



East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 3008
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www.eastyellowstonetu.org

November 14th, 2017 Meeting Minutes

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

In Attendance

Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Bob & Judy Capron, Elaine & Bill Tabacinski, Mark Vondersaar, Tom Reed, Linda Trask, Dave & Cathy Sweet, Tom Anderson, Ross Gorman, Donna & Randy Moore, Jim Blakeslee, Jason, Madison, & Joshua Burckhardt, Amanda Wilson, Jed Smith, Birney Holberg, George Simonton, Larry & Maxine Thomas, Andy Whiteman, Kathy Crofts, Jane & Greg Bierei, Lew & Ellie Wisner, Tammy Bredy, Aspen Sullivan, Gary White, John Fraser, Sherry & Bob Vosseller, Gerald Jech, Richard Pontius, Duane Feick, Jeff Sandvik, Justin Esser

Program:

- Jeremiah Vardiman, University of WY Extension Educator, Agriculture and Horticulture (jvardima@uwyo.edu)
- Presentation: Why The Agriculture Practices In The Basin
- Mr. Vardiman provides education services on agriculture and horticulture practices for 5 counties in northwest WY, including Park County; the following are highlights of his presentation
 - Focus was on ag practices, not their consequences to fish habitat
 - Summarized his background
 - Agricultural practices of an area generally tied to major crops, eg sugar beets, barley, dry beans, and hay for the Bighorn Basin
 - Because of beef industry, hay is #1 crop commodity in WY
 - Bighorn Basin is a high elevation desert with an arid climate (less supportive of fungi and bacteria) where agriculture is limited to irrigation potential; soils are "young", not well-developed
 - Drivers of agricultural practices:
 - Historical factors, eg prior landscape clearing
 - Established systems, eg irrigation systems, purchase of farm implements
 - Proven (they work) – aid in germination and disease control (eg burning)
 - Aerial irrigation increases humidity and disease potential
 - Economics – tend to be cost-effective
 - Future
 - No-till farming
 - Pivot irrigation

Committee Updates

Conservation – Bob Capron

- Bob thanked fish rescue volunteers
 - Still needs volunteers for work on concrete drops in Ralston Wednesday, November 15th; if available, meet at Rocky Mtn Discount Sports at 8:00a.m.
- Tom Reed showed photos of fish rescue activities and recognized specific volunteers
 - Tom Anderson and others who provided meals and morning donuts
 - Randy and Donna Moore for managing the fish tank and fish counts throughout the project
 - The many student volunteers from the Heart Mountain Academy, Cody HS Outdoor Club, Cody HS FFA, Cody HS T21 Program, Powell HS
 - Media coverage by Cody Enterprise, Powell Tribune, and Cody HS newspaper
- Bob is taking a part-time job with WY TU to assist with fish screen maintenance and will be turning over the fish rescue project management to someone else
 - Tom suggested possibly looking at making this a team effort, dividing up responsibilities such as equipment management, irrigation district and landowner coordination, volunteer organization, etc.
- Tom used this opportunity to recognize Bob and Judy Capron for their many years of dedication to the fish rescue project, and presented Bob with
 - Letter of thanks to Bob from National TU CEO Chris Wood
 - Framed photo of Bob and volunteers
 - A big-screen television
- Going forward with fish rescue, we need more people officially trained on the electroshockers and certified in CPR (shocker certification can be done online)
 - If interested, see Bob

Fundraising – Birney Holberg and George Simonton

- The draft fundraising letter and brochure were passed around for member-review
 - Want to start mailing out to potential contributors ASAP
 - If you have comments, please direct them to George
- Monthly raffle will follow meeting adjournment

Web Site & Facebook Coordinator – Lorna Anderson:

- feedback is always appreciated
- Paypal and credit card payment Donate button set up by Dave C and Lorna on EYTU web site home page and Facebook page

Wyoming TU Council – Dave Sweet

- Council had a good meeting in October
 - Got to fish a couple days
 - Discussion topics included what other chapters are doing and problems common to all chapters

- Amanda Wilson was nominated as Vice President, and her nomination was seconded
- Regarding Board Members
 - TU Bylaws call for a maximum of 12 board members per chapter; we currently have 14
 - the terms of 3 members are expiring at the end of 2017 (George, Dave S, and Duane)
 - Bobby Rock is currently unable to serve as a board member, and Randy Moore and Duane Feick are stepping aside, so we have 3 positions to fill
 - Dave Sweet and George Simonton were re-nominated, and Kathy Crofts was also nominated; their nominations were seconded
- Election of officers and board members will occur during our December meeting
- Volunteer hours
 - We need to keep a record of volunteer hours
 - Any hours spent on TU projects or doing business as a TU officer
 - The monthly meeting attendance roster will be modified to provide a place for members to record their volunteer hours worked since the previous meeting

Other Discussion:

- New EYTU logo now in use – see agenda and minutes headings
- Yellowstone Lake Update – Dave Sweet
 - Dave had a recent conference call with people at Yellowstone National Park and a TU representative
 - They are trying to identify next steps in the project
 - Funds will be raised through the Foundation
- Medicine Lodge Creek restoration project update – Tom Reed
 - Laura Burckhardt's project
 - Tom shared photos of project area and activities such as willow replanting
 - Contractor work should be completed during week of November 20th
 - Re-vegetation work will continue
- Embrace A Stream (EAS) Contest
 - Laura Burckhardt was awarded a \$7000 grant for the Sunlight Creek project
 - In addition to those funds, \$1075 was raised by the EAS Challenge
 - 19 EYTU members contributed a total of \$475
 - Orvis provided an additional \$600 in matching funds
- Buckskin Ed and Soldier Creek Habitat Improvement Project update – Joe Skorupski of WY G&F
 - Funds from the sale of the Sheridan TU and EYTU chapters' Commissioners Tag are being used on this project
 - Part of the Yellowstone Cutthroat Restoration project
 - Changes in the watershed have occurred due to high grazing use, ATV

- Various options available to improve stream habitat
- Usually is a 3-year process; probably part of project phase II
- Steel jack fencing around specific small area to reduce access of game and livestock
 - 6.5 ft tall, low maintenance and can be moved as needed
 - Trying to get steel pipe donated
 - Hope to get funding from Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT) of \$20-40K
 - Needs to be matched – but matching can include volunteer hours, value of donated pipe, and TU funds contributed to project
- Remember Amazon Smile when ordering things from Amazon!

Meeting was adjourned – followed by monthly fundraising raffle

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 – ***Annual Christmas Party***

- Officer & Director election
- Fundraising Silent Auction – members can bring items to contribute – proceeds go to chapter
- “Cutthroat Gift Exchange” (\$20 spend limit)

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: Kevin Curtis, Meeteetse HS graduate, will discuss his research on the Greybull River fishery
- 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