

Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited  
Winter Council Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2007

Attendees: (Marquette) Kimberly Wetton, Ken Snyder, Doug Miller, Bill Deephouse, Vici Burrows, Jim Junttila, (Lansing) Douglas Shore, Kurt Brauer, Dick Augustine, Ed Roden, Jeff Alandt, Bill Fernandez, Ed Zebrowski, Pat Kochanny, Ross Rosenbrock, Michael Caparon, Mark Green, Dave Watson, Ed Hoover, Dave Smith, Daniel Zywocki, Ken Koster, Gary Slauter, Aaron Rubel, Dave Smethurst, Denny Douglas, Ronald Hamilton, Mike Slater, Patrick Hughes, Michael Knag, Paul Eberhart, Jim Bedford, Bob Thorsen, Ron Peckens

Guests: (Marquette) John Klasner, Robert Jensen, (Lansing) Ron Barch, Julio Mazzoli, Rick Reid, Bob Kren

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Kochanny at 9:02 a.m.
2. Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2007 approved. Motion passed (Fernandez, Eberhart).
3. Howard Wandell (Michigan State University) gave a presentation on the proposed Michigan Lake and Stream Management Association. The group is comprised of the MDEQ, MDNR, MSU, Drain Commissioners and public interest groups. The goal is to preserve and improve quality of lakes in Michigan through preemptive user conflict resolution.
4. Mike Driver (Michigan Duck Hunters Association) made a presentation regarding the proposed Trout Stamp. The MDHA has done a stamp since 1999. Mike is willing to assist the Council in creating a stamp program, at no cost. It is projected that the stamp program could net up to \$60,000 per year.
5. Treasurer Radke gave his financial report and provided a profit and loss statement. The Council will consolidate its accounts into two accounts: money market and checking. Major investments will be managed by TU National.
  - i. Motion passed (Zywocki, Augustine) to close accounts and move to Citizens.
  - ii. Motion passed (Hueter, Smethurst) to have TU National manage endowment funds.
  - iii. Motion passed (Smethurst, Augustine) to have finance committee formulate an investment policy.Treasurer Radke's supporting materials are attached.
6. Motion passed (Hueter, Green) to go into executive session.
7. Out of Executive Session. Minutes for Executive Session will be provided separately.
8. Chair Kochanny and Secretary Brauer provided a report on their December 2006 trip to meet with TU National representatives. They reported that the national organization committed to additional assistance to conservation issues in Michigan and that National has asked the Council to identify a significant project

in Michigan. TU National representatives will be in town March 30 for a strategic planning session. The Council will work with Whit Fosburg on fundraising, and identifying potential donors. National will assist with the Executive Director search, and will provide services once the new ED is hired. National will focus more intently on Council/Chapter development, and will work on training, identifying other groups with which to partner and council/chapter effectiveness. Past Chair Hueter continues to engage National in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. National will provide additional assistance with SIC, evaluating environmental issues (e.g. mining) and with a project in Michigan. Additional training will also be sought.

9. Chair Kochanny and Dave Smethurst gave an update on BTEX contamination in the Pigeon River Country. Most sites are small, and the MDEQ is working on prioritizing sites. No sites discovered to date are anticipated to discharge to surface water. Merit Energy is in the process of investigating 11 sites that it owns. Kochanny will send a letter to the MDNR regarding MCTU concerns. Smethurst will provide an update on the "worst case scenario." A copy of Chair Kochanny's letter to the MDEQ/MDNR and Aurora is attached.
10. Awards Ceremony:
  - i. Order of the Grayling: Billy Letinen
  - ii. Order of the Caddis: Chris Radke
  - iii. Chapter of the Year: Schrems West Michigan Chapter
11. Chair Kochanny and Dave Smethurst gave an update on Aurora Energy's proposed Antrim gas exploration at the Blue Lakes site near the Pigeon River Country. Up to 19 gas wells have been proposed, although only 17 were identified. Smethurst stated that slant drilling would not work in this area, though horizontal drilling may. Threats of drilling include saline intrusion or spillage and surface water impact. Additional roads in the area may also be created or improved. Smethurst will continue to monitor the matter.
12. Committee Reports.
  - i. Conservation: Committee Chair Brauer provided an update on current conservation issues, including Kennecott, Nestle, etc. His written report is attached. Dave Smith gave an update on the Tyler Creek fish kill and the status of proposed modifications to agricultural practices.
    - a. Motion Passed: (Smith/Radke) Amend Conservation Agenda to encourage Michigan Department of Agriculture to adopt revisions to Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices.
    - b. Motion Passed: Approve Reimbursements for Mr. Brauer's travel to Marquette to testify at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's public hearing on Kennecott.
    - c. Motion Passed: Authorize up to \$500 for Freedom of Information Act request to obtain Kennecott Materials.
  - ii. Communication: Committee Chair Zebrowski gave a report on communications. Michigan Trout is ready to go to press February 1, 2007. Zebrowski will file a grant application with the Saginaw/Chippewa Band by March 31 for funds to assist with

- communications. Ed has contacted a website company, and will work to revamp the website and make it more accessible and user-friendly. He will also look for possible ad revenue sources.
- iii. Education: Committee Chair Slater gave an update on fly-fishing school (June 8-10 at Ranch Rudolph). Instructors will include: Zywocki, Slater and Rossenback.
  - iv. Membership: Committee Chair Green reported that membership was generally even. He committed to attaining a goal of 10,000 members by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - v. Finance: Committee Chair Roden reported that credit card and expense report policies would be prepared for the spring meeting. The committee will continue to try to sell the truck and trailer. Additional Griffith sponsors will be sought. The committee will clarify billings for affiliate members. An investment policy will be reviewed and proposed. A fundraising subcommittee will be formed.
13. Kevin Frahley and Dick Augustine provide an update on the Salmon in the Classroom program. The membership was asked to send any information on classrooms participating in the program to Dick Augustine. The Perrin-Lansing Chapter will spearhead the Council's efforts. On March 5, 2007, the MDNR will discuss its game plan as it related to the program. There will be a series of workshops for 2007 permits, and an updated curriculum will be proposed. The MDNR is "working out bugs" to provide a Trout in the Classroom program for 2008-09.
  14. Past Chair Hueter updated the Council on the Crystal Mountain Outing scheduled for March 30-April 1, 2007.
  15. Past Chair Hueter updated the Council on the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. He continues to work with National to solidify the celebration, and will meet with them Feb. 2 and 3, 2007. He asked that each chapter provide six people to assist during the celebration. Each chapter will be asked to donate two items for the celebration.
  16. Vice-Chair Wetton provided an update on the Executive Director Search. The ideal candidate will possess proficiency in speaking, writing and grass-roots advocacy. The hiring committee will review resumes (due March 1, 2007) and interviews will be held in April 2007. The hiring committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee as soon as possible after the interviews are completed. Dave Smethurst noted that the salary was a little low for the level of experience required. Aaron Rubel suggested trading a reduction in benefits for an increase in salary.
  17. Old business: Truck and trailer: Treasurer Radke will continue to advertise, targeting a total of no less than \$18,000 for both. Value is estimated at \$22,000 to \$25,000.
  18. New business:
    - i. A Conservation Summit will be held on February 7, 2007 in Lansing. Chair Kochanny has been invited and will attend.
    - ii. Chapters were advised of "Fishing Day" 2007.

Approved 3/31/07

- iii. License Package Fee Increase. Motion passed (Eberhart, Hueter) to support the proposed increase. It was noted that Michigan has 138 fisheries employees, while Minnesota has over 400. This is despite the fact that Michigan has as many lakes and as much stream distance.
- iv. Past Chair Hueter noted that the Michigan Fly-Fishing Club's Midwest Fishing Show would take place March 10 and 11, and that volunteers were needed. Email Secretary Brauer for more information.

19. Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Attachments:

- A. Financial Report.
- B. Chair Kochanny Letter re Blue Lakes
- C. Conservation Committee Report.