



Minutes

Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited Spring Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Ralph A. MacMullan Center, Roscommon, MI

Voting Members: Patrick Kochanny (Chair), Kimberly Wetton (Vice Chair), Robb Smith (Treasurer), Jeffrey Raphaelson (Secretary), Dick Augustine, Patrick Hughes, Bill Fernandez, Dan Zywocki, Bob Jensen, Gary Sauter, Jim Flamming, Mike Lagowski, Ed Cieslinski, Brian Kozminski, Aaron Rubel, Tom Quail, Bob Thorsen, Ray Geitka, Carl O. Hueter, Andrew Milnes, Martin Van Fossan, Robert Kren, Mike Caparon, Dave Smethurst, Ross Rosenbrock, and Ethan Winchester.

Non-Voting Members: Bryan Burroughs, Dan Keifer, Ed Zebrowski, Alex Forsberg, Brennen Kerr and Dave Smith.

Guests: Bryan Moore (TU National) and Nancy Bradley (TU National).

Call to order: At 9:01 a.m., Chair Patrick Kochanny called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves.

Minutes: The council reviewed the minutes from the July 12, 2008 meeting and corrected the dates for the TU 50th Anniversary Celebration. *Upon motion of Kimberly Wetton, supported by Dave Smethurst, the minutes of the Council's July 12, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.*

Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Bryan Burroughs reported on the following topics.

- *Past Quarter Activities;* During the last quarter, in addition to his considerable administrative duties and correspondence, Bryan attended a MSU fisheries retreat to catch up on current developments and needs. He also attended a meeting on the Pigeon River dam failure, and a follow up meeting with a lawyer to investigate legal action. (See Conservation Committee report.) He attended a Rifle River Restoration Committee presentation. Bryan enrolled in the TU timesheet accounting program. He wrote four articles for Michigan Trout. He worked on the TU 50th Anniversary Program and the Voelker Celebration (with Dick Augustine). He also attended a MDNR Recruitment and Retention meeting. He and Chris Radke worked on the TU state library archives. Bryan assisted with a section 319 grant research. He attended the TU National annual meeting. He assisted in the preparation of a proposal for grants to conduct aquatic invasive species education and MEC implementation. Finally, he advanced the council's efforts at fundraising.
- *Dam Removal Issues;* Bryan presented on dam removal to the Huron Pines staff, was the keynote speaker at the Huron Pines Dam Summit, and headed Ann Arbor dam removal initiatives.
- *General Update and Future Needs;* Bryan feels the Michigan Council is doing well but needs to plan more strategically. We need to prioritize our involvement in conservation issues, develop and implement a fundraising plan and continue to develop committees to pursue our objectives.



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- *Water Law Council*; Governor Granholm appointed Bryan to the Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council as director of a “statewide conservation organizations,” one of the designated members council seats.
- *Ameri-corp*; Jessica Moyer was our Ameri-corp intern for 2008 and did a satisfactory job. For 2009, he has interviewed two highly qualified applicants and he recommends participating in the Ameri-corp program for another year. Next year, the intern’s work should be more focused on supporting conservation work, volunteer data collection. ***Motion by Dave Smethurst to participate in the Ameri-corp intern program for another year (cost \$5,300), Bryan Burroughs to select from the applicants, seconded by Carl Hueter, unanimously passed.***

Committee Reports

Conservation: Bryan Burroughs reported on the activities of the Conservation Committee.

- *Water Resources Council*; Bryan’s involvement in this council, discussed above, will complement the work for which we are seeking a grant from the Mott Foundation, specifically, outreach and education.
- *Pigeon River update*; Bryan met formally with interested stakeholders and an attorney who offered to help on *pro bono* basis. The MDNR and DEQ are still carefully working on the data they have collected and they have not announced a deadline for releasing it. Upon release, stakeholders will be able to assess what action to take. The ranch owners wrote the MDNR and MDEQ offering to settle. These agencies responded with a list of minimum requirements for a potential settlement. We expect an update by October 8, 2008 and will continue to monitor.

Communications: Patrick Hughes reported on the following topics.

- The committee formed a subcommittee to consider the editorial content of Michigan Trout. The committee sent a survey to 200 randomly selected members across the state for their views on use, content and suggestions for the publication. It has received 61 responses so far, which were summarized. ***Motion by Pat Hughes to encourage chapters and their members to solicit advertising for Michigan Trout and to pay a commission of 50% to such chapters for advertising obtained, seconded by Bill Fernandez. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.***
- The Catskills Flyfishing Center and Museum’s Flyfishing Hall of Fame will induct George Griffith and Art Neumann at a ceremony on October 18, 2008. Bob Summers, a close friend of George Griffith, will accept on his behalf. See September 24, 2008 memo of Chris Radke, attached. ***Motion by Bill Fernandez (1) to reimburse the fuel expense of Bob Summers and Art Neumann (approximately \$500) to attend the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, seconded by Carl Hueter and (2) to pay \$400 towards the cost of two bronze plaques to commemorate their induction, seconded by Robb Smith, and unanimously passed.***

Education: Committee Chair Dick Augustine reported on the Salmon in the Classroom program and the committee’s desire to expand this program to new counties with help from chapters serving these counties. The Committee has also worked on building consensus among conservation organizations on common concerns, cross-education and outreach.



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Membership & Chapter Effectiveness: Committee Chair Aaron Rubel reported on the following:

- The Headwaters, Fred Waara and Clinton Valley chapters had the greatest percentage increase in new members. The Paul Young, Headwaters and Schrem chapters had the greatest number of new members. Overall, Michigan chapters had a 7% increase in members in the past year. Aaron will send each chapter a list of expired members for follow up and retention. Our goal is to achieve more than 7,000 members.
- The committee is also promoting training for chapters. Embrace-A-Stream grant application training and annual financial reporting will take place October 15. It is also working with chapters to have all of them rechartered by 2009. It has been in contact with several Michigan universities about forming college chapter-partners. (Ferris State's chapter is well represented at this meeting.)
- To assist with fundraising, Aaron presented information on the Kroger Cares program through which MCTU can purchase gift cards for resale. Cardholders can use the card as a prepaid cash card at Kroger stores and fuel centers, and they can reload the cards with additional funds. MCTU would receive a 5% rebate of all card purchases or reloads once \$5,000 worth of merchandise has been purchased.

Treasurer's Report: Council Treasurer Robb Smith presented the council's balance sheet (total assets are \$808,848.27, net equity is \$797,074.43), profit and loss statement (net income was -\$72,466.97, but this should improve by year end), budget (\$72,466.81 under budget). It is noteworthy that we received \$18,200 in chapter contributions with more to come. Robb also presented a budget for the council. ***Motion by Kimberly Wetton to approve budget, seconded by Brian Kozminski, unanimously approved. Motion by Dave Smethurst to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Pat Hughes, unanimously approved.***

Chairs Report: Chair Kochanny

- *Strategic Plan for Council* This year, the council will prepare a strategic plan, possibly with the help of Bob Jensen and Jordan Burroughs. The council seeks assistance from any interested members.
- *Financials* Chapters need to submit their financial reports to TUNA by November 15, 2008.
- *By-law Committee* This committee will be reactivated. Bob Thorsen will chair it.
- *State Archives motion* The State Historical Center made a much more attractive offer than that of the Bentley Historical Museum, which had been approved by motion in the April 2008 council meeting. It will archive the council's historical and future records and combine them with an impressive public display. See attached September 24, 2008 memorandum of Chris Radke. ***Motion by Pat Hughes, seconded by Tom Quail, (1) to rescind the April 2008 archiving motion and to archive MCTU's archivable records, including any records of George Griffith in MCTU's possession, with the State of Michigan Archives, (2) to authorize the chair and Chris Radke to negotiate a contract with the State Historical Center for the archiving of MCTU's records, (3) to authorize the chair and Chris Radke to continue to work with TUNA and Art Neumann to coordinate the archiving of records from all three sources with the State***



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Historical Center, (4) to authorize the chair and Radke to negotiate a contract with the State Historical Center to create a documented historical book on the founding of TU in Michigan at a total out-of-pocket expense to MCTU of less than \$501, and (5) to direct the chair and Radke to inform the Bentley Library of the archiving decision when and how they believe most appropriate. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

- **50th Anniversary Update** The council executive committee will meet with our guests from TUNA after this meeting to discuss planning of the 50th Anniversary celebration.
- **Fundraising Development Director** Chair Kochanny charged the finance committee to consider and develop proposals for hiring a fundraising director.

Outgoing Chair Recognition: Vice Chair Kimberly Wetton and treasurer Robb Smith presented a plaque to outgoing chair Pat Kochanny for his great work as chair, as well as the other roles he had to fill. Chair Kochanny appreciated the recognition and relinquished his gavel.

Nominating Committee: Patrick Hughes presented the candidates nominated for officer positions.

Chair: Kimberly Wetton

Vice Chair: David Smith, John Walters

Secretary: Mike Lagowski, Jeff Raphelson

Treasurer: Robb Smith

National Leadership Council: Pat Kochanny, David Smith (declined)

The following members were elected as officers:

Chair: Kimberly Wetton (by acclamation)

Vice Chair: David Smith

Treasurer: Robb Smith (by acclamation)

Secretary: Mike Lagowski

National Leadership Council: Pat Kochanny (by acclamation)

Additionally, the following members were nominated to chair committees:

Conservation: Rob Thorsen

Communication: Pat Hughes

Membership: Aaron Rubel

Outreach & Education: Dick Augustine

Finance: Dave Smethurst

Motion by Bill Fernandez to approve these appointments, seconded by Carl Hueter, passed unanimously.

TU National Volunteer Operations TU Vice President Bryan Moore presented on the activities of TU's volunteer operations group, including youth camps, the TU web site, and new TU office personnel. TU is developing a newsletter template and considering electronic distribution. He identified other ways TU could support state and chapter activities. Finally, he offered insights on preparing strategic plans.



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TU National Representation Update (NLC/Trustees) Pat Kochanny reported on the TU meeting and his efforts to raise the profile of the Great Lakes basin as a trout and salmon fishery. He recommends producing a publication with TU on the economic impact of fishing in the Great Lakes. Pat would also like TU Chief Operating Officer Chris Wood to visit Michigan. Dan Keifer received the national distinguished service award at the meeting as well.

New Business

- *Future meeting locations*; The council is considering the location of its quarterly meetings and ways to make them more convenient for members to attend. One possibility is video conferencing, perhaps via the Internet. Also discussed were the format of the meetings and the use of a consent calendar for motions and committee reports. The consensus appeared to favor holding the January meeting at MSU and NMU (linked via videoconference) and the other meetings at the Ralph A. MacMullan Center.
- *Spring/Summer outing* Bryan Burroughs suggested the council consider whether to hold an outing in conjunction with next year's Spring or Summer meeting.

Old Business None.

Chapter Announcements

- *Vanguard Chapter* is distributing water bottles as an outreach program.
- *Ferris State University Chapter* is working on a large aquarium project and membership.
- *Fred Waara* is starting its third year of restoration work on Connors Creek, has started an Adopt-A-Station project on the Huron River and is offering fly tying classes.
- *Mershon Chapter* has been working on regulation changes, had a successful banquet.
- *Ann Arbor Chapter* is working on a local dam removal project and development of a park around a removed dam site in Dexter.
- *Miller Van Winkle Chapter* Kelly Newman will present a seminar on streamer fishing for lake run brown trout, is continuing its fly tying classes.
- *Schrem Chapter* is holding a "blast-for-conservation" fundraising event and restoration work, including dam removal opportunities.
- *Fellows Chapter* had a successful banquet, continued its salmon in the classroom program and has transferred videotapes of Art Neumann interviews to DVD.
- *Paul Young* was involved in the water withdrawal legislation and is developing a lake and stream management institute, and promoting contacts on conservation issues.
- *Kalamazoo Valley Chapter* presented another successful youth camp and worked on bank stabilization and other restoration projects. The chapter also administers funds endowed by deceased members that are devoted to restoration projects and grants for graduate work.
- *Pine River Chapter* partnered with other conservation organizations on a number of projects.
- *Adams Chapter* held meetings outdoors (at the Manistee and Boardman Rivers) and held a successful banquet, which funded middle school science projects. It also surveyed members concerning their views on plans for the Boardman River dams.
- *Headwaters Chapter* has been raising money for river restoration projects, maintained temperature loggers in rivers and spoke regularly on a local radio outdoors program.



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- *Challenge Chapter* collaborated with Huron Pines on work projects, updated its Pigeon River guidebook (to include a section on the impact of dams), and continued its support of the Clinton River restoration projects.
- *Bob Perrin Chapter* has been involved in river maintenance projects, including one designed by an Eagle Scout, and is distributing TU water bottles.
- *Clinton Valley Chapter* is bringing in speakers on conservation topics and undertaking work projects on the Clinton River.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Raphelson, Secretary
Michigan Council Trout Unlimited