

 EAST YELLOWSTONE TROUT UNLIMITED

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**Minutes from Monthly Meeting of East Yellowstone Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Wyoming Game and Fish Meeting Room

Meeting Called to order by Tom Brown, Chapter Vice President @ 6:05pm

Introductions and Welcome.

**Committee/Project Reports**

Trout in the Classroom. Kathy Croft reported that Wyoming is among 35 states working on environmental education in the classroom using trout and salmon as learning platform for over 100,000 kids. Begun in 1990’s it has grown and now includes learning materials and lesson plans of the highest quality for more information go to [www.troutintheclassroom.org](http://www.troutintheclassroom.org) Basically the lessons revolve around growing eggs in an aquarium until trout are small fry and ultimately juveniles before being released into the wild or in WY case a self contained water system such as a pond. Special thanks to Jeff Thiesen who picked up the tanks and delivered them to our local schools Cody Middle School and Meteetsie Middle School.

Current project activity. Brittany Swope reported that Canyon Creek construction project to improve low water flows is underway. Also, a possible field trip and observation of the North Fork bank stabilization near the Wapiti Ranger station is being explored as work is underway. Possible timing near our chapter picnic time, stay tuned for more information. Finally, all parts and equipment is in for North Fork irrigation fish screen and we will organize for installation as soon as weather conditions allow. If interested in participating see Brittany Swope.

Cody HS Outdoor Club Auction update. It was previously discussed to support the Cody Outdoor Adventure club fund raising auction with donated items. Currently on hold, yet we anticipate some support of the club by donating gently used fly fishing items in future. More to come on this.

Fly Fishing Fair. A fly fishing focused event is planned to be held on May 11, 2024 from 9 AM to 2PM at the Wyoming Game and Fish Meeting room. Presentations, hands on learning activities, games and contests, give aways, etc. will take place inside the room and (weather permitting) outside. We will need volunteers and teachers of fly tying, casting, reading waters, equipment usage, safety and etiquette, etc. Please let Larry Timchak know if you are able to attend and want to be involved.

Kids Fishing Day. Jerold Vincent reported that planning and preparation is already underway for June 1st , 2024. Kids Fishing Day at Beck Lake. We will need all hands on deck as volunteers for the event which will draw approximately 300 -350 area kids with parents to the free event. Included is a fishing derby, education programs, fishing equipment give aways, and fun for entire family.

Shoshone River Clean-Up. On hold at this time, also giving out plastic litter bags for self-cleaning by anglers along the river is being further considered as there are pros and cons to having potential trash bags themselves contributing to the problem. More to come.

State Council of TU asking for Contributions from each chapter for News/Events/Articles for newsletter and website on regular basis. If you can do this for EYTU Chapter and are willing to contribute or coordinate for EYTU please let Larry Timchak know of your interest. Details shared were that the Council is looking for 2-5 paragraphs of information or articles or personal stories several times per year.

Commissioner’s Tag award. The EYTU Chapter was awarded a highly sought after hunting tag worth up to $42,000 dollars. An online auction is scheduled to be held and is administered by board members Len Fortunado and Jeff Thiesen on February 23, 2024 from noon until 2PM. Interested members can follow the auction progress by contacting either Jeff or Len via email to obtain the link. You may get additional information from the Wyoming Game and Fish site itself. Proceeds will go to fund chapter activities and programs of support in the region. Note that the beginning bid for the prestigious tag is set at $24,000. Thanks to all who were involved to bring the tag award to EYTU and be sure to thank Commissioner Ashlee Lundvall should you see her at events this year.

Financial report

Sam Hochhalter, Fish Management on North Fork and BB Reservoir. Sam presented an informative and detailed report on fish management on North Fork. Highlights included priorities, providing trophy recreational opportunities for diversified fishery on North Fork; while discussing numbers and diversification issues. Turns out that rainbows can outcompete cutthroats in reservoir over winter for food so despite over a million cutthroat plantings over the years, the rainbows still outnumber the cutthroats on the North Fork. Managing the closure between May and July is best way to achieve goal of sports person desired trophy vs numbers division instead of harvest limits. Anglers reporting tougher conditions may be result of pressure as numbers of fish are holding steady. No major changes in regulations are anticipated at this time. Sam answered many questions and let us know that the future of North Fork as a premier fishery still looks good as of today.

Next meeting at Game and Fish Meeting Room the second Tuesday of March at 6 pm meeting and 7 pm Guest speaker. Guest speaker Brett French, is slated from Billings Gazette natural resources writer who will talk about Beartooth Mountains fisheries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted Ted Richmond EYTU Chapter Secretary