

East Yellowstone Chapter
Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 3008, Cody, WY 82414-8815

Amended Minutes - September 11, 2008

Those present: Dave & Cathy Sweet, Pat & Doreen Shellady, Rich & Bobbie Hostetler, Merle & Chris Nielsen, Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Bernie Holberg, George Simonton, Jason & Laura Burckhardt, Larry & Maxine Thomas, Scott Richard, Jim & Diane Blakeslee, Van Miller, Bob Kuper, Carissa Camp, Lew & Ellie Wiser, Ray Zubik

Call to Order: Pat Shellady called the meeting to order at 6:25

Meeting Minutes: Approval of the May 2008 minutes as written was called for. Dave S. moved to accept, 2nd by George S., the motion was approved.

Treasurers Report: Given by Diane Blakeslee. In addition to Income and Expenditures, Dianne advised the Chapter has received additional donations designated for 'Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout' Fund.

Pat S. called for a vote to accept the treasurer report. Aye's carried, report accepted.

Project Updates:

Save the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout: Dave S. reported the 5 day meeting at Chico Hot Springs regarding this issue was well attended, with numerous groups represented. Dr. Bob Gresswell was among the speakers. A complete review addressing the LT impact, not only to Yellowstone Lake but the surrounding eco-system was presented. The panel then presented a 6 point recommendation to NPS that, if followed, could save the YCT in Yellowstone Lake. Even though numerous LT spawn beds have been identified, there are NPS rules that hinder timing when attacks on these spawn beds could be most effective. There have been over 44,000 LT netted this year with no noticeable reduction in overall numbers.

Paul Stock Trail: Dave Sweet reported even though full funding of \$44,000 for cost of the metal stairs has been approved, incremental payments will need to be made during construction. Dave requested a vote to approve these incremental payments. We will be reimbursed during the course of construction. This request was put before the members and passed unanimously.

Additionally, Dave S. reported of the willingness and good work on the trail that was accomplished by the young NY Urban Trailblazer group. They didn't want to quit working early when materials ran out, Dave S. went for more materials and the group worked until around 3pm. A 'Thank You' letter along with a donation to the organizers for support of future trips was suggested. Discussion followed, final motion was for Pat S. to write a 'Thank

You' letter to the Urban Trailblazer organizers which would include a \$500.00 donation. A motion was made to that effect and passed unanimously.

North Fork Boat Ramp Access: Bob C. has completed the access kiosk. BLM work is complete. Fencing is needed as well as WG&F completing the ramp itself and other land cuts. The ramp is located directly across from Wapiti Fire Station and will open access to approximately ¼ mile of river as well as allow boaters to launch at the site.

WYTU Council: Dave S. reported the Council is in the process of trying to identify a beneficial project that would include all WY Chapters. Top consideration at this time is to target fish loss to irrigation diversion. Fundraising to support Nelli William's position long term is in the works. Hopefully this effort can make the position self supporting.

Chapter Awards Received: Our East Yellowstone Chapter was awarded two outstanding honors this year. Dave S. accepted the Bill McCormick, 'Outstanding Volunteer of the Year' award presented by the Shoshone Recreation District. Dave presented the plaque to our Chapter during the September 11th meeting.

AND, Bob Capron attended the TU meeting in Snowbird, Utah, 9/12/08 to accept a 'Silver Trout' award presented by TU National for outstanding commitment to conservation.

Diamond Basin/Sulphur Creek: BLM's Gretchen Hurley advised Dave S. they have received written confirmation from American Colloid Company, acknowledging reclamation was unsuccessful in previously mined areas and will return to correct the problem. Timetable is unknown, BLM will check and advise. Notice was also given that the soil testing for mining feasibility is proceeding on the Durtsche's claim near the same area. BLM has assured TU they have sediment control & reclamation requirements in place with the company.

Website Update: Lorna Anderson reported the website is up and running well. www.eastyellowstonetu.org. She distributed a leaflet showing our Home Page and requested members send her fishing photos, other websites to be listed in our 'links' page, and any suggestions members might have. Visit the website to send photos or link information.

Campout & Project work: Lew W. advised, working with WG&F, the project consisted of removing 7 dams installed 25 years ago by Sheridan TU for correcting, protecting, and enhancing stream flows on Soldier Creek. With the dams & protecting fences in place, stream flow patterns have been corrected and current high water flows are creating erosion around the established dams. They needed to be removed. A day's work completed dam removal and members began fishing for the campouts super 'Capron Fish Fry'. Members supplied appetizers, Lew W. supplied Margaritas, Lorna A. brought her Dutch Oven setup where potatoes, corn bread and pineapple cake were cooked. Bob C. fried around 82 Brookies. There wasn't much left by evenings end. Sunny weather -- beautiful country -- good time by all.

Electro-fishing update: Pat S. advised he will be taking the online class along with Larry Thomas, Dave Crowther, Merle and Chris Nielsen. Chris will obtain required forms and send to others.

TU Council Meeting: The annual, fall TU Council meeting will be hosted by our EY Chapter here in Cody, November 7th - 9th. Friday the 7th will be gathering time, with General Meeting and Dinner Saturday the 8th. Possible leaders training session Sunday morning and recreation time for attendees before their departure. Arrangements are pending. Volunteers may be requested for meeting and dinner assistance.

Fish Rescue: Work will begin late October on into November as irrigation canal water is turned off. WGF will need a Chapter 33 permit. Jason will assist in getting the permit and complete fixtures on the new aerated fish holding tank. Bob C. will announce water shut off time.

Wyoming Wildlife Federation: EYTU is now a member of WWF in Casper. The Federation advises on current legislation related to fishing and hunting and how best to approach the media to make our positions known. Overall, they advise on sportsman's issues. A current issue is violation of e-coli in the North Fork of the Tongue River. An earlier administrative order to reduce grazing allotments in the area would have helped but that order has been rescinded by a new District Ranger.

Other Business:

Treasurer Diane B. advised Our Chapter must now file non-profit tax form 990. Cynthia Rankin was suggested as an advising accountant. George S. Moved to hire Cynthia, 2nd by Lew W. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Walleye in Buffalo Bill Reservoir: Jason B. reported a 2006 sampled catch did not identify any Walleye, but they are now being caught in BBR and were definitely introduced illegally. WG&F cannot mitigate walleye introduction and it can impact the North Fork as well. They are requesting comments and offer a \$10,000 reward for information that would lead to the conviction of those who illegally introduced the Walleye to BBR. WG&F is trying to put together control efforts now, before it is too late. Discussion followed, after which George S. moved to pledge \$2,500.00 toward the \$10,000 reward if perpetrators were found and convicted. Dave S. 2nd the motion. Vote called for and passed unanimously.

George S. moved to adjourn, Rich H. 2nd, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm