

MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Meeting Minutes Winter Meeting 2008
WKAR Media Room
South Shaw Lane
East Lansing, Michigan
and Marquette, Michigan (via satellite link)
January 19, 2008

Voting Members Present: Kurt Brauer, Jeff Raphelson, Martin Van Fossan, Kimberly Wetton, Robb Smith, Ethan Winchester, Carl Hueter, Patrick Hughes, Bob Kren, Josh Butzin, Denny Douglas, John Sabina, Doug Koss, Starland Smith, Bill Fernandez, Jim Bedford, Steve Rapanos, Tom Quail, Mike Lagowski, Ross Rosenbrock, John Zakransek, Greg Lautzenheiser, Doug Miller, Aaron Rubel, Dave Smith, Ed Hoover, Jeff Auch, Tom Norton

Non-Voting Members Present: Bryan A. Burroughs, Ph.D, Chris Radke, Michael Knag

Guests: Jessica Moyer

1. Call to Order. Quarterly meeting called to order at 9:04 a.m. by vice-chair Kimberly Wetton.
 - a. Introductions were made and the agenda was approved.
 - b. Approval of Minutes
 - (1) September 29, 2007 Approval of minutes. **Motion to approve minutes of September 29, 2007 by John Sabina, seconded by Kurt Brauer. Motion passed.**
 - (2) December 15, 2007
2. Approval of MCTU Secretary: Jeff Raphelson has agreed to take the position of Secretary. **Motion by Kurt Brauer that Jeff Raphelson be elected as secretary, seconded by Robb Smith. Motion passed.**
3. Financial Reports: Robb Smith presented the treasurer's report, assisted by Chris Radke. The sub-agenda is attached as Exhibit A.
 - a. *Review of Budget, Income Statement and Balance Sheet.* Accounting and bookkeeping expenses are higher because of the audit. This expense will decrease with time. The council sold the truck that had been listed in prior statements. The ED Fund is self-restricted. We will use principal from the Operating Fund but income only from the ED Fund. TU National is handling the investments.

- b. *Donation Statement.* Support from the chapters has been good. Through October 2007, donations had totaled \$9,250.
 - c. *IRS Request for information on 1999/2000 fiscal year.*
 - d. *IRS Form 990N.* The Treasurer's materials include a frequently asked questions and answers sheet providing guidance on how to complete an IRS 990N form. There is a new version of the form for non-profits with less than \$25,000 of gross revenue. Failure to file three consecutive reports will compromise the filer's non-profit status. In our case, a chapter's failure to file will jeopardize the 501(c)(3) status for the TU National and **all** its chapters. The form is due five months after the end of a chapter's fiscal year. It may be filed electronically once the IRS develops a form.
 - e. *2007 Audit and comments.* Thanks to the tremendous work of Robb Smith, Chris Radke, Charlene , and Yeo & Yeo, the audit has been completed. **Motion by Dave Smith to approve audit, seconded by Ross Rosenbrock. Motion passed.**
 - f. *Proposed Resolution on Financial Controls.* The policies reflected in this resolution modify the existing resolution to make it workable yet maintaining necessary controls and transparency. **Motion by Ross Rosenbrock to accept proposed resolution, seconded by John Sabina. Motion passed.** Following a discussion on the selection of alternate check signers, a friendly amendment was proposed (new president of Mershon) that the alternate signers are nominated by the treasurer and approved by the board. **Amendment passed.**
4. Executive Director's Report. The budget was approved during the Treasurer's report. In almost eight months, Bryan has been busier than anticipated with large, state-wide conservation issues. He intends to make time for more organizational and administrative work.
- a. *Conservation.*
 - (1) The first issue Bryan had to address was VHS and aquatic invasives. Courts have upheld Michigan's right to require permitting of ballast water, and other states have started passing similar measures. This has been a major positive development.
 - (2) Five Upper Peninsula streams benefited from special Coaster Brook Trout Research Regulations. Two of the streams will retain their protections allowing Northern Michigan University to complete its research. Michigan needs a management plan for migratory Coaster Brook Trout.
 - (3) As discussed in the Fall meeting, the treaty on Indian hunting and fishing rights was signed.

- (4) Kennecott. The DEQ approved the permits on December 4. The DNR is still investigating certain issues before deciding whether to approve the permits (more on this in the Conservation Committee Report).
- (5) CAPO Legislation.
- (6) DNR Funding issues. Bryan visited with several legislators to explain the need for DNR funding. The DNR must do a better job of communicating their needs to the legislature.
- (7) Bryan participated in a Dam Removal Workshop.
- (8) Outreach to other conservation groups.
- (9) Groundwater Withdrawal. Bryan has spent considerable time recently on groundwater issues and his efforts will have an impact on the options that are considered.

b. *Communications.*

- (1) MCTU website. The redesigned website is up and its framework is solid and workable. It will provide a good platform for disseminating information. We will keep the current webmaster but Ron Peckins has graciously agreed to resume work on the website as well. Bryan intends to update the website 2-3 times per week. Ron's involvement will assist in keeping it current.
- (2) Trout Magazine. Many feel improvements are necessary. Bryan and Jessica will survey our members to gather ideas for improving its quality, content, costs and other issues.

c. *Education.*

- (1) The education committee has surveyed current education efforts as a first step in developing a strategic plan for the committee.

d. *Membership and Chapter Effectiveness.*

- (1) Aaron Rubel has done a very good job heading this committee and we appreciate his efforts. Aaron and Jessica Moyer have developed membership letters which have been distributed to all chapter presidents.
- (2) We have added a University sub-chapter for Ferris State University. Ethan Winchester is representing it at this meeting. This is a great source of potential future members.

e. *Finance and Fund Raising.*

- (1) We need to increase our Michigan based fundraising. We cannot rely on internal challenges but we must reach out to external sources, people and groups that think MCTU does good work. We've identified people who would like to help us with our fund raising efforts. The completed audit will be a useful tool in soliciting contributions.
- (2) Jessica has been scouring literature and the Internet for sources of grant funding.

f. *Organizational.*

- (1) Adding Jessica Moyer, our AmeriCorps volunteer, has been a big help without significant cost to the council. She works at least 37.5 hours per week on council business. Volunteer coordination will be one of her major tasks.
- (2) Our council's strategic plan needs to be reviewed, updated and improved.

5. Developing Policy for MCTU. Bryan needs direction from the council when presenting MCTU's views on policy issues, and the compromises and balancing that go into legislation. The process is too fluid for the council to weigh in on every decision. Kurt Brauer and Ed Hoover presented a draft resolution providing guidance on priorities for water withdrawal policy. The Council considered the resolution and its purposes. There was a consensus on two changes to the language. **Motion by Pat Hughes to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Robb Smith. Motion passed.**

6. Bylaw Committee Report. Kurt Brauer will review TU National's bylaws, which TU National will probably approve at its September meeting. Because MCTU will likely need to conform its bylaws to those TU National adopts, Kurt recommends slowing down MCTU's bylaw review process so that it runs parallel to TU National's review. The Bylaws Committee's initial meeting will be in February.

7. NLC Report. The NLC will meet in February. It is addressing a variety of issues, such as river access.

8. MCTU Awards. Aaron Rubel presented the following awards:

a. Order of the Grayling (honoring the passing of TU members who had a lasting, statewide impact on the preservation of coldwater resources):

- (1) Bob Jackson, nominated by Kalamazoo Chapter (accepted by Ed Hoover).
- (2) Dr. Carl Richards, nominated by Schrems West Michigan Chapter (accepted by Alecia Richards).

b. Chapter of the Year: Schrems West Michigan Chapter (accepted by Dave Smith).

Lunch Break

9. Home Rivers. TU National has pioneered this program, which spotlights a particular river or watershed that needs improvement. TU National will provide fund-raising support and publicity for the project. It typically involves a full-time employee working on the restoration project for three to five years. We have identified a half dozen candidate rivers [Rifle River, Huron River (UP), Perry Creek, Clinton River, Sturgeon River, Middle Branch of Muskegon]. The next step is to consult with DNR biologists to gauge the problems and prospects for each of these streams.
10. Chairs' Reports.
 - a. *Detroit Kids Fishing Day.* This event will take place May 17, 2008 at Palmer Park in Detroit. TU National will contribute \$1,000 if Southeast Michigan chapters participate.
11. Disposition of Archival Materials. At the request of the Council, Carl Hueter has researched various institutions in the State including the Bentley Library at the University of Michigan and the State of Michigan Historical Museum, for purposes of turning over the MCTU records (contained in about 20 to 30 legal storage boxes in a climate controlled storage facility) to their permanent collections for cataloging and safe keeping. A written report was handed out outlining this research in detail.
12. Committee Reports.
 - a. *Communications.* The last issue of Trout Magazine was delayed. This was partially due to reduced advertising. This highlights the need for an assessment of the purposes we intend for the magazine and developing guidelines based on these purposes. We also need to do a better job of communicating content deadlines to chapters and advertisers.
 - b. *Education.* The education committee is developing its long term strategic plan. Jessica presented the results of the educational survey. (Only 14 of 23 chapters responded to the council's request for information on educational activities. Additional responses are welcome.) The Salmon in the Classroom project is generally considered an effective program. Lack of volunteers, especially volunteer leaders, is the biggest hurdle chapters face to providing educational programs. Jessica will try to address this through volunteer coordination. Programs for minorities or persons with disabilities should be a priority.
 - c. *Membership.* Aaron Rubel reported on the Membership Committee's recent meeting and the committee's goals for the next quarter. The committee's mission is to assist all chapters to become more effective. In 2008, the committee intends to increase chapter membership by 11%. In the last quarter of 2007, 383 Michigan TU members did not renew their memberships. Forty-one percent (157) were gift members. Aaron intends to prepare a PowerPoint presentation to assist chapter leaders navigate the "Leaders Only" section of the TU National website. TU National provides training through online tutorials. The committee

will also explore methods of increasing chapter effectiveness. Finally, the committee will identify another college for opening a second university chapter.

- d. *Conservation.* Kurt Brauer presented the Conservation Committee report.
 - (1) Conservation work has taken up a large portion of Bryan's time and the committee's chief purpose is to provide Bryan guidance.
 - (2) The next committee meeting will be February 13, 2008 (including a telephone call-in number) and council representatives should urge their members to participate. The meeting will focus on strategic planning, with an emphasis on communicating needs and goals throughout Michigan TU.
 - (3) *Kennecott Mining.* Kennecott Minerals identified some rich deposits of nickel and other valuable ores in the Upper Peninsula that it wanted to extract. MCTU has devoted a lot of time reviewing and commenting on Kennecott's permit applications. On December 14, 2007, MDEQ issued three permits. Kennecott still needs two permits from the MDNR. Laura Hewitt is reviewing all action taken on TU's comments, the majority of which were accepted. **Motion by Pat Hughes to table taking a position until further information is available, seconded. Motion carried by majority.**
 - e. *Finance.* The IRS inquired as to a report MCTU did not file for 1999-2000. We investigated and determined that it was because we hired Rich Bowman in the middle of that year who submitted reports for the second half of the year. We have reported that we had no employees or activity to report for the first half of that period.
13. 50th Celebration in Traverse City. Pat Kochanny has been in contact with TU National. Coordination of responsibility between MCTU and TU National is very important. Ross Rosenbrock reported that Beth Ward Donohue has agreed to revise the Adams fly print for \$550 for reproduction and sale in connection with the Traverse City celebration. Producing 100 copies of the print at 12" x 20" would cost \$4,100. At \$89 per print, MCTU would make \$2,200. Other artists such as Larry Cory have also offered to provide a print. **Motion by John Sabina to table consideration of whether to purchase and reproduce a print for sale in connection with the 50th Anniversary Celebration, seconded by Pat Hughes. Motion passed.**
 14. Old Business.
 - a. MCTU has finally sold the truck and trailer.
 15. New Business.
 - a. The Michigan River Guides Association have joined MCTU as affiliate members and have paid their dues.

- b. MCTU needs a new Finance Committee chair.
- c. Chapters that have requests for funding from the Ramy-Nelson fund should submit them to Robb Smith.
- d. Dave Smith reported that the Schrems Chapter is willing to exchange prints with other chapters looking for other markets.
- e. Please review the proposed MCTU logos and express your preference or provide other feedback (questionnaire provided).
- f. Spring Outing will be at the MacMullen Center. MCTU encourages council members to attend and to contribute to the fundraising activities.
- g. December Special Meeting. There was no quorum. The notes from that meeting were distributed.

Adjournment: Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

Spring Meeting:	April 4-6, 2008	Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center, Roscommon, MI
Summer Meeting:	July 12, 2008	The Landmark Inn, Marquette, MI
President's Outing:	September 26, 2008	Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center, Roscommon, MI
Fall Meeting	September 27, 2008	Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center, Roscommon, MI