

East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 3008

Cody, WY 82414



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

January 14th, 2016 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Birney Holberg, Laura Logan, Bob & Judy Capron, Tom Anderson, Duane Feick, Elaine & Bill Tabacinski, Jason, Laura, Madison & Joshua Burckhardt, Randy & Donna Moore, Dave Sweet, Dave Besnick, Diane & Jim Blakeslee, Lew & Ellie Wiser, Tom & Linda Reed, Tim Wade, Bill & Vana Camp, Larry Smith, 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 December 2015 Meeting: -- Christmas Party enjoyed by all, no minutes published.

Introductory Remarks from new Chapter President Dave Crowther:

1. Our TU chapter will get our Game & Fish district's Commissioner's Tag for 2016. Dave recommends that we try to sell it on the Commissioner's web site and proposed a starting bid at \$9500. Jason commented that timing is important, for example, waiting until after non-resident license drawing results are announced mid-March.
2. Dave will be using the Mailchimp email server to post meeting agendas, minutes, etc. He has updated the email roster; let Dave know if you are not receiving chapter emails.

Treasurers Report: Laura Logan presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved. Current net assets as of 1/1/2016 are \$62,786; unrestricted net assets are \$34,138 (after deducting \$4000 for the Newton Lakes Project Account and \$24,000 for the Newton Lakes Endowment CD).

Old Business:

1. Members in attendance moved and seconded the election of the following 2016 chapter officers:
 - a. President: Dave Crowther
 - b. Vice President: Jason Burckhardt
 - c. Treasurer: Laura Logan
 - d. Secretary: Mark Vondersaar
 - e. Fund Raising: George Simonton (with Birney volunteering to provide assistance)
 - f. Membership: left open for now. Dave Sweet mentioned that many TU chapters are having difficulty maintaining membership. Bill and Elaine will continue to recruit new members when opportunities arise at various events they're involved with.
2. Dave thanked Birney Holberg for his service as EYTU President for the last 2 years and presented him with a Pollard Hotel gift certificate.

Committee Updates

Conservation – Bob Capron:

1. The Marathon Oil engineer who helped round up volunteers for the fish recovery project last Fall has mulch available for hydroseeding, a machine is available, and they will provide operators, to help with revegetation projects, for example at the old bentonite mine in Diamond Basin and around the North Fork fish screen.
2. Bob has ideas for projects to reduce run-off and silt accumulation, for example in the McCullough Peaks drainage.
3. Bob raised the question of whether beaver should be reintroduced in the North Fork and South Fork of the Shoshone.
 - a. Jason commented that specific habitat requirements exist, that is, certain stream types; for example, lower gradient portions of the Wood River might be a candidate. The Sheridan Aquatic Species Specialist might be a resource.

- b. Tommy mentioned that a DVD regarding beavers that TU sent out may be worth presenting at a future EYTU meeting.

Fundraising Committee - George Simonton:

1. No updates at this meeting.
2. There was a general discussion of how funds are committed to specific projects, their use as "seed money" on new projects or to help with project shortfalls, and that project proposals should be discussed at EYTU Board Meetings.

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.

Virtual Fly Box – Duane Feick

1. Contact Duane if you are interested in sharing a fly pattern on our website.
2. Duane reported that very few fly patterns have been submitted recently. Do we want to discontinue reporting on status at each meeting, but continue to make pattern submission and posting available? Will discuss further at next meeting.
3. Dave Sweet mentioned that some chapters have a "Fly Tyer of the Month" program; could be a competition or could recruit a person each month and then post their fly on the Virtual Fly Box. Jason commented that perhaps some sort of incentive could be offered to submitters.

Wyoming Council – Dave Sweet

1. The meeting this year will be in Cheyenne, probably sometime in April.
2. Dave encouraged attendance, stating that past meetings have been very informative.

New Business:

1. Dave Crowther discussed Non-Officer EYTU Board Members.
 - a. Duane Anderson and Doc Moore have "cycled off", Frank Bird moved to Pinedale, and Bob Capron could cycle off but will continue on the Board.
 - b. Chapter members who will continue on the Board: Greg Bierei, Andy Whiteman, Dave Sweet, Duane Feick, George Simonton, with Tommy Thompson as Board Member At Large.
 - c. Elaine Tabacinski, Randy Moore, and Tanner Rosenbau (not present at tonight's meeting) were nominated as new Non-Officer Board Members. The motion was seconded and approved.
2. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has scheduled a meeting for January 21, 2016 from 12pm to 3pm at the Cody Library concerning 2016 Willwood Dam excess water release and downstream sediment concerns.
 - a. Dave Sweet mentioned that we should try to get a commitment to minimize harm to the fishery.
 - b. Birney said that the DEQ person he spoke to said 4 people from TU could attend. This is not a public meeting.
 - c. Dave Crowther, Tommy Thompson, and Birney Holberg currently plan to attend.

Other Business

1. Bob Capron is a member of the Shoshone Resource Advisory Council.
 - a. The council receives funding from Shoshone National Forest timber and grazing fees, and receives grant proposals for projects that affect the forest.
 - b. The council is accepting proposals until the end of March, with decisions made in April and announced in May.
 - c. For Park County there is \$133,000 that is available for projects.
2. Larry Smith, from Under The Bridge Flies (underthebridgeflies@gmail.com) discussed EYTU's possible participation in an organization he is involved with, Project Healing Waters.
 - a. Project Healing Waters teaches disabled veterans how to fly fish, tie flies, and build rods.
 - b. The project relies 100% on volunteers.
 - c. The closest chapters are in Casper and Bozeman; Larry is in the process of starting a chapter that would better serve people living in the Cody/Powell/Greybull/etc. area.
 - d. In order to start a new chapter, Larry needs to find an organization, such as EYTU, that will sign a memorandum stating that it will assist the new chapter with volunteers and

materials. There is no financial support required. Larry stated that he already has several volunteers on board and that places like the VFW and American Legion have already offered their locations for clinics.

- e. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that Larry's request would be discussed at the next EYTU Board Meeting.
3. Dave Sweet discussed the Yellowstone Lake Project
 - a. 2016 will probably be the last full season of telemetry studies so it is important that we make the sampling as big as possible.
 - b. 180 hydroacoustic tags will be placed on Lake Trout during 5 days in June (13th – 17th).
 - c. Volunteers are needed, especially those with seaworthy boats – 10-12 boats are needed.
 - d. Only male Lake Trout at least 20 inches long will be tagged.
 4. Jason Burckhardt made the following announcements:
 - a. There will be a public meeting on February 8th at 6pm at the Cody Library Grizzly Hall regarding the Eagle Creek Headwaters Restoration Project.
 - b. Game and Fish is opening regulations for 2017 and is soliciting ideas. There will be a public scoping meeting before mid-February, but it has not been scheduled yet.

Meeting Was Adjourned

Program: Katherine Thompson, Northwest Wyoming Program Director for the Nature Conservancy, and Tommy Thompson, Bighorn River Basin Project Manager for Trout Unlimited, gave a very informative presentation on a proposed **Shoshone Riverway Conservation Project**.

1. This is a potential partnership between the Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and Game & Fish.
2. Broadly, the project will address the lower Shoshone below the Buffalo Bill Dam to Powell, areas with limited access, steep topography, and bounded by private land.
3. Former projects that EYTU has been involved with focused on the Belfry Bridge area parking lot improvements, picnic benches, Russian Olive removal, etc.
4. Surveys have generated suggestions that focus on improving/increasing access to the lower Shoshone River.
5. The current proposed Shoshone Riverway Conservation Project will deal specifically with a 136 acre stretch of river owned by the City of Cody from the Belfry Bridge downstream to around the old landfill; the project Vision: Riverfront Park. The project outcomes would include floodplain restoration, restrooms, trail improvements, and an outdoor classroom facility. This will be a multi-million dollar project.
6. The City of Cody has no plans to develop this property.
7. Project Steps:
 - a. Acquire and protect the site. The Nature Conservancy is working with the City Council on a conservation easement – an easement in perpetuity is necessary to properly preserve the area. The appraised property value would be given to the city with a commitment by the city to put some portion of the purchase price back into the project. In the long run, this project has the potential of saving Cody money since it will no longer have to maintain the property.
 - b. Conduct public meetings to present the community with concept and designs and get feedback.
 - c. Raise funding.
 - d. Execute plan; clean-up and restoration (old settling pond removal, restore natural river course, etc.), complete trail work, restroom and outdoor classroom construction, etc.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 11th at the Sunset House.

M. Vondersaar