

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Meeting
June 12th, 2023
6- 8pm Comfort Inn Suites

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

Absent: Tim Bruggeman

The meeting was called to order by Jamie SanFilippo at 6:08 pm.

Meeting Minutes: May 2nd, 2023

- Sima Bruggeman had distributed a copy of the meeting minutes from the May meeting for review prior to today's meeting.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes as written by Bob Vierck, seconded by Richard Novak.
- Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- There is \$98,098.86 total in the checking account and CD's. The 9-month CD (\$13,991.19) is due to mature on the 23rd of this month. The 13-month CD (\$30,190.26) is due to mature in October.
- There have been no changes to the endowment funds since last month, but Mike will request that a \$5,000 disbursement be made to the Women Anglers from the Jean Brenchley Endowment fund as discussed last month.
- Centre Gives donation is in progress, but we have not yet received the funds.
- Ray Faczan mentioned that the State College Elks donated \$500 to VSP. Mike has not received this check yet.
- A motion was made to approve The Treasurer's report by Sima Bruggeman, seconded by Mark Penack.
- Motion carried.

Action Items

Authority to submit two Growing Greener Grants, Vinyl King and Millbrook Marsh

- The Conservation Committee requested that the board approve the submission of two Growing Greener Grants.
- One of the projects, Vinyl King, is a re-submission of a collaboration with Fish and Wildlife Service to address the stream frontage and the eroded banks along Bald Eagle Creek. The application is due for submission in June, but we would not hear back until January. The construction work, which will be done by Fish and Wildlife Service, is not planned until 2025. The estimated total for the project is \$145,000. The landowner will contribute to the project.

- The Millbrook Marsh project was discussed last month. There is lots of community enthusiasm for this project. A woodcock meadow and a pollinator plot are being added to this project and both have already been paid for by donations. The total cost of the entire project is estimated to be around \$473,000. \$166,840 has already been funded and another \$95,000 should be coming in this week.
- A motion was made to submit Growing Greener Grants for the Vinyl King and the Millbrook Marsh projects by Ford Stryker, seconded by Mark Penack.
- Motion carried.

Authority to re-commit \$2,000 for Vinyl King (there is \$5,500 being held for future conservation projects)

- The Conservation Committee requests that the chapter commits \$2,000 to the Vinyl King Project out of the \$5,500 that is being held for future conservation projects.
- A motion was made to commit \$2,000 by Ford Stryker, seconded by Mike March.
- Motion carried.

Authority to commit \$2,000 for Millbrook Marsh (there is \$5,500 being held for future conservation projects)

- The Conservation Committee requests that the chapter commits \$2,000 to the Millbrook Marsh Project out of the \$5,500 that is being held for future conservation projects.
- A motion was made to commit \$2,000 by Ford Stryker, seconded by Ray Faczan.
- Motion carried.

New Business

Family Fishing Picnic – Lessons Learned

- The Family Fishing Picnic was a success with 273 attendees and 60 volunteers.
- Ford Stryker provided and reviewed the financial report summary for this event. The budget was \$1,400 and we came under that at \$1,386.25. This year there was no charge for pavilion or gas, but we did purchase minnows.
- The Board discussed areas for improvement for next year; more volunteers are needed to help with casting practice and detangling lines. Richard Novak pinched all the barbs on the hooks when setting up the rods. We should make sure to do this next year.
- The supplies in First Aid Kit may need to be expanded. Jamie SanFilippo can get items donated to the kit from the YMCA. The Board discussed that we should review our Insurance Policy and consider training mentors how to remove hooks. Centre Life Link is usually in attendance during this event to provide first aid, but they were not able to be there this year.
- A contact list with mentor names and phone numbers would be helpful to have next year so that mentors can be reached if needed. The Board also discussed possibly using walkie talkies.

- The Board discussed creating a “Scavenger Hunt” so that attendees hit all the stations. Some stations, like the Enviroscape and fly tying, were missed/overlooked possibly due to the orientation and location of the tables.
- The face painting station was very popular with a long line, so more face painters are needed.
- For food, it would be good to have more vegetarian options and all beef hot dogs next year.
- Ray Faczan suggested that we create a QR code through which attendees can offer feedback and comments on the event.

Fly Fishing Film Festival

- The Fly Fishing Film Festival raised \$760 for the chapter this year, though the event was not as well advertised as expected.
- The individual who put this event together will not be available to do so again next year. If the chapter does not take on the event, it will not happen in our area. The Board agreed to organize the Fly Fishing Film Festival next year.
- Jamie SanFilippo will investigate the different Giveaway package options for the next board meeting.
- The Board also discussed that the event may do better during the winter months or very early in the spring and potentially on a different day of the week. It was held on a Wednesday this year.

Centre Gives Total

- The chapter raised \$2,350 during this event. The donation is in progress, but the funds have not been received yet.

R3 Grant

- Our intern, James Lose, and Jamie SanFilippo applied for a R3 grant to purchase children’s waders and boots and were awarded \$4,130. Funds should be received in July, but no purchases can be made until then.
- The plan is to store the items in the shed or in the storage unit. They will be under the care of the Youth Education Committee.
- Jamie SanFilippo would like to allow other organizations, like Stream Girls and Stream Keepers, we partner with to have the opportunity to use these items on an as needed basis.

Old Business

No General/Board meetings in July and August

- There are no board or general meetings schedule for the months of July and August.
- It was discussed that the treasurer still sent out monthly treasurer reports during these months.

Committee Reports

Conservation

- Bob Vierck had nothing additional to report.

Women Anglers

- The Women Anglers plan to help advertise the general meetings and encourage their members to attend. They have six new members.
- Women Anglers have plans for guided fishing every month and will discuss the possibility of another retreat during their next steering committee meeting.

Communication

- Sam Hume is making steady progress on the new website.

Veteran Service Program

- VSP had a fantastic day out on the water on Saturday with 17 veterans in attendance. Joe Humphreys spoke to the veterans, autograph books, and took photos. There are no future dates for fishing set yet due to the water conditions and the veteran's busy work schedules.
- Ray Faczan encouraged the veterans to joint SCCTU.

Youth Education

- The Youth Education Committee has lots of outreach planned for this summer. Jamie SanFilippo will forward an email with the list of upcoming events.

General Meetings

- The next general meeting is at the Winery on Thursday, September 7th from 5:30pm. Mark Pencak is organizing this event. Harrison's has catered this event in the past, but the Board wasn't sure who catered last year. It may have been the caterer that works with the winery. 10% of the proceeded from sale of the Spring Creek Peach wine go to the chapter. The board discussed scheduling a group meeting via Zoom to help Mark with the event.
- Matt Kowalchak, of the Feathered Hook, is schedule to speak at the October meeting. Richard Novak will talk to the PSU Fly Fishing Club about November.
- The Board briefly discussed the Christmas Party which was held at the Legion last year. There was lots of enthusiasm at that event and a good turnout. Mark Pencak will start looking into potential dates for the event.

Membership, PR

- A committee member asked if there was a plan for another Mayflies and Manhattan event this year. There is not, but if the Women Anglers would like to hold it again, they can.
- Ford Stryker would like to have 25 SCCTU hats in stock to be able to sell at events or hand out speakers etc. The Board agreed that they are popular items and an easy way to raise funds for the chapter at \$20-25 per hat.

Board Member Comments/Announcements/Concern/Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm by Bob Vierck, seconded by Betty Bloom. Motion carries.