

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Meeting
May 2nd, 2023
6- 8pm Comfort Inn Suites

Present: Tim Bruggeman, Chris Lipfert, Sima Bruggeman, Betty Bloom, Ray Faczan, Sam Hume, Michael March, Richard Novak, Ford Stryker, Bob Vierck

Absent: Jamie SanFilippo, Mark Pencak

The meeting was called to order by Tim Bruggeman at 6:06 pm.

Meeting Minutes: April 10th, 2023

- Sima Bruggeman had distributed a copy of the meeting minutes from the April meeting for review prior to today's meeting.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes as written by Mike March, seconded by Betty Bloom.
- Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Mike March presented a brief report of the current finances. \$95,857.40 is available across the checking account, habitat checking, and all 3 CD's. The Van Horn Endowment money is not included in this but should be coming in soon. The Hamer Foundation money is also not included but will be another \$26,000 dollars. Mike March is still missing a few transactions on the credit card to reflect the complete expense report for the month of April.
- Women Anglers would like to have the \$5,018 that is available from the endowment fund dispersed into their account. WA steering committee has decided to proceed with a set budget going forward and will not be carrying money forward.
- A motion was made to approve The Treasurer's Report by Bob Vierck, seconded by Ford Stryker.
- Motion carried.

Action Items

June 5th Board Meeting

- The board discussed that they would prefer to have an in-person meeting in June but would like to move the date to June 12th due to Family Fishing Picnic falling on the 4th. Comfort Inn Suites is not booked for the month of June. Ford Stryker will contact Comfort Inn to see if the room is available for the 12th.

New Business

Centre Gives- May 10th & 11th

- SCCTU will be competing for a \$500 prize during the Frost and Conn Insurance Good Morning Power Hour on Thursday, May 11th from 9am-10am. Board members were asked to donate

during this time if they are able. Donations are made online through the Centre Gives website. Additional social media posts will be created to advertise this local giving event.

Heather Sees has stepped down from the SCCTU Board

- Due to work commitments and travel, Heather Sees has reassigned from the board.

Family Fishing Picnic

- The event will be held Sunday, June 4th from 1pm-4pm at Tussey Mountain Pond. Volunteers will be needed in the morning to set up tents and stations. Items will need to be picked up from the shed. Fishing rods will be provided by the Fish & Boat Commission.
- Ray Faczan volunteered to help coordinate parking during the event. Ray Faczan and his wife will start around 10am. They may need an additional helper. A UTV will be available to help those with mobility difficulties to get down to the pond. Sima Bruggeman may have extra signs for parking that could be used if needed.
- Bob Vierck will oversee the Enviroscope. Betty Bloom volunteered to be a mentor. Mike March, Sam Hume, and Richard Novak are happy to help where they are needed. Chris Lipfert and Tim & Sima Bruggeman are unable to attend due to other commitments.
- Clearwater Conservancy is publicizing this event.

2024 Banquet options

- During the last meeting the board discussed looking into alternative venues for the Banquet due to increased costs at Mountain View.
- Ford Stryker shared a spreadsheet with the board comparing 3 different options for next year. The Good Shepard Church is a potential venue used by other local non-profits (Clearwater etc.) and is less expensive. However, they do not provide a caterer and the board will need to do all the set-up, including tables, chairs etc. Hoag's Catering and Bonfire could be options for catering at this venue. There would be additional cost for an insurance policy to serve alcohol and hire out a bartender. The Good Shepard Church is available during the proposed date of March 2nd, but there would be Lenten Mass going on next door. This may create issues with parking. The audiovisual system is not the same quality as at Mountain View.
- After discussing the pros and cons of the 3 options the board agreed that Mountain View, though a few dollars more expensive than the Good Shepard Church, is the better option.
- A motion was made to hold the Banquet at Mountain View by Bob Vierck, seconded by Sima Bruggeman.
- Motion carried.

Millbrook Marsh

- Ford Stryker and Bob Vierck discussed several proposed projects at Millbrook Marsh. There are plans to expand the visitor center and repair the board walks throughout the marsh.
- The chapter is also proposing work to stabilize Slab Cabin's stream banks and reconnect it to the floodplain in Millbrook Marsh to prevent flooding issues and restore the stream habitat. The

total cost for the project is around \$470,000 and to date, \$150,000 has been committed. Other avenues for funding, including a Growing Greener Grant, are being pursued.

- UAJA is putting forth a proposal to run an additional 48-inch diameter sewer line parallel to the existing one that runs directly through the marsh. The Centre Regional Planning Agency has requested comments on this proposal. The board discussed how this proposed project would impact the integrity of the marsh itself as well as the Slab Cabin stream bank restoration project.
- The board unanimously agreed to recommend to the Centre Regional Planning Agency that the new sewer line could be aligned along either Puddintown Road or College Ace/Route 322 to keep it out of marsh in order to minimize damage to this important natural area. The board also wanted to convey that if there is any work done in the marsh or fen, that it should be compliant with existing conservation easements and deed restrictions on those properties. Lastly, should work on the sewer line damage any structures of the Slab Cabin Stream restoration project, they would be repaired at the conclusion of the work.

Old Business

Fly Fishing Film Festival

- We are still waiting to hear back about the total amount raised for the chapter during this event. The plan is to hold the event again next year.

Stream Cleanup

- 13 volunteers attended the event over two sites assigned to SCCTU. James Lose did a great job organizing one of the sites, while Tim Bruggeman did the other. We collected 9 bags of trash and 1 tire. Clearwater Conservancy had a good turnout for this event this year. They are considering expanding the clean-up to different locations in the future and will be taking suggestions.

VooDoo Brewery Event

- Mike March has not heard back from VooDoo. The board discussed other venue options including Axemann and Boal City Brewing, but VooDoo remains first choice. Richard Novak volunteered to take the lead on organizing an Iron Fly type of event for the month of July and Mike March will help with the venue. Richard Novak has a plan for how to run the event (3 categories, grab bags, 20-30min to tie). Prizes could include donations from local fly shops and depending on attendance, this could become a reoccurring event.

Committee Reports

Conservation

- The permit for the Oak Hall project has come through. The crew has been delayed, but work will be starting in June. Bob Vierck also received official commitment from the Hamer Foundation.

Women Anglers

- WA have fishing guides set up every month for the foreseeable future. Some of the members participated in the On-the-Fly Tournament. Betty Bloom informed the board that Jamie SanFilippo came in first as did her team for the most fish caught.

Communication

- Sam Hume is continuing to work on the new website and Tim Bruggeman is getting the Google Non-Profit workspace set up. The Women Angler's webpage has been updated as per their request and the home page will be updated with new content in the next few days.

Veteran Service Program

- The 1st on water event was last week, with 5 veterans in attendance and 6 volunteers. The next fishing day is May 20th and Ray Faczan needs some more instructors/volunteers. VSP will have a canopy and table set up on May 21st at Bellefonte Talleyrand Park from 12-4pm at the Outdoor Adventures Expo.

Youth Education

- James Lose helped with a youth outreach event held at the YMCA last Saturday. Another youth outreach event was held at Spring Creek Elementary on Sunday. Bob Vierck had the Enviroscope set up there.

General Meetings

- The speaker for the month of May fell through last minute. May is a hard month to get a guide to attend due to it being a busy fishing season. Howel Fish donated 3 trout DVD's and the board discussed that the films could be played during an Iron Fly type of event. Chris Lipfert has been in touch with Keystone Fly Fishing book author and local guide Matt Kowalchuk. Both are interested in presenting at a general meeting. Richard Novak would like to get the Fly Tying Club from PSU to one of the general meetings too.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:56pm by Ford Stryker, seconded by Bob Vierck. Motion carries.