

East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 3008

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

September 8th, 2016 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Birney Holberg, Bob & Judy Capron, Elaine & Bill Tabacinski, Randy & Donna Moore, Dave & Cathy Sweet, George Simonton, Dave & Jan Bensink, Steve Yekel, Tommy Thompson, Lew Wisner, Calvin Hazlewood, Karri Cary, 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 May, 2016 Meeting: -- a motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Treasurers Report: no Treasurer's Report was submitted during this meeting.

New Wyoming TU Council Coordinator – Calvin Hazlewood: Dave Crowther introduced Calvin to members; Calvin made the following remarks:

1. He lives in Green River and has been involved in TU for over 30 years.
2. His role as Coordinator is to work with TU chapters and provide assistance where possible, for example, with policy interpretation or membership drives.

Committee Updates

Conservation – Bob Capron

1. Grinding up trees and branches from the Corbett Dam fish access trail improvement project will probably take place in October.
2. The donated matting and mulch have been transferred to Game & Fish for the Sunlight Creek project.
3. The portion of the South Fork that the project Laura Burckhardt is involved with is on the Brown Thomas Meadows Ranch.
4. The project to repair exclusion fencing in the Canyon Creek riparian area (Bighorn NF) will take place this Friday and Saturday, September 9th and 10th. See Dave Crowther's recent email.
5. Dave Sweet was called by Corey Williams at the Trout Ranch and was informed that the fish drum was removed from the irrigation canal.
6. Bob's term with the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) has been extended by 2 years (see May Minutes), but other RAC openings might still occur.

Fundraising Committee - George Simonton & Birney Holberg:

1. Raffle tickets were sold at the start of the meeting; drawing occurred at end of meeting.
2. Dave Crowther sent a letter to Game & Fish District 5 Commissioner, David Rael, informing him how the proceeds from the Commissioner's Licence sale are going to be spent and that we would like to be considered for a 2017 license.
3. Fundraising suggestions should be directed to Birney or George.

Web Site Coordinator – Lorna Anderson: No updates this meeting.

Wyoming TU Council – Dave Sweet

1. This summer and fall telemetry studies will be the last, due to grant money running out.
2. The goal of the June Yellowstone Lake expedition was to implant as many transmitters into male Lake Trout as possible. 71 of an available 80 transmitters were implanted.
3. 33 transmitters were subsequently retrieved from gill-netted fish. 26 of these were implanted in August.
4. Receivers have been set up in 2 different arrays in an effort to hone in on spawning beds. Lake Trout will be spawning in the next 2-4 weeks. We currently know of 12 spawning beds.

Old Business:

1. We still need a EYTU Chapter Treasurer.

New Business:

1. EYTU will be hosting the Wyoming TU Council 2016 Fall Conference
 - October 28th, 29th, and 30th (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).
 - Meetings will be held at the Ivy in one of their conference rooms, and all local chapter members are welcome to attend.
 - The October 28th dinner will be at the Irma in the Governor's Room. It is open to members who want to attend, but members will have to pay for their meals.
 - The October 29th dinner will be at the Sunset House in our regular meeting room. This will be a council-paid buffet and local chapter members are welcome to attend.
 - Local chapter members planning on attending these dinners need to register – this will be discussed further at the October EYTU monthly meeting.
 - A fly rod will be raffled.

Other Business:

1. Dave Crowther had requested a donation by LL Bean of fly rod outfits that could be made available for fundraising, membership drives, or to FFA students who help out on TU projects. However, the request was denied.
2. Tommy Thompson reported that the fish screen in the North Fork ditch had to be repaired. Motor-related wiring repairs were required when the screen was fouled by debris. The screen is now functional but is not currently in service because of flow issues associated with the fish bypass.

Adjourn Meeting: a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Program: Karri Cary, hydrologist for the USFS presented a slideshow overview of various Shoshone National Forest projects. Projects pertain to the following topics:

- Sediments
 - From fire debris and roads
 - Roads are hydrologically connected to stream networks
 - Focused forest road analysis prioritization
 - Impacts on wildlife
 - Where to locate culverts
 - Areas with highest risk
- Water Storage
 - Glaciers
 - Snowpacks and glaciers are melting earlier and more rapidly
 - Impacts the watersheds receiving water from the melt
 - The Wind River Range has the largest concentration of glaciers in the lower 48 states
 - 63 glaciers
 - 18 square miles in 1961; 14 square miles in 2009 (22% decrease)
 - A benchmarking study is planned which will yield uniform methodology
 - Groundwater dependent ecosystems
 - Fens, a type of wetland transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and represent a large amount of water storage, are studied
 - Watershed restoration
 - Wood River bank stabilization at the campground
 - Floodplain restoration
 - Looking at opportunities
 - May look at beaver introduction; beaver dams tend to elevate water tables
- Prioritization: the Sunlight Basin will probably be a high priority area.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 13th at the Sunset House.