

**DRAFT MINUTES
MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED
SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING
SATURDAY APRIL, 10,2010
RALPH MACMULLEN CENTER HIGGINS LAKE**

Voting members: Pat Hughes, Bill Thorsted, Doug Shore, Tom Quail, Pat Kochanny, Dan Keifer, Dick Augustine, Marion Alexander, Ken Nuorala, Mark Hendricks, Terry Warrington, Denny Douglas, Bob Rought, Mike Mouradian, Dan Zywocki, Harley Holsinger, Tom Monto, Dave Stellingworth, Paul Meyer, Dave Smethurst, John Walters, Brian Kozminski, Casey Morley, Brian Considine, Ron Peckens, Robb Smith, Dave Smith, Kimberly Wetton, Paul Morand, Jim Wilkinson, Mike Lagowski

Non Voting Members: Cari Sebright, Kristin Thomas, James Wades, Bryan Burroughs, Bob Andrus

Guests: Dale Herndon from Project Healing Waters.

Call to order: Kimberly Wetton called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Everyone introduced themselves.

Staff Reports:

Bryan Burroughs- Executive Director. Bryan mentioned a book "Pigeon River Country" that chronicled the effects of the dam on the Song of the Morning property. We have successfully litigated the removal of the dam and were advised this Monday April 5. Peter Gustafson (who provided our legal counsel) was cited for his invaluable mediation skills and input to the successful outcome of this issue.

The owners will pay for the dam's removal and \$150,000 for state expenses incurred at the last dam failure. On April 12, Bryan will meet with the dam owners for a general plan of the dam removal, which will lead to a more detailed plan.

Bryan was given an award of special recognition for his work on the Pigeon River dam issue.

Coaster Brook Trout. DNRE agreed to enter in with MITU for a grant of \$180000 to survey which streams have them and are used for spawning. Bryan worked with DNRE to provide data to TU National for a CSI study on coasters.

Joyce Foundation Grant- discussed MITU partner with other organizations on a grant application.

Trout regulation changes are going slower then expected. A report was recently sent out, still need to have town hall meetings. Requesting feedback from Chapters about effects on their local streams. New regs should go into effect on an April 1 time frame.

Kristin Thomas-Aquatic Ecologist. Plans are to work with up to 15 Chapters this year. \$6K is available now from donations made by the Pine River and Perrins Chapters. Looking for additional donations and possibly grants including moneys from MiCorps.

First item for purchase is a shocker. A manual is available on line regarding stream data collection.

Cari Sebright-MiCorps volunteer. Cari participated in program about being an outdoors woman and outdoors family. Went to Portage Parks and Recreation, worked with KVCTU members. Dave Smith asked Cari to post her projects and completion dates.

Morning break-10:15AM.

Robb Smith Treasurers report.

Audit complete and it "looks good". We improved the system for handling revenue from Michigan Trout ads. We will start using a number system to identify accounts. Our balance has gone up to approximately \$615K, a result of better market conditions. P&L statement-\$56K close to budget. Received our rebate from TU National which improved our position to \$42K.

Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Dan Zylwocki, seconded and approved unanimously.

Strategic Plan – Dave Smith

Dave presented the plans Mission, Vision, and Goals using power point presentation. We are requesting feedback from the Chapters (+/-) by May 23. At the June meeting we will present the plan for approval. We intend to review and update quarterly.

Discussion of the strategic plan and the Development Director being considered for fundraising. Dave presented the 5-7 year projection of our financial position, which is driving the need for the Development Director.

Awards- Bryan Kozminski

Chapter of the Year- Headwaters. Accepting were John Walters and Dave Smethurst.

Order of the Hexagenia- Pete Gustafson for his work (pro bono) on the Pigeon River litigation and successful outcome.

Order of the Caddis- Dave Smith. For heading up the conservation day activities at the 50th and his leadership to the ExCom regarding the strategic plan development.

Order of the Grayling- Rusty Gates, Joe Kutkuhn, Bill Fernandez, Bob Reed and Mike Caparon.

Lunch

Approval of January 2010 meeting minutes. Motion made by Pat Hughes and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

We are changing name of Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited to Michigan Trout Unlimited. This will require some revisions to the by laws, we will need to add dba where needed. Motion made to change our name to Michigan Trout Unlimited. Motion passed by majority, 3 votes opposed.

Policy on accepting donations. We plan to replace with a new policy, not remove it.

Chris Radke sent a proposal April 8, in review at this time.

Committee Reports.

Communications-Ron Peckens

Discussed use of the Forum and Google calendar. Michigan Trout had 260 people “opt out” of the printed magazine. There is a bi-monthly e-mail “In the Stream”. We have approximately 700 people on facebook, we are using twitter.

Conservation- Tom Quail.

Asian carp. During the upcoming week (April 16), the Supreme Court has been requested to rule on reopening the Chicago diversion case. This issue will be in the “In the Stream” e-mail.

Committee looked at both the House and Senate bills, unlikely either one will make it. However, Attorney Generals from 8 Great Lakes States and the Governors are acting together. Michigan TU is being soug out by the Governors office. TU National is being helpful. Generally, the Commission is using too long of a time frame-the threat is imminent.

CAFO- DNRE issued a general permit March 31.

Well drilling is coming back in the picture on the Mason Tract.

Education- Mike Mouradian

Michigan Fly Fishing School was discussed, with regard to improving and expanding.

Salmon in the Classroom.

“Project Fish” at MSU.

Ken Nuorala talked about the KVCTU Youth Camp and the hope that each Chapter would send or sponsor at least 1 camper this year. John Walters made a pitch for Chapter participation, as did Dave Smethurst.

Finance- Dave Smethurst

Dave talked about the need for and hiring of a Development Director for Michigan TU. ExCom needs to write a job description for the officer positions, which can be passed on to future members.

Discussed grant writing using “Grant Station” software.

NLC- Pat Kochanny

Pat talked about his recent visit to TU National. He emphasized the need for TU National to increase Chapter support. We basically want more for our money. Only 2 staff people dedicated to Chapters (grassroots).

Pat is on the Board of Trustees Selection Committee and the Atomic Energy Development Commission.

Pat left us with the comment that he wears something “TU” every day. It often is a conversation starter.

Afternoon break.

Kimberly Wetton talked about Home Rivers as it applies to the Rogue. About 2/3 of the funding is in place per Laura Hewitt.

Headwaters-per John Walters. Home Rivers will cover the Sturgeon, Pigeon, Black and the Maple. No funding yet, Headwaters Chapter is planning to hire an Americorps person to begin data collection and other duties to assist in grant writing.

Project Healing Waters- Dale Herndon

Dale provided a handout and we watched a short video about the program, set up to assist wounded and disabled veterans learn about fly fishing. Dale is willing to assist Michigan TU's efforts; he is willing to host a meeting at his cabin on the North Branch.

Old Business

We are planning to move the State TU Conference (TU University) to the fall time frame.

Motion made to accept the funds from the End of the Year Appeal by Dave Smith, seconded ; motion approved unanimously.

Headwaters Chapter wants to donate \$1000. to Michigan TU. Motion made by John Walters, seconded; approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made at 3:18PM by Pat Hughes, seconded; passed unanimously.

Next Quarterly (Summer) meeting June 26, 2010. RAM Center, Roscommon MI
Fall Quarterly meeting September 25, 2010 RAM Center , Roscommon MI (includes elections of officers)

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lagowski

Secretary Michigan Trout Unlimited