



MICHIGAN TROUT UNLIMITED

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

MINUTES
MICHIGAN COUNCIL TROUT UNLIMITED
SUMMER QUARTERLY MEETING JULY 12, 2008
LANDMARK HOTEL, MARQUETTE, MI

Voting Members: Patrick Kochanny, Kimberly Wetton, Robb Smith, Bob Kren, Bob Jensen, Doug Miller, Mike Lagowski, Jeanette Lagowski, Aaron Rubel, David Smith, Brian Kozminski, Steven Rapanos, Dick Augustine, Bob Moody, Starland Smith, Shawn Hagan, John Ollila, Ron Peckens, Bob Thorsen, John Friedli, Dave Smethurst, Patrick Hughes, Jim Diem, Scott Liggett

Non Voting Members: Bryan Burroughs, Ken Snyder Jessica Moyer

Guests : Marcy Cella, David Cella, Steve Scott

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM by Chair Pat Kochanny.

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves.

Revisions to Agenda: Upcoming Events date revised-Presidents Outing is Sept. 26 & 27, (was Sept. 19).

Approval of Minutes from April 5, 2008 and January 19,2008 meeting: Kimberly Wetton requested a correction to January's minutes; item 1. b. (1) to read: September 29, 2007 approval of minutes. **Motion to approve minutes of January 19 and April 5, 2008 (with January correction) by Pat Kochanny, seconded by Ron Peckens and approved unanimously.**

Presentation "How to Run Effective Meetings" by Bob Jensen of Fred Waara Chapter: Bob presented a brief, thorough set of examples of both effective and ineffective methods and practices for holding meetings. Bad example: No agenda, nobody in charge, wandering discussions, no participation. Good example: Agenda sent out ahead of meeting, come to meeting prepared, stick to agenda, encourage participation. "Transparency of leadership" so members have input and same group is not making decisions. Include social time after meeting.

Presentation "Update on Lake Superior Fish Management" by Steve Scott of MDNR: Lake Superior primarily composed of native species, it has a world class lake trout fishery. Three native sub species exist, stocking of them stopped in 1996/1997. Issues to consider : asian carp, could be a problem if they enter the Great Lakes; exotics from ocean freighter ballast water; VHS. Discussed regulation changes, mass marking of planted fish to distinguish natives from planters. Coaster brook trout are in a holding pattern. No genetic difference from stream brook trout found which kept them from being considered an endangered species and any special focus that would have provided. 2 releases with no observed returns, continuing research on the Salmon Trout river.

Paul Seelbach moving to position as a Biologist .

Tammy Newcomb -new Director.

Curt Neuman moving to Lake Huron from Lake Erie. Erie will need to be backfilled.

Jim Dexter will stay in position at Lake Michigan.

TU Home Rivers Program: Pat Kochanny and Bryan Burroughs. The Rogue and the Cheboygan (including Pigeon, Black, Sturgeon and Maple tributaries) were selected as recipients of this classification. Schrems and Headwaters provided thorough reports and took Laura Hewitt and Bryan Moore from TUNA to the locations.

Mentioned also were the Rifle, Jordan and Boardman rivers.

Pigeon River Dam Failure at Song of the Morning Camp: Dave Smethurst gave a report of the sediment release from the hydro dam on the Pigeon and subsequent fish kill downstream. High water conditions in June 20 time frame caused concern by dam owners. They were advised by DNR to lower the backwaters SLOWLY. The dam owners pulled out a large portion of the dam allowing a large sediment release to flood downstream, tripling normal flow. They then put the dam back in place the next day, slowing flow which compounded the problem that already occurred. The event brought considerable media attention .

TUNA has been advised of the event.

Headwaters Chapter has lined up attorneys while waiting for Attorney General's response.

MCTU has drafted the following position statements:

“MCTU condemns the actions that led to the excessive water, sediment and dewatering of the Pigeon River from the Song of the Morning pond that resulted in the associated fish kill“.

“MCTU is authorized to explore remedial and preventative actions to avoid future negative environmental impacts of the Song of the Morning dam, including legal action in accordance with the legal policies of Trout Unlimited National”.

Executive Directors Report Bryan Burroughs: Report was mainly on timeline of water withdrawal legislation.

Michigan's law enacted in Feb. 2006 was vague and undefined. DEQ and DNR couldn't enforce it effectively. With the need to rewrite with more specificity, the Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council was formed. Reps from DNR (Paul Seelbach,) MCTU (Rich Bowman) and 10 people most who were water users comprised the Council.

This was Bryan's main focus after he was hired as E.D. for MCTU. A very liberal proposed law was being written especially regarding coldwater streams. Bryan wrote a position paper on behalf of MCTU, which stated a more stringent reduction in coldwater species. Critiqued S.B. 860, MUCC was not helpful -the Senate wanted to see support from them. Through Bryan's work and communication and strong grassroots response in support of TU's position and it resulted in a law that holds at maximum reduction in coldwater streams of thriving species is <3%.

Next steps:

Need assessment tools for wetlands, 11,000 stream segments, 132 USGS gauging points.

Expand our advocacy techniques and utilize our membership networks.

Ongoing reacting issues.

Strategic planning.

Home Rivers.

Fundraising.

Organizational functioning .

Dick Augustine suggested we write a “Thank You” to those that helped our cause and recognition to those we know did not. No vote on this item.

Committee Reports

Education Dick Augustine: Dick provided a summary of activities and said there has been good response. He would like to advise some of our legislators and show benefits of TU's efforts. Requested feedback from Chapters on this. Requested feedback from Chapters on their education efforts.

Membership/Chapter Development Aaron Rubel: Statewide membership is up 5%-353 members YTD. 59 new in last 50 days.

Top 3 Chapters in growth percentage: Headwaters, Clinton Valley and Fred Waara.

Top 3 Chapters in growth numbers: Paul Young, Headwaters and Schrems.

Training Teleconference scheduled for July 16, 2008.

Suggested ways to attract new members: partner with sporting goods stores, parades, family/multi chapter events.

Documents to approve: Grant Application Form.

Need one representative from each Chapter for membership committee.

Pat Kochanny recommended we submit for "Order of the Grayling", nominations for Michigan Council Awards and National awards.

Aaron Rubel reported that there has been one nomination for Michigan council Awards to date during 2008 and that is for "Order of the Grayling".

Communications Pat Hughes

Committee was formed with Bob Thorsen and others, to survey and gather information of MCTU website and Michigan Trout -principally editorial content of state magazine. Bob commented about "TU" type articles (stream improvements, advocacy) and fishing articles which invariably cost.

Motion made by Kimberly Wetton to have Pat Hughes chair of Communications Committee ,seconded by Dave Smethurst ,passed unanimously.

Finance report Robb Smith: Financial package provided, reviewed balance sheet, P&L report. Robb noted June's MI Trout costs had not been included and would affect bottom line.

Conservation Vacant/Bryan Burroughs: *Council needs a chairperson.* Regarding coaster brook trout...no genetic difference from stream brook trout found which kept them from being listed as an endangered species and any special focus that would have been provided. TU wanted them listed.

50th Anniversary Event Pat Kochanny

Pat's last conference call with national was 7-2-08. Site for event will be Grand Traverse Resort.

Schedule of events:

Monday 8-10-09 Informal fishing day, which rivers, logistics, need local volunteer guides. Coordinator needed.

Tuesday 8-11-09 "Formal" fishing day, (for out of state visitors, officials). Need to choose rivers. Dave Leonhard has offered to provide his shop as a starting point. Issue: he does not sell licenses, so this needs to be worked out.

Wednesday 8-12-09 Conservation Day Tour. Dave Smith Chair. Dave provided summary of investigation to date. Grayling area, 5 possibilities, conservation social. TUNA will fund tour buses, Need tour guides and sponsors.

Thursday 8-13-09 Vendor Day. Held at resort, donated items, off site barbeque, display of MI chapters conservation projects.

Friday 8-14-09 Main meeting day: Status of TU, awards, past/ present/ future issues. Hospitality suite(s).

Saturday 8-15-09 Grassroots breakfast. Open mike Q&A for TUNA officials (and others), workshops.

Formal banquet will be held that evening. MCTU is in charge of banquet and auctions-proceeds will go to MCTU.

A 50th anniversary website will be launched in August, request Chapter Presidents to go into site and provide information/get information.

OEI (company) is running the event.

Corporate sponsors-GM/Ford/Chrysler declined, others have agreed.
Any questions can be made to Pat Kochanny.

Future Meetings/New Business With \$4.00+ gas prices, we are looking at using video conference as a means to reduce travel, especially from the UP to LP. Pat Kochanny will handle details.

Pat Hughes , Dave Smethurst will handle nominations for new officers.

Affiliation with MUCC, considering cost and benefits; after discussion a motion was made to drop our membership by Bob Thorsen, seconded by Aaron Rubel. Passed unanimously.
Pat Kochanny will write a letter to MUCC.

Motion toby Dave Smethurst, seconded and passed unanimously. (need 1st motion off computer screen)

Motion to By Dick Augustine, seconded and passed unanimously. (need 2nd motion off computer screen)

Bryan Burrough's performance and salary review. Feedback provided earlier was positive for Bryan's performance. Discussion of his remuneration resulted in the following which was motioned by Shawn Hagan, seconded and passed unanimously:

Salary: \$58,500.

Added amount to offset our cost for Bryan's health insurance, which he declined: \$3,500.

4% added into a 403-b fund.

Executive committee given authority to work out details of providing vehicle (ownership or lease) or paying a monthly vehicle allowance.

Vacation: 2 weeks per year until 5 yrs, then 3 weeks.

Respectfully submitted:

Mike Lagowski
Representative from Kalamazoo Valley Chapter
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