

MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Fall meeting – September 20, 2003

Thunder Bay Inn, Big Bay, Michigan

Present: Paul Adesko, Dick Augustine, Richard Chamberlin, Bill Deephouse, Pat Doyle, Kimberly Clark, Tom Gebhardt, Ray Geitka, Mark Green, Carl Hueter, Pat Kochanny, Julio Mazzoli, John Sabina, David Shantz, Mike Slater, Joe Swantek, Terry Warrington, Russ Williams.

Non Voting members: Rich Bowman, Jim Conklin, Chris Fries, Joe Hamel, Bob Hudson, Doug Miller, J. R. Scott.

Guests: Jill Leonard, Jessica Mistak, Cynthia Pryor, Steve Scott.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Paul Adesko; introductions were made, and the minutes from the summer meeting were approved as written.
2. Membership report – Mark Green reviewed the new membership reimbursement program from TU National (Attachment A). In order for the Michigan Council to continue to get the \$2.50 annual rebate for each member chapter financial reports must be submitted to TU National by November 15th with a cc to Joe Swantek. If a chapter has any questions on that procedure contact Joe Swantek or Rich Bowman for help. Mark also noted that we have 6,337 TU members in Michigan as of this time.
3. Annual Council Awards Program – the packages for nominations for the 2003 Awards (which will be presented at the January meeting) will be mailed out on October 1st and are due back to Mark Green by December 1, 2003.
4. Awards received – The Silver Trout Award for excellence was presented to the Warra (Marquette) Chapter, Michigan Trout was selected as the best state newsletter, and John Sabina was named the 2003 outstanding volunteer in the U. S. for his work as past Council Chairman and also on the Tribal Rights negotiations. All of these awards were presented at the recent TU National meeting in Denver, CO.
5. TU National meeting – MCTU had seven attendees. Issues of a National scope were discussed and detailed coverage of those issues will be forthcoming in Trout magazine. Mike Slater, NLC Representative, can act as a liaison if a chapter needs some background information from TU National to help with a local issue.
6. Financial Reports – Although it is not quite the end of this fiscal year it looks like the income statement will show a positive balance of revenues over expenses of approximately \$20,000. The operating budget for the new fiscal year 2003/2004 was approved, with the two changes noted, (Attachment B).
7. MCTU Ice Mountain Conservation Project Awards – The details on how to qualify for \$1,000 awards for local chapter stream improvement projects will be sent out shortly by Rich Bowman.
8. MCTU Election of Officers – the present officers were elected to another term to run from October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004.

9. MCTU Action Network – After noting the power of letters regarding conservation issues to legislators Carl Hueter proposed an Action Network wherein each chapter would have an e-mail “grapevine or phone tree” to mobilize our 6,000 members to write their legislator as issues arise. Carl asked for someone to help him formulate an outline for such a program to be presented as a proposal at the January 2004 meeting.
10. Kennecott Exploration Company proposal – Mineral rights have recently been purchased from the State of Michigan, Ford Motor Company, and Mead/Westvaco Paper Company by the Kennecott Exploration Company on approximately; 462,000 acres of U. P. land, and they are going to explore the feasibility of opening a nickel mine near the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River in the Yellow Dog Plains. The main concern is the possibility of sulfuric acid from acid mine drainage. The Salmon Trout River has the last vestige of Coaster Brook Trout on the south shore of Lake Superior. Cynthia Pryor from the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Inc. asked for support from MCTU and a motion was passed to the effect that “MCTU opposes the granting of any permits for the mining of sulfide ores in the State of Michigan”.
11. Coaster Brook Trout update – Even though stocking has taken place in the Gratiot River, Carp River, and the Mosquito, Seven Mile, and Hurricane creeks in Pictured Rocks; no returning spawners have yet been found. Dr. Jill Leonard, from NMU, said since fall plantings have not worked yet that spring plantings of some yearlings and fingerlings will be tried. Also telemetry studies will be tried on a bigger scale. 450 Brook Trout have been tagged and will be released on September 20, 2003 so their movement and returns, if any, can be better detected.
12. U. P. Hydro Power dam update – the recent breaching, by flood waters, of two dams on the Dead River as reported in the Autumn 2003 issue of Michigan Trout, has led to the possibility that the Tourist Park dam near County Road 550 in the city of Marquette may not be rebuilt; that would open up three miles of new water for Steelhead and Salmon *and* expose a very pretty natural waterfall which had been drowned for many years. Jessica Mistak, from the DNR, explained the hang up on that possibility is that the Marquette Board of Light and Power does not want to incur costs for stream restoration.
13. DNR Fisheries Division update for the U. P. – Steve Scott, Lake Superior Basin Coordinator, stated he hoped that someday the Yellow Dog and Salmon Trout rivers would be designated as Natural Rivers. For any questions re: rivers in the Lake Superior Basin persons can call Steve at (906) 293-5131, ext. 4070.
14. Winston Fly Rod raffle – The Challenge Chapter’s name was drawn as the winner of a Winston fly rod. The rod had been offered as a fund raiser for MCTU and 99 tickets had been sold at \$100 each. Thanks to those chapters who participated.
15. Tribal Rights update – John Sabina reported that as of September 15, 2003 the State of Michigan has entered a motion in Federal District Court in Kalamazoo to figure out at timetable for settling the issue of fishing rights on inland waters. The ball is now rolling and it may be a few months yet but a coalition(s) will need to be formed and dollars will need to be expended to settle this issue just as it was on Great Lakes waters. The exact wording of the State’s motion is as follows “This action seeks a declaration that Plaintiffs-Counter-Defendants do not retain any

off-reservation hunting and/or fishing rights is inland areas under the 1836 Treaty of Washington”.

16. Stream Sweep update – Design evaluation and operational reviews continue to be conducted by the Keweenaw Research Center at Michigan Tech. The MCTU engineering committee consisting of John Sabina, Julio Mazzoli, and Mike Slater met with persons from the Keweenaw Research Center on September 16, 2003 and they found that many problems remain to be solved. The MCTU Committee will have an evaluation report outlining feasibility and related costs at the January 2004 Council meeting. The options are to build a new dredge from scratch, modify the existing one, or scrap the whole idea.
17. Pigeon River Country update – Shell Oil company wants to sell their leases in the Pigeon River (they own 75% of the leases, Quick Silver Resources owns the other 25%) and also they do not want to be the court ordered single operator of the oil pumping operation anymore. Rich Bowman will continue to monitor this negotiation.
18. Mason Tract natural gas well - previously MCTU wrote a letter to Lynn Boyd, DNR property manager, stating it was not opposed to the drilling of the well but did not like its location and further the letter outlined several restrictions that MCTU felt needed to be met. Rich Bowman stated that Savoy Energy Co. has agreed to all of the conditions that MCTU specified in the letter. Still many other parties still need to be satisfied about their agendas.
19. Natural Rivers - the Pine and Upper Manistee Rivers were officially signed into law as Natural Rivers last week. Immediately a bill was introduced to amend that act. HB 4642 seeks to gut the act by proposing that after two years from designation any local unit of government can opt out of the Natural Rivers requirements. Obviously MCTU does not support this bill. Rich had a list of twelve key Republicans to contact and assigned various chapters to the effort.
20. Spring meeting at Barothy’s Lodge – In the January issue of Michigan Trout there will be a silent auction insert asking each chapter to donate a worthwhile item to be used in the silent auction fund raising.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m...

Respectfully submitted,

Richard H. Chamberlin, secretary