

# Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## Board Meeting Minutes

### 15 September 2014

Reported by: Paula Sowers

- **Opening Information**

- Attendance:
  - Bob Vierck
  - Judi Sittler
  - Jim Lanning
  - Dave Dudukovich
  - Rick Van Horn
  - Lynn Mitchell
  - Paula Sowers
- Board Meeting called to order by Vierck @ 1900
- Review of old minutes
  - Amendments: Change Called to order to Vierck from Sittler
  - Old minutes approved as amended
    - Motion: Van Horn
    - Second: Sittler

- **Treasurer's Report**

- Chapter's net worth = \$82,329.59
- Corrections: None
- Endowment and CD distributions will be made to bring the checking account from the current balance to \$5000, \$2950 to endowment and the balance to the CD.
- Van Horn proposed renewing TU accident insurance, \$150
  - Motion to approve: Lanning
  - Second: Sowers
- Treasurer's Report Approval
  - Motion to approve: Mitchell
  - Second: Lanning
  - The motion carried unanimously

- **Old Business**

- Action Items
  - Vierck will contact Van Horn to ask him if the funds from the SCCTU Tony Gerace memorial account were transferred to Clearwater.
    - We did not, Jen had funds left over for dedication,
    - Per Vierck dedication well attended by SCCTU
  - Brumbaugh will take the paper copy of the previous form, update the form to electronic format, and distribute to the board for approval.
    - Complete, form passed out and approved
  - Vierck will contact the Ramada to select a date for the 2015 fund-raising banquet.
    - Banquet is March 14, 2015 at Ramada
- SCCTU Endorsed Business
  - Discussed options besides plaque for Comfort Inn recognition. Pencak/Mitchell will

- look into window sticker endorsement.
  - Columbia Shirts
    - Dudukovich/Sittler announced at Sept general meeting. Will again at Oct meeting
    - Cost will be \$10 to put on their shirt, drop off points and details to be determined
- **New Business**
  - Vierck announced awards from PATU Fall Meeting
    - Judi Sittler awarded the “*Doc Fritchey Award for Outstanding Coldwater Conservationist, TU Member*”
    - Chapter awarded “*Edward Urbas Award for Best PA Chapter*”
  - Bill Voight will be retiring from the BOD in Jan 2015.
  - George Harvey Award will be given to Jim McClure at the 9/17/14 SCW Commission meeting
  - TU 2015 National meeting will be in Scranton, Sept 16-20, 2015. Vierck suggested it would be good for us to have a presence. More discussion to be held closer to that time. Our chapter should provide a good prize for the raffle.
  - Sittler received notice from AmazonSmile that we can register and get donations from Amazon if people pick us when they make a purchase.
  - 2014-2015 Budget
    - Van Horn developed preliminary budget for review
    - Discussed now in brief since it’s due 10/1 with the understanding that it may be amended.
    - Sittler reminded group that \$2400 Women Who Care donation must go to TIC and requested way to track in the budget spreadsheet.
    - Van Horn proposed renewing TU accident insurance, \$150
      - Motion to approve: Lanning
      - Second: Sowers
    - Veterans Service Program: Lanning requested \$100/month, Sowers suggested \$150 because of the cost of the fishing licenses.
    - Newsletter/Membership: Sowers requested addition funds for mailings to members. Vierck suggested adding \$400 for 2 postcard mailings with more discussion to follow during strategic planning due to differing opinions and concerns.
    - Dudukovich asked if we get money back from TU National for membership. Per Van Horn we get money back. Dudukovich will research how the total is calculated.
    - Budget approval
      - Motion: Lanning
      - Second: Mitchell
      - The motion carried unanimously
  - Sittler suggested meeting with Centre Foundation concerning endowment reporting, notices, etc. Vierck/Sittler will set up meeting.
  - Planning a Strategic Plan
    - Vierck would like to spend 1 hr at future board meetings (number to be determined) discussing strategic plan. Time will be split into topics. Vierck will send board topics to be discussed beforehand.
  - Nominating committee
    - Vierck suggested we form a nominating committee for board member and officer recruitment. Per bylaws committee should be 1 board member (not up for re-election) and 2 non-board members. Other members to be determined once chairman

- selected.
  - Vierck suggest Brumbaugh for Chairman, he will ask him if he will take the position.
- Veterans Service Program
  - Sheetz will be donating food for the program
  - Dejon Hamann, founder of TroutLegend.com contacted Lanning about donating \$300, 1/2 cash and 1/2 in products from their store.
  - See attached update for more details of program.
  - Vierck suggested that Lanning develop some type of fundraiser for the program
- Annual Dinner and Fundraiser Committee- Dudukovich and Mitchell agreed to be co-chairs of the committee.
- Membership / PR Committee
  - Sowers/Sittler asked that board members greet and speak to people new people at general meetings.
  - Name tags, sign in sheets and introducing board members before meeting options mentioned.
  - Sowers asked for input for newsletter. Articles and volunteer of month. Suggested that VOM list be generated. Sowers to get input from members on list.
  - Newsletter name change proposed. Due to question of complaints about history of name the name will be removed. If there are substantiate complaints the idea will be discussed again.
- Conservation
  - McCoy and Milesburg were weed whacked and will have herbicides sprayed
  - Fishemans Paradise deflectors and parking lots completed.
  - Rock Rd parking lot to start 9/16.
  - Oak Hall - We have the permit, but WHM resigned from project due to budget reasons. USFW is interested in doing project with us and think it can be done for the proposed budget. Project may be completed in Jan so we can access frozen wetlands legally. May require a permit change. Vierck will file for grant extension.
  - Bellefonte flood wall - permit delayed but we have been told the fish habitat is included.
  - Hanson Quarry possible permit request. Need to follow up 11/4
- Youth and Education
  - New TIC equipment for Bellefonte school purchased
  - Sittler is hoping to save some of the Women who Care donation for a class field trip, possibly to egg or food packing.
- Financial Development: Bellefonte Cruise to present check for \$500 at October general meeting.
- **Closing Information**
  - Adjourned at 21:13
  - Motion: Van Horn
  - Second: Lanning
- **Action Item Summary:**
  - Dudukovich/Sittler to work out details of shirt embroidery drop off.
  - Sowers will work on email communication about shirt embroidery, details to be added once available.
  - Dudukovich will research how the total money we received from TU National is calculated.
  - Vierck / Sittler will set up meeting with Centre Foundation concerning endowment.

- Vierck to send topics for Strategic Planning sessions.
- Vierck to ask Brumbaugh to be chairman of new nominating committee.
- Sowers to get input for list of Volunteer of the Month/Volunteer Spotlight
- Vierck to file NFWF grant extension

## Veterans Service Program Update

On May 31, 2014, at the Mid Atlantic Regional Meeting held in State College, PA; Alan Folger, the TU National Director of the Veterans Service Project asked Bob Vierck, President of the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, to participate in the VSP program with 95 other TU Chapters throughout the National. Bob Vierck asked me to establish the program.

We began the bi-weekly SCCTU program on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Twenty four veterans from all branches of service (still missing a Coastie) have participated to date. We have a return rate of approximately 80%. By actual count on the sign in sheets, we have 63 vet visits during the five programs to date. To date, 17 members of SCCTU, provide fly fishing, conservation, stream mentoring, or program support to the vets. Our Spring Creek watershed wide program includes business and industry support from Flyfishers, Steve Sywensky (fly fishing consumables and flies), Dave Holmes (flies), Dave Swan (certified guide); Otto's Pub, Roger Garthwaite, (Partner & Life Member of SCCTU) (food), equipment and funding from SCCTU and members of SCCTU.

The program will continue throughout the year and includes fly tying and spin fishing along Spring Creek. Our program, held the second and fourth Thursdays of the month includes currently serving active duty vet's, past combat vet's, Cold War vets, National Guard, Vietnam vet's and wounded and injured combat vet's warriors up to 100% disabled.

The majority are young men and women attending PSU in a variety of environmental or conservation majors. Think starving students who served and want to fish and work on conservation projects with us. They have varying levels of knowledge, all want to learn to fish, many take advantage of the other "hook-ups". They are a true joy to be around.

The six vet's on our VSP Team get as much out of this as the vet's who come to fish and work on the projects. Our chapter gets motivated young people since they are given a year's membership to TU as part of this program. Since our program also includes the families of the vet's, we get some of the wives, husbands and children who want to learn to fish. A couple are outshining their spouse and both the kids have caught fish.

The vet's have made good use of our teams VA, business and industry, PSU and other contacts as are VSP team members are always willing to share their knowledge and contacts to assist the vet's and the professionals from the environmental and conservation community are more than willing to come and talk to the vet's to explain how to access their systems and assist. You know from the flyer and last status report what all the "hook ups" are including licenses.

The word of our program is spreading among the almost 10,000 vets in Centre County (source – last US Census per Brian Querry, Director, Centre County Veterans Affairs). Querry supports our program and refers vet's to us as does the Vet Center and Flyfishers. Our goal is to provide, in a timely and efficient way, any support requested by our vet's as they make their way.

Our program is a little different in that we are bi-weekly and very inclusive (active duty and vet's of all era's and family members) and because of the skills of our VSP team, we can offer fly and spin fishing as well as the "hook ups" (You saw that last night when the two PSP showed up to counsel the Army and Marine vet prior to their PSP interview next week). At our request, a PSP Sergeant had the Troopers roll by while in their beat and provide the vet requested information. The PSP Sergeant was prior 82<sup>nd</sup> Army Airborne. The vet's were happy as it further prepared them for their interview.