



MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED

Dedicated to the Conservation, Protection and Restoration of Coldwater Fisheries & their Watersheds

Minutes

Michigan Trout Unlimited Winter Quarterly Meeting Saturday January 17, 2009 Michigan State University/Northern Michigan University

Voting Members present: (MSU) Jon Griffin, Martin Van Fossan, Ed Hoover, Dave Watson, Tom Quail, Michael Caparon, Ross Rosenbrock, Dick Augustine, Bob Kren, Starland Smith, Josh Butlin, Aaron Rubel, Dave Smethurst, Ron Peckens, Bob Thorsen, Jim Bedford, Jim Flamming, Denny Douglas, Ronald Hamilton, Pat Doyle, Robb Smith, Mike Lagowski, (NMU) Bob Jensen, Doug Miller, Kimberly Wetton.

Non voting member: Bryan Burroughs, **Guests:** Jeff Gerwitz, Peter Albertson, Kristin Nelson, Dan Keifer,

Call to order: At 9:05 AM Kimberly Wetton called the meeting to order and those present introduced themselves and told a quick fish story (*some* may have been true).

Minutes: Motion to approve September 2008 minutes made by Jim Flamming, passed unanimously.

Treasurers Report: Robb Smith had previously provided a full set of financial reports (e mail). Brief discussion, There were some items listed as losses, we did well on operations.

The "End of Year Appeal" EOYA was a success, thanks to Dan Keifer, Dave Smith, Kimberly Wetton, Ron Peckens, Bryan Burroughs, and Dave Smethurst, ...Gross income was approximately \$11,000. Net income was approximately \$6,000. Good learning experience, we used credit card payments, there were 190 donors. All donors will be listed in the next issue of Michigan Trout. Thank you letters went out to donors. A special "Thank you" to Dan Keifer for his work from the Council.

There was 100% participation by all Chapters for their annual financial reports. Thanks to all Chapters.

Audit was completed, draft received Jan.15, scanned in and under review and should be back to Council by the spring meeting.

IRS 990N if less than \$25K.

Motion to approve financial report made by Tom Quail, seconded by Ed Hoover; passed unanimously.

Advisory Committee Reports: Kimberly Wetton read Shawn Hagan's letter regarding the Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Committee.

Jim Bedford commented regarding Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Committee; a presence for stream anglers and catch and release advocates is needed, noting a requested increase in the keep rate from the public, charter boat captains and DNR Ed Hoover offered to attend the next meetings with Jim.

MCTU is in need of someone to attend/represent us for the Lake Huron and Lake Erie Citizen Advisory Committees.

Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council. Note: Bryan Burroughs report will be included with the minutes for the record.

Withdrawal location, amounts, accounting are required to protect all water, not just streams. DNR website has more information. The Council's "tone" is better than the previous group that worked to get the current law passed and has better balance. For the final law

February and August are key dates for recommendations to go to the legislature. Expect a completed report in 2010. New regulations will only affect new water withdrawal cases.

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Executive Directors Report: Full report submitted prior to meeting.

Noted: Pigeon River case, Peter Gustafson sent letter to State of Michigan, letter received from dam owners. We have not heard back from State. Report due in approximately one month.

Heritage Waters, may go from 7 different types to 4 different regulations plus “other exceptions”. Special regulations on Au Sable in Mio section, this area may go to type 6.

Same proposed regulations (type 6) for the Escanaba.

Reaction from MUCC when MCTU advised we would not renew our affiliation with them... Our main issue with them was regarding water withdrawal issues. Their staff is being reduced, seems that the organization is being dismantled. They sold rights to the TV show: Michigan out of Doors to Jimmy Gretzinger.

Dan Keifer commented that there is a perception of added attention and protection for coldwater fisheries and resources. They are valuable, special and need more protection.

Bryan asked if submitting written reports prior to the meeting was effective. General agreement was that it was, Bob Thorsen commented that the reports could be sent out a little earlier.

Kristin Nelson: (Americorps volunteer). Discussed stream data acquisition activities with various volunteers. E.g. Temperature, flow, macro invertebrate inventory, fish/creel survey general habitat. Photographs taken of stream areas. Discussed unwanted affects of using lamphreycide.

Chapter Reports:

Fred Waara – Second annual fly tying sessions, fly casting with a group from NMU. Banquet scheduled for April 17. February 21 will be an ice fishing day. Stream studies; Huron river is completed, Carp River is next.

Paul Young- Banquet scheduled for April 16. Planning a MiCorp project on the Manistee River, trying to get homeowners to participate.

Mershon (in conjunction with Martuch)-planning a walleye dinner at the next meeting. Program is to be fishing on the Kamchatka River in Russia. Projects include working on the Rifle River and Cedars on the Au Sable.

Clinton Valley- Banquet set for March 20. April 18 is project kickoff meeting for Paint Creek habitat improvement.

Arnold Copeland- Banquet set for April 16. Chapter will have a Youth float for St. Patrick’s Day.

Headwaters- The “Cash Bash” made \$4,000. E-mail John Walters for information if another Chapter is interested in doing this. “Tie One On” is a group fly tying event that is open to the public and a way to increase membership. Chapter holds a fly fishing school. Banquet scheduled for April (?). Headwaters/John Walters will host a call in for sharing ideas with other Chapter banquet chairs and workers. Headwaters typically gets 225-250 people at banquet, which is quite high for a Chapter of 350 members. (Conference call held last week in January and was well received).

Michigan Fly Fishing Club (MFFC) Club has a conservation committee, check their website for information.

Martuch- Discussed chapter insurance and liability. Meetings with alcohol, land/property. They decided to get their own insurance. Discussed film show-ADG media, check Little Forks Fly Shop website. Bryan Burroughs asked Aaron Rubel to check into this.

Pine River – Banquet is May 2. Chapter will sponsor/coordinate a Youth Fly Fishing school at Schmidt’s in Wellston.

Schrems/West Michigan- Banquet is March 19. Partnering with Muskegon River Watershed Council doing a dam survey. Small ones that may come out; Hersey, Clam, Coldwater. Chapter reps met with Drain Commissioners from Kent, Ionia and Barry Counties, discussed partnering with them. Work plans include the Pigeon River in Ottawa County. May Outing at the North Branch Club, partnering with FFF for a fly tying event.

Challenge- They have published a new river guide for the Pigeon River area covering three rivers. They will provide guide books for other Chapters banquets. They are raffling a trip to Argentina for 2 with Southern Cross Outfitters. They are donating a trip to Canada to fish the Grand River to MCTU for the 50th event. (Chapter swapped trips with the TU /Canada Chapter by providing a lower Au Sable trip).

Perrin- Working on the Au Sable River. For the 50th, they are selling a bamboo rod by Bob Summers and custom wood fly boxes made with wood from the Barbless Hook an e-mail will be sent with details. They are also selling special 50th anniversary pins, 10% of the proceeds go to MCTU.

Two Hearted- The founder of the chapter passed away, they will be holding a memorial for him. The chapter is motivated and active, could use financial assistance from other Chapters.

Kalamazoo Valley- Weber Fund applications are going out for conservation projects, due to the economy, funds may be lower this year. Michigan TU Youth Camp is set for June 28-July 2 at the RAM Center. A deceased member (Floyd Eberts) left the Chapter \$10,000. Use of the funds are being reviewed with a focus to the Deward area on the Upper Manistee, KVCTU is looking for partners in this.

Vanguard- Banquet will be May 15, at Riverquest Banquet facility in Rochester Hills. Sponsoring 2 facilities for Salmon in the Classroom, will have a booth at the MFFC show Mar. 7-8, a work weekend on the Black River weekend of Aug. 7 and volunteering chapter members to assist Clinton River Watershed Council Projects. Hex Outing last weekend in June and Salmon Outing the end of September.

Committee Reports:

Finance- Dave Smethurst. Dave said there is good support, he mentioned Robb Smith, Ron Peckens and Dan Keifer. Setting up a “fiscal entity” to accept large donations.

Grant writing, investigate who is getting grants in Michigan for coldwater streams. Looking for people who can investigate investment options. Tech Soup-Place for free or reduced cost software. We are getting software for writing grant applications (Grant source/Grant Station)

Conservation-Bob Thorsen. State Council Conservation Committee basically relies on input from various chapters to advise them of any issues needing attention. Aaron Rubel passed on a “thank you” for Bob Thorsen’s and Bryan Burroughs support letter regarding the removal of 2 dams on the Clinton River. Discussion of the committee’s next projects. Bryan prioritizes to approximately 5 items.

Education-Dick Augustine. Dick provided a handout for “Salmon in the Classroom”. Recently Fisheries and Education (state level) started working together more and this should increase use of the Salmon in the Classroom. Please use Dick as a clearinghouse for education items.

Communications-Pat Hughes was not present.

50th Anniversary update-Bryan Burroughs. Bryan summarized the notes from the last (Jan 10) conference call. We need more fishing hosts for the hosted fishing days, see Brian Kozminski to volunteer. Ross Rosenbrock will be sending out letters to chapters for donations.

Old Business: Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition. Consists of MCTU, Great Lakes Council, Federation of Flyfishers and Michigan United Conservation Clubs. Jim Schramm contacted Bryan, indicating MCTU had pledged to support financially with \$1,000. per year. MCTU had not paid in 2008. Proposed Resolution follows with amendment in italics: “Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited will pay \$1,000. to the Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition to fulfill it’s pre-existing pledge for 2008. In 2009 and the future, MCTU discontinues any previous pledges and obligations. Future annual contributions to the MHRC will be subject to discussion and Board approval, *on a year by year basis*”.

Motion made to accept as amended by Dick Augustine, seconded by Dave Smethurst; 22 voted to accept, 3 opposed. Motion passed.

New Business: Spring fundraising appeal. Proposed Resolution follows: Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited authorizes it’s Finance committee to spend up to \$5,000. to execute a Spring/Summer fundraising appeal letter. Motion made to accept resolution by Dave Smethurst, seconded by Ross Rosenbrock. 17 voted to accept, 7 opposed, 1 abstained from vote. Motion passed.

Open discussion: Discussed having a Spring banquet after the Spring Council meeting. Bob Thorsen said he may have the Rayburn Lodge for a July 18 *Michigan* TU celebration.

Michigan Fly Fishing Club (Warren Show). Aaron will be sending out an e-mail to coordinate representatives at the MCTU table.

Adjourn 3:00 PM: Jim Flamming made motion to adjourn, seconded by Denny Douglas.