

East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 3008

Cody, WY 82414



<http://www.eastyellowstonetu.org/>

February 11th, 2016 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Birney & Sally Holberg, Laura Logan, Bob Capron, Tom Anderson, Elaine & Bill Tabacinski, Jason Burckhardt, Randy & Donna Moore, Lew & Ellie Wiser, Tom Reed, Larry & Tina Smith, Bob Richard, Larry & Maxine Thomas, Shawn Anderson, Ray Zubik, Alicia Viskoe, Andy Whiteman, Tommy Thompson, Steve Yekel, Bobby Rock, Mark Vondersaar

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Dave Crowther followed by introductions by those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of January 2016 Meeting: -- motion to approve was moved, seconded, and approved.

Introductory Remarks from Chapter President Dave Crowther: In case members were not yet aware, Dave mentioned the recent passing on January 26th of Doc Moore.

Treasurers Report: Laura Logan presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved. Current net assets as of 1/31/2016 are \$62,837; unrestricted net assets are \$34,189.

Old Business:

1. Dave will attempt to sell EYTU's Commissioners License on the Game & Fish Commissioners' web site. Phone bids will be accepted until 6pm on April 30th, with a starting bid of \$10,000. Or, someone can opt to buy it now for \$13,000.
2. Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality efforts regarding Willwood Dam water turbidity
 - a. Dave Crowther attended the DEQ meeting. A follow-up meeting is planned for the end of May or early June, 2016, at which the Iron Creek Pond (settling pond for the Shoshone Irrigation District) Operator will attend.
 - b. A waiver is proposed for lowering water level so that dam maintenance scheduled for Fall, 2016 can proceed
 - c. At the meeting it was discussed that siltation apparently is not as bad as previously experienced and that the 2007 fish kill resulted from dewatering also, not just silt accumulation.
3. The Eagle Creek Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) Restoration Project meeting was held on February 8th.
 - a. Jason Burckhardt ran the meeting.
 - b. There was some opposition to the project expressed at the meeting by a relatively small group of people.
 - c. Game & Fish and Shoshone National Forest personnel are applying for \$30,000 in grant money from the Governor's Sensitive Species Fund.
 - d. Environmental groups have petitioned to have YCT listed under the Endangered Species Act
 - i. For now, listing as been stayed
 - ii. YCT populations will continue to decline due to other invasive species, without projects like these
 - iii. As long as projects such as this one continue the likelihood of YCT being listed is reduced
 - iv. If listed, there could be changes in enforcement/management decisions that would negatively impact fishing regulations
 - e. The Dead Indian Creek Restoration Project is considered a success.

- f. Dave Crowther opened up discussion at this EYTU meeting regarding TU involvement and support for the project.
 - i. EYTU support would be in the form of chapter leadership communicating to responsible parties that EYTU members support the project
 - ii. The public comment period will close on March 6th.
 - iii. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by chapter members to support the project.
- g. More information can be found on the Game & Fish web site, Cody Region.

Committee Updates

Conservation – Bob Capron – Bob discussed possible projects using aerial photographs:

1. Corbett Dam Bypass – possibility of creating a bypass for fish and rafts
 - a. Or possibly just a fish ladder
 - b. A representative will be at next month's meeting
 - c. A field trip to the dam will be scheduled at a later date
2. McCullough Peak erosion run-off into the Shoshone
 - a. Possible settling ponds?
 - b. BLM not currently receptive due to maintenance concerns
 - c. Perhaps Irrigation Districts could be convinced that ponds would be beneficial to them?
3. Drainage into Shoshone from private land just downstream of Corbett Dam
 - a. Bob will talk to landowner regarding silt management.
4. Old Bentonite Mine in Diamond Basin
 - a. Drainage flows into Sulfur Creek
 - b. Got go-ahead from BLM for hydroseeding; mulch and machine donated; need to determine type of seed required
 - c. Bob recommends a buffer zone at lower end
 - d. Bob scheduled a field trip for Saturday, February 13th to look at the area and develop a plan
5. Belknap Lakes in the South Fork area
 - a. There has been little or no maintenance of this series of cascading lakes/ponds during the last several years; outlets are washed out
 - b. Would have to coordinate with TE Ranch which has irrigation rights to portions of the drainage
 - c. Could be selective on which lakes to focus on.

Fundraising Committee - George Simonton & Birney Holberg:

1. No updates at this meeting.
2. Raffle tickets were sold at start of meeting; drawing occurred at end of meeting.

Web Site Coordinator – Lorna Anderson:

1. Nothing new on EYTU web site. If anyone wants to post something on the EYTU Facebook page, let Lorna know.

Wyoming Council – Dave Sweet

1. No updates at this meeting

New Business:

1. Larry Smith with Project Healing Waters (fly fishing programs for disabled veterans)
 - a. EYTU's signing of a memorandum of agreement is no longer needed, but Project Healing Waters could still benefit from EYTU support as volunteers at various clinics
 - b. Larry has started a fly fishing club and that club will sign the memorandum
 - c. There are 180 Project Healing Waters programs in 50 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico, with around half being sponsored by TU chapters
 - d. More information, including videos, can be found at projecthealingwaters.org
 - e. Tom Reed of EYTU volunteered to work with Larry and a person from the VA on the Board of Larry's new Project Healing Waters chapter to plan and organize events.
2. River clean-up: Jason reported that he would like to partner again this year with Riverfest, and is currently looking at April 2nd with April 9th as a fallback date.

3. Bobby Rock, in attendance in tonight's meeting, is here for the first time and plans to join TU.
 - a. He didn't know there was a local TU chapter in Cody.
 - b. Bobby works for the local radio station and informed us that as a non-profit organization, EYTU can get advertising from the station.

Meeting Was Adjourned

Program: a video on Beaver reintroduction was planned but time was not adequate.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10th at the Sunset House.

M. Vondersaar