

# Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: September 14, 2015

Reported by: Paula Sowers

- Meeting called to order by Bob Vierck at 1900.
- Attendance:
  - Bob Vierck
  - Jim George
  - Lynn Mitchell
  - Rick Van Horn
  - Jim Lanning
  - Paula Sowers
  - Judi Sittler
- Review of Secretary's Minutes
  - Amendments: None
  - Motion to Approve: Jim George
  - Second: Rick Van Horn
- Review of Treasurer's Report
  - Rick Van Horn retiring from position. We need to find a replacement. He will stay while we look. There have been suggestions but nothing panning out so far.
  - Amendments: NONE
  - Motion to Approve: Lynn Mitchell
  - Second: Jim Lanning
- Old Business
  - Action Item Review:
    - Lanning researched the new background check laws
      - Handout on new rules distributed.
      - People with "regular and ongoing" contact with children need to get clearances.
      - YMCA requires volunteers to get clearances. Jamie SanFilipo volunteered to do the educational class that is required.
      - Jim will ask if guest speakers at Y require clearance.
      - Judi, Jim L, Dan Kerstetter and a couple other VSP members have clearance.
- New Business
  - 2015-2016 Budget
    - VSP – Lanning
      - Have 5 yrs of funds available with Bid for Cause and other sources
      - Received \$250 from Walmart grant
      - Fundraising - Would like to auction off rods donated to VSP at banquet.
      - OK with budget as suggested

- Storage unit
      - Need based on amount of equipment and paperwork spread out over multiple people and ClearWater would like our equipment and supplies moved from their space.
      - Mike Storage in Bellefonte suggested based on location closer to riparian sites.
      - \$1800 budget would cover rent and shelving
      - Sittler suggests going through old paperwork before moving it
    - Stewardship Program
      - Breakdown approx:
        - \$1000 for plants
        - \$1000 for herbicide – have McCoy paid for already, this money will cover other areas.
        - \$1000 for equipment rental, repairs, gas, etc.
    - Budget balances as submitted
    - Deficit budget
      - We have approx. \$50,000 in bank designated to help stream.
      - If we can't get match we can approve funds for projects the board deems worthwhile.
      - Vierck -Need to balance budget over multi-year period. Does not have to balance each year.
    - Excess at the end of current year (approx. \$5000 ) will be split between Endowment and CD.
    - Motion to accept budget: Paula Sowers
    - Second: Lynn Mitchell
    - Approval: All are in favor
  - Strategic Plan
    - Sittler suggests looking at Strategic Plan guidelines and example on TU.org in toolbox.
    - Began discussion on:
      - Do we want to expand membership
      - Do we want to expand work area beyond Spring Creek. Lanning distributed chapter zip code map.
    - Vierck asked all to review strategic plan handout.
  - Membership and Public Relations
    - Membership numbers steady
    - PR – will be starting work on chapter trifold brochure
  - Social Committee
    - Oct - Andrew Gutberlet, PSU Water
    - Nov - Brown Trout Telemetry Study, Dr. Dennis Johnson or Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan

- Dec – TBD, maybe Art/Dave on fishing in Alaska
  - Jan – State of the Chapter, Bob V
  - Feb – Penn State Fly Fishing Club
  - Greg Hoover possible for bug presentation in Spring
- Conservation
  - Vierck working on final report for the NFWF grant.
    - Did considerably more with grant than expected, primarily due to unexpected matching from many partners.
    - \$47,800 expected, grant match actually \$162,000
    - Projected to do \$120,000, actually did \$231,000 with match.
  - Redd count planned
  - Stewardship program
    - Lanning negotiated a five year agreement with Nittany and COG Railroad for access along tracks to McCoy. A new entry are is being negotiated.
    - Lanning - Scissor cutters we got from Sam Gray are working well
    - Lanning - site stewards should access VSP group for veteran volunteers for conservation projects
- Legislation
  - Vierck met with Hawbaker at Bellefonte flood wall construction site. Reports that designers had 150' long wall underwater overhang in one long stretch without thought to stream elevation. Hawbaker corrected so all under water. PAFB (Tyler) will place in stream boulders in the spring.
- Youth / Education
  - Brookies Leadership Camp sent thank you note for SCCTU help. Sittler gave out fly boxes and free memberships (cards from TCO) and talked about TU.
  - Sittler would like to expand youth involvement. Guest speaker or casting with Philipsburg Fly Tying Club and Ron Shealer's fly tying club at Mt. Nittany Middle School suggested.
  - Y-Trout tank empty, eggs coming at the end of Oct.
- Outreach
  - Duck Pond Plaque – dedicated to SCCTU, Joe Humphreys and others who worked on project. Sittler worked with PSU to locate at site, stone mason to find boulder, would like dedication.
  - Vierck – need to plan dedication of Paradise kiosk
  - Vierck/Sittler working with Spring Creek Watershed Commission and Association on digital/multimedia atlas of watershed.
  - Vierck – opportunity for doing a Spring Creek map showing our project areas.
- Veteran's Service Program
  - Showed new VSP trifold brochure.
  - 166 people on VSP email list.

- Would like chapter information sheet updated. They are handing out this and trifold at multiple events and venues.
- Financial Development
- Meeting adjournment:
  - Adjourned by Vierck @ 2100
  - Motion: Rick Van Horn
  - Second: Jim George.
- Action Items:
  - Lanning will ask if guest speakers at Y require clearance.
  - Rick Van Horn needs man hours for annual reports.