

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting Minutes

17 September 2012

Reported by: Scott Brumbaugh

- **Opening Information**

- Attendance:
 - Scott Brumbaugh
 - Chris Haser
 - Jim Purtell
 - Rick Van Horn
 - Judi Sittler
 - Fiona Stewart
 - Bill Voigt
 - Chris Hennessey
 - Bob Donaldson
- Board Meeting called to order by Sittler @ 1905
- Review of old minutes
 - Amendments: -NONE-
 - Old minutes approved w/o amendment

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Chapter's net worth = \$55,052.51
- Corrections: NONE
- Treasurer's Report Approval (8/12)
 - Motion to approve: Voigt
 - Second: Purtell
- Decided to move \$5K from the operating account into the Habitat CD
 - Motion = Haser
 - Second = Hennessey

- **Old Business**

- Action Item Review
 - Bob Vierck and Judi Sittler will create a proposal, for the Milesburg Stream restoration project, for submission to the Centre County Community Foundation "Anniversary Circle" grant.
 - Report: Proposal was submitted to Centre County Community Foundation – but the Foundation chose not to select the proposal for the final round.
 - Bill Brusse will research who the maintenance / ground superintendent is at Fisherman's Paradise.
 - Report: OBE.
 - Bob Donaldson will contact John Arway directly regarding the issue. Brumbaugh will provide a specific list of concerns and photographs for discussion with Arway.
 - Report: OBE
 - Brumbaugh will contact Renew Growing Greener and ask them to remove our

name from the list of supporting organizations.

- DONE, successfully removed.
- Trout in the Classroom raffle tickets (from PATU) (Sittler)
 - Two books of tickets was lost. Therefore, SCTU must reimburse PATU for our lost books (\$40 each for a total of \$80).
- National TU Summit (Sittler)
 - Sittler distributed water bottles to the teens at the summit.
- Centre County Community Foundation Anniversary Circle (Sittler)
 - Our proposal was not selected to make it to the final round.
- Clearwater Conservancy sent us a thank you letter for supporting the Senior Environmental Corps in the amount of \$150. (Sittler)
- The Youth Services Bureau sent us a thank you letter for supporting the youth fishing day at the Lamar fish hatchery. (Sittler)
- Review of PAFBC Walleye Hatchery and mowing issues (Brumbaugh)
 - Brian Niewinski replied to Brumbaugh to say that he will speak with the grounds personnel to be less aggressive with mowing in the canyon. Continued vigilance and dialog between SCTU and PFBC is encouraged.
 - Brian Niewinski also replied that the walleye hatchery is covered by a NPDES, and is monitored for dissolved oxygen, pH, carbonaceous biological oxygen demand, total suspended solids, ammonia, and dissolved phosphorous. Temperature is not currently covered, but Brian offered that PFBC could add a temperature probe to monitor the incoming and outgoing water temperatures.
- NFWF grant was awarded to SCTU to conduct operations on Milesburg, Fish and Boat Parking lots (gravel and planting), and Oak Hall. The award amount is \$69.8 K
- PATU Coldwater Conservation Professional (Sittler)
 - Jason Detar was submitted by Sittler, but PATU did not select Jason as the award winner.
- PATU annual meeting (Sittler)
 - Sittler and Vierck will represent SCTU at the annual meeting.
- **New Business**
 - Clearwater Conservancy, Katie Ombalski
 - Ombalski stated that some of the existing, previous stream improvement projects on Spring Creek need some maintenance. The sites include the following:
 - Spring Creek Houserville
 - Monthly bird net removal and replacement
 - Observe and identify management issues (mowing, etc)
 - Mortality monitoring
 - Penn State Sheep Farm
 - Tree tube removal
 - Remove woody debris from the fence
 - Observe and identify management issues (mowing, etc)
 - Mortality monitoring
 - PFBC property on Route 550
 - Tree tube removal
 - Observe and identify management issues (mowing, etc) → specifically path mowing
 - Katie Ombalski presented asked if SCCTU could request our membership to

- volunteer for 1-2 hours per month for 1 year.
 - We agreed to list the projects in our newsletter, webpage, and list serve to ask for support.
 - Chris Hennessey will generate an email to the membership.
- 2013 (new) Annual Budget (Van Horn)
 - Motion to approve: Haser
 - Second = Hennessey
- Memorial gifts (Hennessey)
 - Hennessey recommends that all future memorial gifts be sent to the chapter general fund, without exception.
 - Previously, funding for the George Harvey memorial was specifically requested and donated at the annual banquet. This appears to be the only funding given in memorial that is tied to a specific project. The chapter believes that money was spent and used on the George Harvey Spring Creek Heritage Memorial plaque and display.
 - Future memorial donations will be applied to the general fund.
- Logan Branch / Tressler Quarry new Graymont and Hawbaker mine (Brumbaugh)
 - Graymont/Hawbaker propose to expand the existing Gentzel Quarry (in Pleasant Gap) to the northeast onto the “Tressler” property. The property is owned by Graymont. Hawbaker will initially mine the aggregate stone from the surface. Graymont, at a future date, will mine the Valentine rock below the surface. Water discharge from the mine expansion will be into Logan Branch.
 - PADEP held an informal conference for public comment regarding the proposed Hawbaker / Graymont mine on September 17, 2012.
 - Brumbaugh attended the meeting to represent SCTU
 - Most local residents discussed dust and ground shaking problems.
 - Brumbaugh presented the following concerns
 - Discharge water turbidity
 - Discharge water temperature
 - Artificial modification of the local water table
 - DEP will respond to all concerns via written letter at a future date
- Brumbaugh had a conversation with John Maitland from Graymont.
 - John Maitland is the ES&H manager at Graymont.
 - Maitland offered that Graymont is looking for ways to support the local community via volunteer opportunities. John expressed that Graymont may be able to provide volunteer help to SCTU at future SCTU projects. This could include volunteers to do “hand work” or potentially equipment and equipment operators.
- Duck Pond / Thompson Run / Joe Humphreys plaque (Donaldson)
 - Thompson Run in the past was thermally impaired and polluted.
 - In 1977, Joe Humphreys was instrumental in cleaning Thompson Run up. The project involved diverting spring water around the Duck Pond.
 - Donaldson was able to speak with Dan Hawbaker and convince him to obtain the plaque that commemorates Joe Humphreys effort to clean up Thompson Run
 - A future ceremony to place the plaque will occur.
- Spring Creek Canyon Clean-Up (Haser)
 - Ted Trostle has suggested to have monthly clean ups for Spring Creek Canyon.
- Website (Vierck via a priori written report)
 - As you know, we have installed a new website with the following features:

- Drop down menus and popular links on a side bar
- Home page consisting of the most recent Tertiary Treatment publication.
- Meeting Speakers, Calendar (full) and maps
- Leadership Pages including biography (Need picture for Bill Brusse and biography for Jim Purtell)
- Donation Page including Annual Giving, Banquet, and giving on internet via credit card.
- Credit card giving and Facebook link on sidebar for every page
- Volunteer and join page
- History, mission, national TU pages
- Document history page including Board Minutes, Tertiary Treatment, By-laws
- Event pages for projects including stream projects, trout in the classroom, Trout Camp, and watershed watch.
- Web site needs - We need input to improve and expand the site, including but not limited to:
 - Synopsis of our more recent projects. This should include before and after pictures. Any help or suggestions would be of great assistance.
 - Pictures of past events such as the banquet.
 - Input on suggestions as to how expand and improve the site.
- Stream improvement projects (Vierck via a priori written report)
 - We have received a Grant for \$69,800 for projects in 2013 and 2014. These include Milesburg above the Commercial St. Bridge, Fisherman's Paradise, Rock parking, and Oak Hall. The details are available on a PDF file on that can be accessed on the Stream Projects page of the website.
 - We have a request to FirstEnergy for an additional \$5000 for the Milesburg portion of the project.
 - We have met with F&BC and sketched out the beginnings of our plan for 2012 – 2014.
 - The next step will be a meeting with F&BC to review the plans, begin to set dates, and start the "doing" stage. This will include a decision on the coordinating contractor.
 - We are in the process of developing a "Stream Projects" list. It is based upon the 2000 Land Studies report identifying fourteen project areas. Each of these areas has been visited, pictures taken, and an evaluation of status is underway. The next step will be recommendations for projects.
 - The recommended projects are being matched up with a list of possible funding sources so that we will be able to start funding projects for the 2014 - 2018 time period.
- Streamside observations / concerns (Vierck via a priori written report)
 - Reported building of a dam just below the 550 Bridge. This was in turn forwarded to enforcement. Have received no report back as to action to date, but expect that we will eventually hear from enforcement.
 - Reported bank reinforcement about ½ mile below the 550 Bridge on the Hill Property (opposite side of stream) with before and after pictures. Have received no report back as to action.
- Sittler formally thanked Bob Vierck for writing his report on the new website and stream improvement projects.
- Watershed watch: skipped.

- Sittler reports that she has not heard new information or a reply from Cory Stoner regarding cooperation with the Boy Scout Camp.
- Membership Committee (Stewart)
 - 29 new members have joined since April.
- Banquet Committee (Purtell)
 - Requested Hennessey to put an advertisement in the newsletter to ask for banquet committee members.

- **Closing Information**

- Adjourned at 2121
- Motion: Sittler
- Second: Van Horn

- **Action Item Summary:**

- Brumbaugh will contact John Maitland re future stream restoration projects.
- Chris Hennessey will generate an email to the membership regarding maintenance of existing stream restoration project (per Ombalski request).
- Hennessey will place an advertisement in the next newsletter to request banquet committee volunteers.