



## East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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[www.eastyellowstonetu.org](http://www.eastyellowstonetu.org)

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### **March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

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

#### **In Attendance**

Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Bob Capron, Elaine & Bill Tabacinski, Mark Vondersaar, Dave & Cathy Sweet, George, Kathy Crofts, Tom Reed, Linda Trask, Andy Whiteman, Ross Gorman, Birney Holberg, Tom Anderson, Duane Feick, Bob Vosseller, Amanda Wilson, Laura, Madison, Joshua, & Jason Burckhardt, Lori Bevenger, Flint, Coleen, & Jesse Harvey, Mike Power, Jed Smith

**Program** – Colton Curtis, Wildlife & Fisheries Biology student, University of Wyoming; The Conservation of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in the Greybull River Drainage

- Curtis, with the assistance of a Powerpoint presentation, discussed his work as a high school student in Meeteetse; his research looked at
  - Cutthroat migration above the diversion dam before and after installation of a fish ladder on the Greybull River
    - Radiotelemetry was used to study migration
    - The goal of the fish ladder is to improve migration back to historical spawning grounds
  - Fish ladder utilization
  - Impact on fish embryos of heavy metals such as molybdenum and copper that have leached into the water
    - Copper helped embryo growth while molybdenum stunted growth

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

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

**Acceptance of Treasurers Report:** Income: \$565, which included a \$500 donation from Larry & Maxine Thomas, and \$60 from TU hat sales during February meeting; Expenses: \$445, which included advertising in the Buyers Guide and postage; Account Balance: \$109,700, which includes \$33,280 in project-related commitments. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report. Discussion: Is it possible that certain EYTU committees, eg Education Committee, can be allowed some budgeted discretionary spending? It was decided that this would be discussed at the next EYTU Board Meeting. The motion to accept the Report was seconded and voted on; motion carried.

#### **Committee Updates**

**Conservation** – Dave Sweet

- Soldier Creek Project
  - Dave distributed a handout summarizing project status – please refer to that for more details
  - Soldier Creek is a tributary of Paint Rock Creek

- There has been a decline in large Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout populations from historic levels in the Bighorn Basin, therefore existing populations need to be protected; Soldier Creek and Buckskin Ed have Cutthroats
- Enclosure fencing is in poor condition
- The meadow stretch of the creek is within a grazing allotment and the permittee is willing to work with TU on repairs
- Approximately 1.5 miles of fence needs to be rebuilt
- **Fencing repairs scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>**
  - Joint project between EYTU and the Little Bighorn TU Chapter, utilizing funds from the sale of the Commissioners Tag
  - Other project partners include the US Forest Service and the Permittee
  - See Dave Sweet to volunteer to help on this project
  - Can camp near project, or the Deer Haven Lodge is around 45 minutes from the project site and Ten Sleep is around 75 minutes away
  - The July 2018 work does not include work planned for 2019 – see Dave’s handout
- Clarks Fork, Beartooth Ranch update
  - A letter was drafted by the Park County Commissioners to Governor Mead, with the apparent goal of obtaining possession of the ranch
  - EYTU representatives submitted a letter opposing Park County’s acquisition of the property
  - In a subsequent Commissioners Meeting they disputed their intent to sell the property and decided to revise their letter to the Governor – they are now taking a different approach, asking the state of WY to assist in the management and preservation of the property with maintaining public access being one of their objectives

**Website and Facebook Page** – Lorna Anderson – assistance, eg with Facebook posts, is appreciated.

**Wyoming Council** – Dave Sweet

- Next council meeting will be in Laramie, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>

**Unfinished Business:** nothing to report on

**New Business:**

- Tom Reed discussed the possibility of moving our monthly meetings to another location, possibly the Holiday Inn; will be on the agenda for the next EYTU Board Meeting.

**Other Discussion**

- The Game & Fish Open House, sponsored by TU, is on March 14<sup>th</sup>
  - At the Holiday Inn
  - 4 free lifetime game bird, small game, and fishing licenses will be awarded; 2 to girls and 2 to boys
- Kids Fishing Derby update – Bill Tabacinski
  - Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Need volunteers – sign-up sheet passed around – we would like to have commitments from volunteers prior to the next organizing meeting with the Optimist Club; volunteers needed:
    - 1/knot-tying, 2/spin-casting, 2/fly-rod-casting, 2/being available with nets, hemostats, measuring tape, etc., 4-5/to mentor families as needed
    - We will also be manning an information booth
  - Our goal is to improve the event and make it as meaningful to potential young anglers as possible

- Should middle school aged kids be allowed to participate?
  - Need ok from Optimist Club
- Money is needed for materials to be used at the event or given away there, for example, possibly giving away measuring tapes with the EYTU logo.
  - A motion was made to provide the EYTU Fishing Derby Committee up to \$350 to purchase what is needed
  - The motion was seconded and voted on; motion carried
- 2018 Fish Rescue Volunteer Coordinators
  - volunteers for the irrigation district coordinator and the food coordinator were recently identified, so coordinator positions for the various divisions of labor discussed during previous meetings have been tentatively filled
  - We still need additional people to get qualified in CPR and on the use of the electro-shockers
- The Game & Fish Cutthroat Collaborative final Cody meeting will be on March 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Game & Fish is looking for community input on Yellowstone Cutthroat preservation opportunities
  - For more information, can go to the Game & Fish web site, enter Cutthroat Collaborative in the search box, and you will get several topics related to the Cutthroat Collaborative, including information about meetings when you click on “Game & Fish Cutthroat Trout Collaborative continues”
- Willwood Dam Working Group #3 update
  - Dave Sweet and Laura Burckhardt are members of the working group
  - Their objective is to assess sources of sediment to the lower Shoshone
  - The Game & Fish technician conducting flow measurements needs help
    - Will be collecting data on different dates
    - Speak to Laura if you want to help

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

Birney’s monthly fundraising raffle followed adjournment.

**Next Meeting:**

- Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>
- Speaker: Jason Burckhardt, Walleye in the Buffalo Bill Reservoir

**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 Toyne 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