

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

October 9, 2008 Minutes

Those present: Jim & Diane Blakeslee, Jason Burckhardt, Duane Anderson, Bob & Pat Kuper, Gregg & Jane Bierei, Wayne Reaves, Rich Hostetler, Dave Crowther, Lorna Anderson, Bob & Judy Capron, Lewis & Ellie Wiser, Shirley Bye-Jech, Cory Toye, Dave Sweet, Pat & Doreen Shellady, Birney Holberg, Don Newton, Ray Zubik and, Mylan VanNewkirk

Call to Order: Bob Capron called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm.

Approve minutes: Secretary had been advised of errors in the September 11, 2008 minutes and corrections were completed. The major error related to 'Save the YCT' meeting in Chico Hot Springs. The 6 point recommendation that could save the YCT if followed was presented only to NPS. WG&F and USGS were not involved. Other errors were mainly misspelled names. A motion was made and 2nd to accept the minutes as amended. The motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Diane Blakeslee reported on income & expenses. The first payment toward construction of stairs for the Paul Stock Trail and the annual Newton Lake Endowment Fund payment have been made.

Jason Burckhardt moved to approve, Dave Sweet 2nd - The motion carried

Guest speakers: Don Newton, DEQ and Cory Toye, Trout Unlimited were introduced.

Cory Toye: is Wyoming based TU National staff. Cory works with Wyoming Water Projects as Project Manager. He is fairly new to TU so is working on current projects and identifying new ones. He reported on: The newly purchased Sheperson Ranch, previously Webster Ranch, has agreed to a fencing project of approximately 1/2 mile on the Greybull River frontage as a buffer to keep cows off the river and improve riparian areas. They are also working with NRCS for non use of some lands within the fenced area. The Pitchfork Ranch also has new owners. Cooperative efforts are underway with WG&F and TU to develop opportunities there. TU is working on stream improvements with landowners in Canyon Creek. Lincoln County now has agreed to use 4 flat screen fish deterrents on smaller irrigation projects next year. Cory also reported on Nellie's educational fish tagging project where each child adopted a tagged fish and will track it via the tag #.

Don Newton, is with DEQ as Wyoming's Non Point Source, Water Shed Planner out of Lander, WY. Don works to identify waters that carry or have the potential to carry

TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) of pollutants a stream can accept & still meet its designated uses. He then works within the (303D), Clean Water Act in efforts to reduce the impairment. He advised that sediment loading, above other pollutants, has the greatest impact on waters in Wyoming. Other pollutants come from the excess areas of stream exposed to grazing cattle. Fencing to protect these lands would be beneficial and are being investigated. If accord with landowners can be reached, Don wondered if TU chapters would be willing to assist with fencing in these areas.

Of interest to local chapters of TU would be the 319 program of the Clean Water Act. This act contains funds for partnering on smaller community based projects as has been done with the Nature Conservancy for Tamarisk eradication on Cottonwood Creek.

Fish Rescue: Bob Capron will contact irrigation companies for timing of water shutoff and advise members. He will arrange for FFA assistance and contact Carol Cloudwalker for news coverage and possible request for public participation.

Electro Shocking: Participating members are in process of completing online training.

North Fork River Access: The Kiosk is ready. Shirley Bye-Jech, BLM advised the ramp is being completed and back fill needs to be done. Shirley feels a one day work project, to be scheduled near the end of October for fence & post installation along with Kiosk and signs should complete the project.

Trout Creek Drum: Dave Sweet said the drum is not ready to be pulled and will advise when ready.

Weed Projects: Mary McKinney would like assistance to spray Salt Cedar around Newton Lake and Toad Flax on the lower South Fork around Beverly Drive & Cody Canal. She expects to begin the last of October or early November and will contact Bob when dates are set.

Russian Olive has been added to Wyoming's invasive weed list. Ellie Wiser is gathering information for the Board regarding negative impacts and methods to remove infestations. Bob suggested we begin a removal project along the Shoshone River in conjunction with improvement of the Shoshone-Paul Stock Trail connection.

Ray Zubik, Fisheries Biologist, Shoshone Natl. Forest Service, spoke of success regarding a number of projects, including better water flows on Sawmill Creek at Meeteetse and Hidden Lake doing well. Recent fires have destroyed beetle killed trees, opened grazing areas and laid down nutrients for younger vegetation. Since the Greybull fire, along Venus Creek, grasses and willows are coming back. An analysis of the Dead Indian drainage is beginning. Aquatic problems in Wyoming include whirling disease, mud and zebra snails. To prevent spread, clean & dry waders before moving from one water source to another.

Of special interest is information Ray has received regarding use of a flat screen fish diverter now being tested by Farmers Conservation Alliance on the Hood River in Oregon. Bob Will contact for information and advise.

Annual Council Meeting: Pat Shellady advised plans for the annual TU Council meeting to be held in Cody next month are ongoing. VFW will cater a prime rib dinner with salad, potato and side dish for \$16.50 per plate. \$250.00 for hall rental plus \$150.00 for cleanup. TU members would clear tables and lift chairs. Following discussion, Pat K. made a motion to accept VFW hall expenses and catering of the dinner at \$16.50 per plate, 2nd by Rich H. The motion passed unanimously.

Lew W. suggested items we have on hand be raffled or sold sometime during the Council Meeting. The suggestion has merit and will be considered.

VFW will need a head count. How to notify members is being decided on. RSVP will be sent requesting positive response by October 31st.

Final draft for Council Meeting in November:

Annual Wyoming State Council Meeting will be held in Cody November 7th, 8th and the 9th, 2008.

Friday, Nov. 7th – Informal gathering to be held at the Saloon located in the Irma Hotel from 6:00 p.m. to ??? (All East Yellowstone Chapter Member are invited).

Saturday, Nov. 8th – Fall Council Meeting, Big Horn Federal Meeting Room, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Wyoming TU Staff and 2 representatives from each Chapter, only)

Saturday, Nov. 8th – Social Hour and Prime Rib Dinner at the Cody VFW Hall, Social Hour 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Prime Rib Dinner at 7:00 p.m. (Please note that all East Yellowstone Chapter TU Members are invited to the complimentary Prime Rib Dinner! Please RSVP by October 31st to Pat Shellady, phone 307-587-5277).

Sunday, Nov 9th – Council Leaders will meet with Chapter Representatives for a Leader's Training Session at the Big Horn Federal Meeting Room, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

TU Silver Trout Award: Bob displayed not only the Silver Trout Award plaque but a beautiful sculpture received as part of the award. He requested suggestions as to where members felt the sculpture and two award plaques should be displayed. Numerous suggestions were put forth. All are being considered, a decision will be made later.

Other Business:

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition has a petition they would like TU to sign. Bill Barrett Corp. is planning to drill 4 test wells in the McCullough Peaks area and drilling may be done using 1990 BLM guidelines. New BLM standards are in process but not complete. The petition does not seek to stop the drilling but asks they develop the resources with caution and use the new lower impact standards instead of the 1990 guidelines. Whistle Creek lies downhill from the drilling area and feeds into the lower Shoshone River. There are other drilling areas that are contributing to sediment loads and

underground water contamination. A motion was made and 2nd to sign join signers of the petition. The motion carried unanimously.

Elk Tag: Dave Sweet asked if the chapter wanted to apply for another Elk tag and, if so, he would like some help with the application. Sale of the tag has been good income for the Chapter. He has former applications and will assist. Birney Holberg agreed to join Dave in the application process. Bob Capron will contact the incoming Commissioner and inform members regarding contact.

Embrace A Stream: Is TU National's grant program for funding conservation efforts. Our Chapter hasn't received a grant in a long time and requests are due soon. Funds could be used on a number of our projects. A motion was made and 2nd to request a grant. The motion passed unanimously. Jason will assist Dave with the application.

EY Website: Bob Kuper brought up the accomplishment Lorna Anderson has achieved in regard to quality and standards of our EY Website. Also noted was the research she has done regarding legalities associated with information being put on or linked to the website. Bob & Pat Kuper suggested rewarding her in some form. A thank you of \$200.00 for something special of her choosing was suggested. A motion was made and 2nd in that regard and passed unanimously.

Jason Burckhardt advised the WG&F website is still open for public comment in requesting unrestricted harvest limits of Walleye on BBR. Bob Capron will sign in with TU support in removal of limiting catch of Walleye in BBR.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40

Next East Yellowstone Chapter Meeting is
Thursday November 13, 2008 - 6 p.m.
Sunset House Restaurant in Cody