



East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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February 13th, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Location & Time: The Irma Hotel, Governor's Room, Cody, WY; 6:30p.m.

In Attendance

Dave Crowther, Bob Capron, Elaine & Bill Tabacinski, Mark Vondersaar, Dave Sweet, George Simonton, Larry & Maxine Thomas, Kathy Crofts, Tom Reed, Linda Trask, Andy Whiteman, Ross Gorman, Earl Robinson, Cynthia Lee Wolf, Laura & Michael Laughlin, Birney Holberg, John Fraser, Tom Anderson, Lew & Ellie Wiser, Duane Feick, Tim Wade, Steve Toy, Randy & Donna Moore, Bob Vosseller

Program – cancelled due to illness (Anne Marie Emery and Kip Dean from the Bighorn River Alliance were scheduled to speak). In lieu of the scheduled program Tom Reed showed a video on Monster Lake, discussing the facility, fishing, event center and restaurant, featuring Duane Feick, Tom Anderson, and others.

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order followed by introductions.

Approval of Minutes of January, 2018 Meeting: a motion was made, seconded, and voted on; motion carried.

Acceptance of Treasurers Report: a motion was made, seconded, and voted on; motion to accept the report carried. Expenses: \$1200 (website management, fundraising costs, contribution supporting Game & Fish meeting); Income: \$17500 (\$470 from Embrace A Stream Grant, \$15,000 from anonymous donor, plus 6 deposits over last 2 months without back-up info); Account balance: \$109,580, which includes \$33,280 in committed funds.

Announcements

- Tom Reed mentioned that Dave Smith from Project Healing Waters has a car detailing business and when TU members purchase his services he will donate \$15 to TU.

Committee Updates

Conservation

- Dave Sweet discussed the proposed Wilson Brothers bentonite mine near Diamond Basin Road and distributed copies of a draft letter from EYTU to the BLM outlining our chapter's concerns about the mining operation.
 - At a public meeting 2 years ago EYTU opposed the proposed mining operation
 - Because of the Mining Law of 1872 a filed claim will most likely lead to an approval to mine the claim, but perhaps organizations such as ours can influence how the mine is operated.
 - Homeowners have concerns such as increased truck traffic and increases in airborne particulates; TU has concerns about negative impacts on fisheries and water quality.
 - Dave reviewed key points made in the draft letter.
 - The old American Colloid bentonite mine south of the new proposed mine was declared reclaimed in 1990 but remains an important source of sediment to the

Shoshone River. In other words, is there any reason to believe the same degree of “reclamation” won’t occur with the new mine following the end of its operation?

- A motion was made to submit the letter; motion was seconded and voted on; the motion carried.
- Tim Wade provided an update on the Beartooth Ranch on the Clarks Fork, once owned by a drug smuggler, then seized and deeded to the state of WY with a Memorandum of Understanding regarding its use.
 - The Powell Tribune published an article about the ranch on February 1, 2018.
 - The value of this 647 acre property to the public is under dispute. Hunters and anglers want it to remain accessible to them in the event that it is sold and becomes private property.
 - There is a Park County Commissioners Meeting in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse on February 20th during which the property will be discussed. Members are encouraged to attend.
 - Reconnectivity of Bennet Creek and Little Rock Creek and potential improvement of trout populations in the Clarks Fork was also discussed.
 - A meeting to discuss this in Clark will be scheduled sometime in the near future
 - Keeping the Beartooth Ranch in public hands will improve the ability to improve these drainages

Fundraising – George Simonton, Birney Holberg, Dave Sweet, Tom Reed

- EYTU hats were available to purchase, and a gift certificate silent auction followed the meeting.

Website and Facebook Page – Lorna Anderson – nothing new to report during the meeting

Wyoming Council – Dave Sweet

- The WY TU Council meeting will be in Jackson May 4th, 5th, and 6th
- The Regional TU (western U.S.) meeting will be in Keystone, CO April 27th and 28th
- Also, the Game & Fish Expo will be in Casper May 17th, 18th, and 19th

Unfinished Business: nothing to report on

New Business: nothing to report on

Other Discussion

- WY Game & Fish Open House – March 14th
 - Cody Holiday Inn, 5:30pm – 7:00pm
 - G&F Commissioners will be there
 - 4 kids (2 girls and 2 boys) can win a lifetime conservation stamp and license for small game, game bird, and fishing
- Annual River Clean Up
 - February 17th, Shoshone River, meet at Belfry Bridge at 9:00am
 - February 18th, Bighorn River, meet at the Wedding of the Waters at 9:00am
- Annual Kids Fishing Derby – update by Bill Tabacinski
 - Saturday, June 2nd
 - The EYTU Fishing Day Committee formed during our last monthly meeting has met and generated a list of concerns, goals, and suggestions
 - See handout that Bill distributed
 - Committee representatives have met and will continue to meet with event organizers from the Cody Optimist Club
- 2018 Fish Rescue Planning
 - It was decided during our last monthly meeting that fish rescue responsibilities would be divided up

- Amanda Wilson has agreed to coordinate volunteer recruitment and communication
- We still need someone to coordinate food management and someone to coordinate with irrigation districts and landowners
- ***Please contact Tom Reed if you want to volunteer***

Meeting was adjourned – motion for adjournment made, seconded, and voted on; motion carried.

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, March 13th
- Speaker: Colton Curtis; subject: Conservation of Native Trout Populations

Chapter Meeting Guest Presenters, Past, Present, and Future (tentatively):

- September 2017: Dave Sweet, update on Yellowstone Lake Trout Removal Project
- October 2017: Liz Purdy, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Protecting Yellowstone Gateways from mining
- November 2017: Jeremiah Vardiman, Bighorn Basin agricultural practices
- December 2017: none; Christmas Party and Silent Auction
- January 2018: Cory Toye of WY TU, will discuss design and construction planning associated with irrigation canal headgate fish screens
- February 2018: Kip Dean and Anne Marie Emery of Bighorn River Alliance, River restoration and preservation
- March 2018: Colton Curtis, Meeteetse HS graduate, will discuss his research on the Greybull River fishery – “Conservation of Native Trout Populations”
- April 2018: Jason Burckhardt, WY G&F, Walleye introduction and suppression at Buffalo Bill Reservoir
- May 2018: not yet determined
- June 2018: Annual EYTU Picnic