

East Yellowstone Chapter
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 3008, Cody, WY 82414

Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2008

Persons present: Jim & Diane Blakeslee, Birney Holberg and guest, Dean Bruce, Gary Sturmer, Travis Duncan, Jason Burckhardt, Laura Leslie, Dave & Cathy Sweet, Pat & Doreen Shellady, George Simonton, Lew & Ellie Wiser, Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Larry & Maxine Thomas, Wayne Reaves, Jerry Jech, Bob & June Richards, Scott Richards, Bill & Vana Camp, Carissa Camp, Steve Yekel, Ray Zubik, Merle & Chris Nielson and Lynn Cook.

Call to Order: President, Bob Capron called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Appreciation to Outgoing President: Bob Capron presented Dave Sweet a special thank you card signed by TU members along with a gift certificate for a stay in Red Lodge, Montana. We thank you for a job well done Dave.

Meeting Minutes: An addition to the previous meeting minutes of December 13, 2007 was addressed. In the section headed: Review of Special Board Meeting of Dec. 4, 2007, an additional bullet is added: Dave Sweet was able to purchase 12 pair of waders from Sierra Trading Post at \$7.00 per pair for use during fish rescue. The addition will be noted in original minutes as saved in file. With the addition addressed, George Simonton moved to accept, Wayne Reaves 2nd, and motion was approved.

Treasurer Report: Diane Blakeslee gave the treasurers report which was unanimously approved.

Other Business:

Jim Balkeslee reported our TU Chapter has received an annual renewal notice from the Cody Club, Chamber of Commerce. Jason Burckhardt moved to pay, 2nd by Shellady, motion carried.

Dave Sweet advised our Chapter has been awarded an Elk Tag for 2008. Discussion was undertaken as to how best offer the tag as outlined within the award rules. Following discussion, George Simonton moved to advertise on E-Bay with an \$8,500 minimum bid, 2nd by Jim Blakeslee, the motion carried.

Bob Capron reported a thank you card has been sent to Press Stevens, Wyoming Community Foundation for his presentation at our December 13, 2007 meeting.

Jason Burckhardt reported the fish tank has been picked up but will still need hoses and other hardware. Bob Capron reported the new shocker has arrived and needs testing.

Willwood Canal: Bob Capron reported District Manager, Tom Walker spoke in favor of fish rescue in the canal and will get back to us regarding final approval.

Projects:

Yellowstone Lake Trout: Dave Sweet reported that research is still ongoing. Progress will be reported as received.

River Cleanup: Discussion ensued about cleaning the same stretch again, adding another portion of the river, or alternating cleanup areas. Dave Sweet and George Simonton will investigate possibilities. Steve Yekel will organize cleanup on the upper section.

Trout Creek Drum Installation: Project volunteers are Dave Sweet, Lew Wiser, Pat Shellady and Birney Holberg. Volunteers will be advised of installation date, usually in May.

Shoshone River Trail: Dave Sweet gave update and will head project with Bob Capron. Hopefully the trail can be advanced to Paul Stock Trail. Funding is being looked into for metal stairs due to steepness of the bank. A workday in April is anticipated.

Fly Fishing Clinic: Discussion was to quit or change direction of the clinic. A committee was organized to research possibilities/alternatives. The committee, chaired by Carissa Camp includes Ray Zubick, Birney Holberg, Bill Camp, Merle & Chris Nielsen.

Kids Day: Ray Zubick will head this program. Kids Day is combined with 'Free Fish Day' in June at Beck Lake and though BLM and Optimists participate, volunteers are needed. Dave Crowther, Bob Capron, Jim Blakeslee and Bill Camp have volunteered to assist.

Chapter Picnic: Normally held at Newton Lake in conjunction with the June meeting, Bob Capron will head this program.

Summer Campout: Bob Capron would like to coordinate the summer campout with G&F at Soldier Creek to remove an unwanted log structure. The Cloud Peak Wilderness was suggested as it is close to Soldier Creek and offers Golden Trout fishing opportunities. Timing to include a weekend in July was suggested, Bob will investigate and report.

Canal Fish Salvage: Discussion included FFA involvement has been helpful but the program is in need of additional people trained/certified on the shocker as well as strong continued efforts to stop fish from entering the canals. Steve Yekel & Jason Burckhardt reported on past and ongoing efforts to achieve this goal. Expensive and slow. Volunteers to head the fish salvage program are Bob Capron, Dave Sweet and Pat Shellady.

Greybull River Watershed Plan: Work is still ongoing in efforts to arrive at a comprehensive plan. Efforts focus on water quality. Bob Capron & Lew Wiser attend meetings and will report.

Shoshone River Watershed Plan: Work is progressing but still ongoing on this watershed plan. Dave Sweet and Pat Shellady attend meeting and will report.

Northfork Boat Launch: Jerry Jech reported the process is almost complete, they anticipate March 2008 for final signing. TU has agreed to build an information sign for the site.

Northfork Pasture Irrigation Project: Ray Zubik reported that options are being researched and asked for TU volunteers to help with work needing to be accomplished there. Bob Capron, Lew Wiser and Jim Blakeslee agreed to assist.

Sunlight Habitat Irrigation Project: Steve Yekel reported there are numerous issues, they are still working on it but no solution yet. Game & Fish salvage this area.

Kepford Lakes: Ray Zubik reported the lakes are on Carter Mtn., would be fed by Belknap Creek and effect water rights on the TE Ranch. Discussions are ongoing.

Shoshone Forest Management Plan: Ray Zubik reported it was a 10 yr document and a new management plan is overdue but planning is in progress. Bob Capron & Gary Hoar will monitor, assist and report.

Sulphur Creek Mine: Dave Sweet reported sediment runoff from unreclaimed area of this mine impacts spawn areas in the Shoshone River. A meeting was held at the site December 19, 2007. The meeting included representatives from TU, BLM, DEQ, G&F, and other interested parties. There are numerous issues involved. After the meeting, Dave Sweet sent a letter to DEQ representative Gayle Hayley regarding issues and requesting resolutions. Target date for response is April 2008. Notes from that meeting are attached following TU adjournment.

General Business: Dave Sweet reported there are a number of grants with funds available to TU. Our Chapter is looking into what projects best fit the requirements to receive grant monies. Dave also reported he is giving an informative presentation to Cody Club, Chamber of Commerce as to the purpose and direction of Trout Unlimited.

The meeting was adjourned.

DIAMOND BASIN/SULPHUR CREEK MINE
12/19/2007

The area referred to lies on BLM land that runs along Diamond Basin Road, 6UU, in Park County.

Concerns have been raised regarding sediment runoff that enters Sulphur Creek from older, un-reclaimed bentonite mining and renewed interest that may start additional mining in the area. While Sulphur Creek does not support a viable fish population, sediment entering this creek ultimately makes its way to the Shoshone River, increasing pollution that is conflicting important trout spawning areas. There has also been a noticeable loss of invertebrate population in the waters of the lower Shoshone. This relates directly to sediment load that enters the Shoshone River.

Interested parties met at the site December 19, 2007 to investigate and address the issue. Representatives present were:

Trout Unlimited: Dave Sweet, Bob Capron, Gary & Jan Hoar and Lewis & Ellie Wiser
DEQ: Don Newton, Water Quality and Gayle Hayley, Land Quality

BLM: Gretchen Hurley, geologist, Jerry Jech and Mary D'Aversa
Game & Fish: Jason Burckhardt
Aquatic Environment Rep.: Laura Leslie
And Jan Hoar representing concerned area residents

The group visited and photographed numerous older mined areas with drainage gullies that feed into Sulphur Creek. To further complicate matters, this drainage is almost directly into a wetland area that volunteers working with BLM had fenced in October 2007 to protect from grazing cattle. The group also viewed recent test sites that, if proven to be productive, may enter the process for additional mining.

Mining rights on this section of BLM land are held by two different entities. The majority of rights, including the old mined area, belong to American Colloid Company. Mining rights to the area of renewed interest are held by Myron & Diane Dursche.

The tour created more questions than answers. While all in attendance agreed that reclamation is definitely needed on the previously mined areas and if additional mining is undertaken, reclamation would be needed there too, other issues need to be addressed. To name just a few: water quality, sediment and erosion problems in this drainage, reclamation responsibility, mining and recovery laws, etc. These questions are to be addressed by proper representatives and a target date for response is anticipated early in April 2008.