

East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 3008

Cody, WY 82414



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

Meeting Minutes – November 12th, 2009

Members & Guests Present: Pat Shellady; Bob Capron; Larry & Maxine Thomas; Lorna Anderson; Dave & Kathy Sweet; Birney Holberg; Merle & Chris Nielsen; Ellie & Lew Wiser; Don Crowther; Duane Anderson; George Simonton; Rich & Bobbie Hostetler; Bob & June Richard.

Call to Order: President, Pat Shellady, called meeting to order. Dave Sweet moved to approve the September minutes, Birney Holberg seconded. To clarify Embrace a Stream, there was a question about Timber Creek and J Bar 9. Are these the ones we are applying for? No. Minutes are correct. Minutes approved.

Treasurers Report: Larry Thomas gave the treasurers report. Postage 66\$ was biggest expense. Annual report is complete and due to National TU on Monday. The report is available from Larry. Noteworthy in the report are: Chapter members spent and estimated 17,080 volunteer man-hours on projects, and over 600 hours on general operations. 15 projects were worked on in the past 12 months. It was suggested that some of these figures should be shown to the Commissioner who gives out Elk Tags. George Simonton moved to approve the report, Ellie Wiser seconded. Report approved.

New Business:

- Chapter By-Laws review and recording – Chris Nielsen. By-Laws need to be signed, notarized, then with the county clerk. Bylaws had not been previously filed with the clerk. When asked for an opinion, George Simonton agreed that it does not hurt to file them. Signatures from Chapter Officers/Board Members were acquired. George notarized at 6:46 pm. The Chapter will make payment, and Chris will file with the County Clerk tomorrow. Copies will be available at the December meeting. Original will be placed in the file cabinet at North Fork Anglers.
- Emailing minutes vs. USPS mailing (postage costs) –Minutes are emailed to members who have provided emails addresses. Minutes are mailed to remaining members. It costs \$400 a year to mail minutes. There was some debate about the rights of members and duty of the Chapter to keep them informed. It was reinforced that people are reticent to provide email addresses. In talking to some members by phone it was found that they don't have computers and enjoy the mailings. Minutes are available on web site. It was suggested that we request email address and find out if people need a paper copy. Give them the opportunity to opt out of email, get paper copy, or visit the web site. Post card would be an idea for the opt-out. Are meeting minutes public record? "Public record" means they are available. Legally they are "available" for the asking. It is a burden, time consuming, expensive to mail them. According to the by-laws, newsletters are to be sent to all members. Referring to the by-laws, every member has a right to notice of the annual meeting. Could they be sent less often? Rich Hostetler moved that he contact TU National to find out if it's required to sent out meeting minutes. Merle Nielsen seconded. Passed.
- Embrace-a Stream Grant – Pat Shellady. Clarification about which streams were included in the application.
- Nomination/Election of Officers for 2010 – Pat Shellady. According to the by-laws, Board of Directors shall set a date for annual meeting. Annual meeting should be in the fall; it will be in

December this year. Merle Nielsen moved that December is our annual meeting, Birney Holberg second. Passed.

- Nomination/Election of Board Members – Pat Shellady. President declares all present at this meeting the nominating committee. George Simonton moved that the President create a 3 member nominating committee. Merle Nielsen second. Concerns were voiced that there may not be enough interested persons willing to serve, and a small committee may not be able to find people. Passed. Rich Hostetler, Merle Nielsen, and Dwayne Anderson are appointed to be the nominating committee. George suggested that we send out notice that there is a nominating committee and persons interested in serving contact someone on that committee.

2009 Term Expirations: Duane Anderson, Chip Andrews, Carissa Camp, Gary Hoar, and Greg Bierei.

- **Other business**

- Three bills need to be paid. Bob Richard moved and Birney Holberg seconded that we pay the three bills that Larry Thomas has. Passed.
- John Beauchamp, concrete contractor, donated 3 days labor to the Paul Stock Trail Project. Dave Sweet moved that we give John a \$250 gift certificate to the Pollard and George will try to get a free room, too. Merle Nielsen seconded. We can write a letter acknowledging the donation for John's tax purposes.
- We need to thank our partners in the paper. We have an advertising contact at the Enterprise. Rather than just a thank-you ad in the paper, it was suggested that we make it an occasion to take all partners/contributors/stakeholders down to the Paul Stock Trail and show off the work and invite the press. Suggestion to put a thank-you add for all our contributors in the paper at the end of the year, but there were cautions not to forget anybody.
- There are 3 more benches to set under the Belfry Bridge. Need helpers one day early next week. Call Bob Capron or Dave Sweet to volunteer.
- Trout creek Drum. Dave Sweet will make arrangements to remove it with Greg Bierei.
- 973 fish were saved in the fish salvage this year. Fish numbers were down this year because there is more water in the river and less fish in the canal. Thanks to volunteers. Next year we need persons with pick-ups who can haul the tank. Suggestion: buy a trailer. Game and Fish has a tank on a trailer, but it's hard to turn around. It's also hard to move the tank from truck to truck. Trailers are tough in tight places, and have costs and storage issues.
- Dead Indian creek update, covered last meeting. Francs fork update - took out two oil tanker-train-car-type culverts and replaced with fish friendly structures, a Wyoming State TU project. Results should be seen the following year as fish can move pass the previous barrier.
- J Bar 9? Has there been a fish entrainment study? No, ranchers have just seen the fish. Kory Toye has a plan, fundraising has started, he has \$12,000 from Game & Fish, and would like to raise \$45,000. He would like a donation from our chapter. It was suggested we could donate half our Elk Tag proceeds. Could our funds be matched? This donation can wait until we sell the Elk Tag.
- Greybull River Watershed Plan was released Nov. 12 for 45-day public comment period, which ends Dec. 28. Bob and Lew were on that committee which Jason Burckhardt and Steve Yekel also attended. We can talk again at December meeting. At that time the chapter will go official with a position statement. Livestock issues, sediment, low water flows due to irrigation, are some of the issues. Bob will get a copy. One issue is e. coli contamination due to livestock grazing.

- Greater Yellowstone Coalition is holding a meeting Dec. 2, 10 am. - 3 pm. Buffalo Bill Historical Center Boardroom, lunch provided. Topics include: Values of the Beartooth, Collaborative Conservation of the Henry's Fork, Reflections on Collaborative... Call 527-6233 by Nov. 18. Discussion: The Coalition is trying to unify conservation groups. Possibly increasing wilderness above Francis Fork and above Kirwin. Wilderness means you may not manipulate fish populations without special permits, if it is declared wilderness, the fish that are there are there. Cooperating with Landowners has been good with TU projects, but it is a danger in upsetting our landowners. It is good to find out what the coalition is proposing. Some say there is enough wilderness.
- Bob moved to adjourn, Lew seconded. Passed.

Next Meeting: December 10th - 6:00 P.M. at the Sunset House (1651 8th Street, Cody, WY 82414).