

**Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Meeting
December 11th, 2023
6- 8pm Zoom**

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

The meeting was called to order by Jamie SanFilippo at 6:02 pm.

Meeting Minutes

- Sima Bruggeman had distributed a copy of the meeting minutes from the November meeting for review prior to today's meeting. There were no comments or requests for changes.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes as written by Bob Vierck, seconded by Ray Faczan.
- Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

- Mario Carrello had distributed the Treasurer's Report via email. Mark Pencak confirmed with Mario Carrello that the Winery check had been deposited.
- The check from the Bellefonte Elks is still missing. Ford Stryker contacted Mike March to see if he still has it and is waiting to hear back.
- A motion was made to approve The Treasurer's report by Bob Vierck, seconded by Ford Stryker.
- Motion carried.

New Business

New Treasurer

- Terri Hendrickson, a Women Angler, has volunteered to be the treasurer. However, she has several trips planned and won't be able to start until May. Mario Carrello is able to fill in in the meantime.
- The Board discussed that it would be good to have Terri Hendrickson present for the State of the Chapter meeting to be elected to the board. In May, she can be formally elected to the treasurer position.
- Several of the board members would like to meet Terri Hendrickson and take her out to lunch to tell her a little bit more about the Chapter.

Holiday Party- Friday, December 15th at the Pleasant Gap Legion

- 60 individuals have RSVPed.
- Hazel and Ford Stryker will help Mark and Karen Pencak with set up at 4:30pm and Olive Garden will deliver food at 5pm. The room will be set up with 8 tables of 8.
- Hazel and Ford Stryker will help with check-in, and it was decided to take donations as cash or check only. A board member pointed out that there is an ATM machine at the Legion if anyone needs to get cash.
- Ray Faczan will be bringing 4 door prizes and the SCCTU Banner.
- Jamie SanFilippo & Betty Bloom volunteered to bring some desserts.

Banquet- Saturday, March 2nd, 2024

- Ford Stryker emailed a shared Google Sheet of the previous year's donations. Board members should sign up for 4 to 5 organizations that they can reach out to and solicit donations and sponsorships. Bob Vierck plans to contact TCO.
- The board discussed menu options for the banquet, and it was decided to go with a slightly more expensive pasta option this year (\$30 dollars per person).
- The entry fee has been \$50 for many years. The board discussed raising the fee, but it was decided to keep the price at \$50 for now.
- Dave Coomland from Montana has agreed to do another trip swap with the Feathered Hook. Ford Stryker recommended offering the trip as a sweepstake, rather than an auction item. If a rod can be donated, it could be another sweepstake option.

State Theatre Fundraising Event for Joe's Birthday

- To celebrate Joe Humphreys' 95th birthday a special showing of the "Live the Stream – the Story of Joe Humphreys" will be held at the State Theatre on January 20th at 2pm.
- Tickets will be \$15 and will benefit SCCTU and Project Healing Waters. Tickets will be available to the public after December 15th on the State Theatre website but can be purchased prior to that using the pre-sale code LTSJoe95.
- A Facebook event has been created to advertise the event and the information has been added to the website. An Instagram post will also be going live this week.
- Sam Hume, Bob Vierck, and Richard Novak volunteered to sell raffle and/or 50/50 tickets at the event. The board discussed a reel as well as Joe Humphreys autographed items (books, hats, posters etc.) as potential raffle items.
- Ray Faczan will not be able to attend, but he will purchase two tickets to use as door prizes at the holiday party.

January Meeting- State of the Chapter- New Officers

- As per the by-laws, a 30-day notice must be given to the general membership ahead of the State of the Chapter meeting. This date has past and thus, the State of the Chapter meeting has had to be postponed until February.
- Betty Bloom's & Ford Stryker's terms end this year, and they are due for renewal. Terri Hendrickson will be joining the board as well. The board also discussed another potential individual who had attended the Redd Count and was interested in joining the board. Tim Bruggeman will reach out him and schedule a lunch with Jamie SanFilippo.
- For the State of the Chapter meeting, official business will only take 20min or so, so a speaker should be scheduled. The board discussed a PSU student conducting research on the invasive snail species, New Zealand mud snail, as a potential option. Tim Bruggeman had spoken to the student at the Redd Count, and she seemed interested in talking to the general membership about her work. Tim Bruggeman will reach out to her and put her in contact with Chris Lipfert.
- The plan is to elect New Officers at the January board meeting.

Old Business

Redd Count- Sunday, November 19th

- The US Fish & Wildlife, the PA Boat Commission, and 40 volunteers including, 3 students from George Daniels PSU Fly Fishing class, all helped to make the annual Redd Count a success this year! There were many new volunteers at the event, and several seemed interested in getting more involved in the chapter.
- Majority of the sections of Spring Creek were counted on the day of the event and the remainder of the sections were completed with the help of Tim & Sima Bruggeman, Sam Hume, Chris Lipfert, and a few other volunteers after the fact. All the sections of Slab Cabin Run were also completed this year. In 2022, the total Redd Count was 1473 and this year it was slightly up at 1742. This number is on par with previous years.
- Several volunteers were interested to learn more about the Redd Count trends over the years so Tim Bruggeman plans to put together a graph and a short report for the Newsletter and website.
- Fran Stevenson organized the food and coffee for the event.
- Ray Faczan is still missing one wading staff. Tim Bruggeman will send out an email to the volunteers to see if any of them mistakenly took one home.

Committee Reports

Conservation

- Bob Vierck and Ford Stryker have contacted our congressman regarding the \$95,000 that PennDOT pulled from the Millbrook March project. The congressman will be meeting with the Secretary of Transport and PennDOT to discuss their decision not to fund the \$95,000.
- In the meantime, Bob Vierck and Ford Stryker are working on submitting an SRBC grant application for Millbrook and Bald Eagle/Lion King to cover the deficit.
- We should find out about County Action Plan and Growing Greener decisions in early January.
- Richard Novak, Adam Smith, and Bob Vierck recently gave a presentation on all the work that the chapter has done to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission which was well received.

Women Anglers

- The Women Anglers are busy and have monthly events planned for 2024 events.

Communication

- The new website is now live, but Sam Hume is continuing to make refinements and updates as needed. The next step will be connecting the website to the Google Space.
- Sam Hume also plans to review the budget as the cost to maintain the website will have changed now that it has been moved over to the new platform.

Veteran Service Program

- VSP is preparing for Fly Fishing 101 and Fly Tying in February. Sam Hume will add these events to the website.

- Ray Faczan talked to a PSU student veteran at the Redd Count and is hoping to get him & his comrades out on the water in the spring. The local Air National Guard has also been in touch and would like to schedule a day on the water.

Youth Education

- The Youth Education Committee was busy this past month. The Touch a Trout event went well, and the minnow station was well received and busy.

General Meetings

- Chris Lipfert will work on getting a speaker lined up for the next general meeting in January. The board discussed George Daniel, Dennis Charney, or a steelhead guide/speaker as potential options.

Board Member Comments/Announcements/Concern/Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm by Bob Vierck, seconded by Ford Stryker. Motion carries.