as of 9/30/20: Motion made to approve and pay bills (M/S/C).

Membership Secretary's Report: Tina Sund as of 9/30/20: current membership is 1796 With 83 individual & 36 family new memberships, 38 2nd notices sent out.

Committee Reports:

Webmaster – Eric Hansen: Range Reservations and Facebook updated.

Newsletter – Sue Bathke: 10/15 is the deadline for this month. There is a spreadsheet to share with results from 1 year of the newsletter. Discussion followed about November and December newsletters..

Incident Reports – Bob Kuettel: Somebody has been dumping garbage behind garage and stealing fire wood. There were three incidents of shooting before 8am.

Facilities Committee – Bob Kuettel: We are going to have to redo the backstop on the pistol range and 25 yard rifle range. Lance Parthe: Repair of the camp host building postponed until spring. We built the AED enclosure and it will be installed this week. Tom Wasbotten: We normally discuss the snow removal contract this time of year. Anticipate using the same vendor as last year. Bob will follow up on leads of members interested in snow blowing. Motion made to maintain plowing to the 2nd driveway and garage. Discussion followed. (M/S/C)

Range and Grounds Calendar – Bob Kuettel: Range Officer refresher training 10/10. US Border Patrol 10/19 & 10/20.

Sight in days 10/17, 10/18, 10/24, 10/25, and 10/31 – 11/6 on the rifle range.

Grants Committee – Gene Shaw: MNDNR has shooting range, conservation, and invasive species grants that we may be eligible for.

Volunteer Committee – Dan Smestad: Updated the volunteer sheets that have been turned in as of 10/4.

Finance Committee – John Bathke: We met, items to discuss are on the agenda.

Communications Committee – John Bathke: We have not met yet. Will meet soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

Umbrella Liability & Property Insurance Update/Property Appraisal: Dan Smestad: Have been working with a company to get a property appraisal for insurance. Discussion followed about issues getting an appraisal. Tom Wasbotten: Gave an update on an additional \$1M umbrella liability policy. Motion made to renew our annual policy including the updated umbrella liability policy. The liability policy costs an additional \$1,520 (M/S/C).

Fall Sight In – Bob Kuettel: Everybody will be required to wear a mask.

Fall Fundraiser – Tina Sund: Tickets are bundled up and mailed out. 90 tickets in so far in the mail and 35 more envelopes with about \$1300 sold. 28 different gift certificates.

Local Donation Requests – Tom Wasbotten: We have five donation requests so far. Finance committee has a recommendation on what to donate to each group. MN Conservation Federation \$500, Second Harvest Food Bank \$100, Bob's Bike Drive c/o Marine General \$500, Wildwoods \$500, and St Louis County Rescue Squad \$500. Motion to approve the recommendation (M/SC).

Nominations Committee for 2020 Elections – Duane Lasley: Cody Privette volunteered for the fourth position. Lance Haavisto was nominated for the fifth position. We have candidates for each of the open positions but will take nominations of anyone else who wants to put their name on the ballot.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Planning for 2021 – Tina Sund: Tina gave overview of the budget planning sheets for 2021.

UNS Campground Regulation/Off Season Issues – Tom Wasbotten: I have asked the Communications Committee to rewrite the regulations for the campground. Discussion followed about campers overstaying on site in the off season. Motion made to set a deadline of Friday October 23rd for both parties to be removed from the property. Motion 2nd. Discussion followed. Motion made & 2nd to amend the motion to set the deadline to 10/16 due to safety concerns with the sight-in days event. Motion made to amend the motion to enforce the temporary recreational camping provision in our rules and safety considerations for sight-in event. Motion 2nd. 2nd amendment carried, 1st ammendant carried, main motion as amended carried. Motion made to shut off the electricity to the campsites on 10/16. Discussion followed. Motion made to turn on the electricity for a pre-arranged deer hunting group, Motion 2nd; Amendment carried, Main motion as amended, carried.

Semi Virtual Meeting – Tom Wasbotten: Tom gave overview of possibly setting up a virtual meeting. Discussion followed.

Members sick or in distress: Mike Foy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 9:28pm (M/S/C).

Respectfully submitted by Cody Privette, Secretary. Next meeting is the BOD mmbership meeting is 11/4 at the retreat.

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S 2020 FALL FUNDRAISER

With the COVID-19 pandemic, we needed to rethink our Fall Fundraiser event this year. The last two years we held our event during the Sight-In with a Gun Raffle. Due to restrictions we are unable to do the Gun Raffle this year.

Our 2020 Fall Fundraiser will consist of raffling off \$1,500 in various gift certificate prizes at some of our local businesses. They have helped support UNS in the past with their donations to us during our club events over the years (Marine General, Chalstrom's, Fisherman's Corner, Outdoor Advantage, RJ's Sport & Cycle, Duluth Lawn & Sport, and more). As some of these businesses were shut down during the pandemic, they could really use all of our continued support this year.

Tickets will be a \$5.00 donation, and we will be sending everyone 5 tickets. Please try to sell them in your social distance sort of way to your family, friends, coworkers or by buying them all yourself. If every member committed to buying and selling these tickets, we would be well on our way to funding the fabulous events that so many people have enjoyed and expect.

Our drawings will be held at the Wednesday, November 4th Board of Director's meeting. No need to be present to win.

Thank you for your continued support in our club.

UNS ANNUAL ICE FISHING CONTEST 2021 CANCELED:

The United Northern Sportsmen's 68th Annual Ice Fishing Contest will NOT be held in 2021. Normally this popular event is held in late January. Due to ongoing concerns with the COVID pandemic the event has been canceled. This is our oldest fundraiser and our intent is to hold this event again in 2022.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES WANTED

Did you know that the emailed version of the newsletter is different? It usually contains an additional article and links to expanded articles found on various websites as well as the link to the UNS website.

We are half way toward our goal of 95% participation in emailing out all our of the communications via email. This allows us to increase the content of our newsletter as well as a more efficient way to communicate with the membership in a timely and eco-friendly way. After all - we are a conservation club!

So the next time you renew your membership, or even tomorrow, please let us know your email address. Emails may be sent to Duane Lasley, duanelasley@gmail.com.

MINNESOTA DNR STATEMENT REGARDING USFWS DECISION TO REMOVE THE WOLF FROM THE ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES LIST

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is aware of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS's) decision, announced on October 29th, to remove the wolf from the federal endangered and threatened species list throughout the United States. Prior to this action, the wolf in Minnesota was federally listed as threatened. In our July 2019 comments on the USFWS's then-proposed delisting, we concluded "all evidence indicates that the gray wolf population in Minnesota has recovered" and federal protection under the Endangered Species Act is no longer warranted in the state. We simultaneously recognized, however, that the situation in Minnesota is not representative of the wolf's status elsewhere and noted that "a blanket delisting across the United States may not be warranted." This continues to be our position with respect to the federal listing status of the wolf, both within and beyond Minnesota.

Equally important is the question of how we manage wolves in Minnesota. Our management includes an extensive and sophisticated monitoring program, conducted in cooperation with federal and tribal partners, that gives Minnesota some of the very best data available to inform our wolf management. The DNR's management of wolves is guided by a wolf management plan that reflects our commitment to maintaining a biologically healthy wolf population in Minnesota across suitable wolf range, while also addressing conflicts between wolves and humans. We have used this plan since 2001 to actively and effectively manage Minnesota's wolf population, both during times when the wolf was federally protected and times when it was not.

[Click here for the complete article and more on this subject.](#)



TROUT STOCKING VIA HELICOPTER MEANS MORE FISH FOR ANGLERS

Anglers will have the opportunity to catch trout on remote lakes in northeastern Minnesota following helicopter-based fish stocking efforts this fall.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources typically uses trucks to stock fish, but traditional methods can't be used in some of the state's difficult-to-reach lakes. In those waters, airplanes have been used for years to provide aerial stocking.

But recently, pilots in the DNR Enforcement Division's Aviation Unit – which assists other agency divisions with creel counts, wildlife-population surveys and habitat-improvement efforts, in addition to its typical enforcement work – created and constructed a helicopter-based system that makes stocking more effective and efficient.

"The main benefit of using a helicopter, from a resource perspective, is that more of the stocked fish survive, so there are more for anglers to catch," said Chris Lofstuen, the Enforcement Division's chief pilot. "At the same time, flying over remote lakes in often challenging terrain presents a certain amount of risk to our pilots. Among all the other benefits of using helicopters, one aspect is most important – they're safer."

Since the helicopters can hover 5 feet above the water and drop fish into the water, the survival rate of stocked fish is about 100%. When they're stocked from an airplane, which drops fish from 100 feet above the surface while traveling 100 miles per hour, the survival rate is about 85%. Also, the possibility of spreading aquatic invasive species is mitigated because helicopters don't land on the water. [Click here for UTube Video.](#)

UNITED NORTHERN SPORTSMEN'S NEWS
PO Box 161108, Duluth, MN 55816

www.uns-duluth.com
unsclub@gmail.com

2020 Board of Directors

President Tom Wasbotten	218-721-4864 763-228-8889
Vice President Bob Kuettel	218-393-2000
Secretary Cody Privette	218-260-2932
Treasurer Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Sgt at Arms Duane Lasley	218-310-4273

Membership Tina Sund	218-591-3304
Webmaster Eric Hansen	218-831-8646
Newsletter Editor Susanne Bathke	612-991-5364
Camp Host	

Directors:

John Bathke	612-991-5363
Kyle Berg	218-491-4634
Judy Foy	218-591-2391
Mike Foy	218-390-2391
Lance Haavisto	906-235-8483
Vickie Jensen	218-591-5619
Lance Parthe	218-349-5555
Gene Shaw	218-348-2191
Dan Smestad	218-349-8101