

## East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 3008

Cody, WY 82414



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

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### **January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

#### **In Attendance**

Dave Crowther, Bob & Judy Capron, Elaine & Bill Tabacinski, Larry & Maxine Thomas, Alicia Viskoe, Jason Burckhardt, Mark Vondersaar, Bob Vossellor, Linda Trask, Tom Reed, Duane Feick, Jim & Diane Blakeslee, George Simonton, Dave & Jan Bensink, Amanda Wilson, Dave & Cathy Sweet, Michael Ellingsen, Andy Whiteman.

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Tom Reed followed by introductions by those in attendance.

**In Recognition:** new EYTU President Tom Reed thanked Dave Crowther for his service as our previous President. Tom also recognized Dave Crowther's and Lorna Anderson's assistance in making the transition smooth.

**Approval of Minutes of December, 2016 Meeting:** -- a motion was made, seconded, and approved.

**Acceptance of Treasurers Report:** A motion was made, seconded, and approved. Total assets as of 12/31/16, \$78,390.33. Chapter earned \$1527 from Christmas Party auction, but these funds have not yet been deposited. The \$24,000 Newton Lake CD was cashed and deposited into the EYTU checking account.

#### **Committee Updates**

##### **Conservation – Bob Capron**

- Bob commented that he has seen information about man-made beaver dams (“beaver dam analogues”) in publications.
  - According to Jason Burckhardt there has been some work on Eaglenest Creek. For long-term success, need habitat acceptable to beavers, that is, access to willows and aspens.
- In Bob's opinion, Shoshone River silt control should be a TU chapter focus.

##### **Fundraising Committee - George Simonton & Birney Holberg:**

- It was suggested that if we could get another Monster Lake Annual Pass members could sell raffle tickets
  - Andy and George will discuss with Tim Wade the possibility of acquiring an annual pass (valued at \$2400).
  - We will discuss further at the February Meeting.

**Web Site Coordinator – Lorna Anderson:** no update this meeting

##### **Wyoming TU Council – Dave Sweet**

- The state TU council is also working on fundraising. Money stays in state. They're raffling a 6-pack fly rod package.
- The Spring Council Meeting will be in Lander during the weekend of April 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Anyone can attend, but each chapter can be represented by 2 voting members.
- Yellowstone Lake Trout Project
  - Dave attended the Little Bighorn Chapter banquet. That chapter intends to contribute to the project.
  - WWNRT (Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust) grant money is running out.
  - Contributions are coming in from various sources
  - Project is now focusing on how to kill lake trout eggs now that we know more about where the spawning beds are
  - A full project update will occur at a future meeting.

##### **Unfinished Business:**

- Update on EYTU receiving a Commissioner's License for 2017: per Dave C, as of now, EYTU will not receive a 2017 License (but Cody Firearms Experience did!)

## **New Business:**

- Kids Fishing Derby
  - Bill T made a motion that EYTU should partner with the Optimist Club and participate in this year's derby.
  - Motion was seconded and approved. Bill will inform the Optimist Club.
  - The Kids Fishing Derby is an Optimist Club initiative that we generally assist with
  - Typically takes place the first Saturday in June.
  - Bill will discuss further during the April EYTU monthly meeting.
- Porcupine Lake Fishing Derby
  - An event managed by the Little Bighorn TU chapter
  - Bob C recommended that EYTU provide assistance; we could provide manpower and/or donate prizes
  - Motion was made, seconded, and approved.
- Proposal to participate in river clean up below Willwood Dam.
  - Update by Jason B – there are 3 working groups, and there may be opportunities for organizations such as EYTU to get involved;
    1. Identify short-term fixes (garbage, flushing flow determination)
    2. Identify best strategy for mobilizing sediments downstream of dam
    3. Identify long-term strategies for reducing sediment inputs throughout the watershed
  - It was suggested that EYTU assist in cleaning up debris (tires, etc.) below the dam
    - That is, that we do this instead of our regular annual river clean-up project
    - Game & Fish is involved in the necessary coordination between the Irrigation District and landowners
    - A motion was made, seconded, and approved for EYTU to provide this assistance.

## **Other Discussion:**

- Update on public land transfer issue
  - U.S. representatives such as Cheney and Barrasso are pushing for this at the federal level
  - At state level there are efforts to amend the WY constitution to eliminate current prohibition of public land transfer
  - EYTU position: change in the WY constitution should be stopped
    - Individual TU members are encouraged to write letters to their representatives (state and federal)
    - Agencies, eg. Game & Fish, cannot lobby for or against these sorts of legislative and/or constitutional amendment efforts, but organizations (and their members) such as TU can
    - It was proposed that EYTU send a letter to local representatives similar to the letter generated by Sweetwater County Board of Commissioners (copies were distributed by Tom R)
      - Motion made, seconded, and approved for letter to be drafted and sent
- Using Amazon Smile effectively
  - [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)
  - When you order merchandise from Amazon if you register with Amazon Smile and type in Trout Unlimited Cody, 0.5% of the sale of eligible items will be sent to our chapter
  - Members are encouraged to spread the word
- Any interest in collecting data for Game & Fish?
  - EYTU could possibly provide manpower for various biological studies
    - Insect studies
    - Water temp monitoring
    - G&F can assist in developing ideas
  - Will discuss this topic further in future meetings
- Tom R distributed a survey so that members can indicate what projects and issues they think EYTU should focus on.

- There will be an EYTU Board of Directors Meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Sunset House.
- February Chapter Meeting Presentation: Advantage Rehab will discuss injury prevention as it applies to activities such as fishing and casting mechanics.

**Adjourn Meeting:** a motion was made, seconded, and approved.

**Program:** Tom presented a video on “The Underwater World of Trout”.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, February 9, 2017, Sunset House