

## Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited Board Meeting

April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

6- 8pm via Zoom

**Present:** Jamie SanFilippo, Tim Bruggeman, Chris Lipfert, Mario Carrello, Michael March , Sima Bruggeman, Betty Bloom, Ray Faczan, Sam Hume, Mark Pencak, Heather Sees, Ford Stryker, Bob Vierck

**Absent:** Richard Novak

The meeting was called to order by Jamie SanFilippo at 6:02 pm.

### Meeting Minutes: March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

- Sima Bruggeman had distributed a copy of the corrected meeting minutes from the March meeting for review prior to today's meeting.
- A motion was made to approve the minutes as written by Ray Faczan, seconded by Tim Bruggeman.
- Motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report

- Mario Carrello reviewed the months' finances. The current balance in the checking account is \$17,901 with another \$13,991.19 available from the CD in June. It was decided to keep the \$17,900 in the checking account instead of moving it to a CD because the Oak Hall Restoration Grant will require \$53,000. The project will largely be funded by the Hammer Foundation and the County but, depending on when we receive the funds, we may need money available in the bank to cover the costs.
- As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the endowment funds were all up by 1%. The Rick Van Horn Fund can be used on any restoration fund and is a set up as an automatic deposit.
- Moving forward, to reduce the number of repeat entries for the incoming treasurer, Mario Carrello proposed removing the Women Anglers Account Ledger excel tab and keeping it as the Women Anglers Chapter Expenses line which is not tracked separately. This proposed change has not been finalized with the WA steering committee yet. The endowment ledger for Women Anglers will remain unchanged.
- A motion was made to approve The Treasurer's Report by Ford Stryker, seconded by Tim Bruggeman.
- Motion carried.
  
- In addition to the Annual Financial Report to TU, a Volunteer Activity report also needs to be filed. Mario Carrello reviewed how to fill out the excel report with the board members. He has provided some guidance in an email as well.

## Action Items

### **Women's Leadership Retreat**

- In addition to the SCCTU WA donation of \$500 for the Women's Leadership Retreat, Amidea Daniel has requested a \$500 donation from the chapter for the event.
- The board agreed to donate this year but will plan to cap the donation for the event to \$500 next year. A board member suggested Amidea could present about the event to the board if more money was requested for next year.
- A motion to approve the donation of \$500 for 2023 was made by Bob Vierck, seconded by Mike March.
- Motion carries.
- Mario Carrello will send the check to Amidea Daniel.

### **Bald Eagle Trout Tournament Sponsorship Request**

- The Bald Eagle Sportsman Club requested a donation for a Trout Tournament on Bald Eagle Creek. The non-profit club is responsible for stocking most, or at least the upper part, of Bald Eagle Creek. The Club also provided fingerlings to the YMCA Trout in the Classroom.
- This is a new request for a donation. A \$100 donation was recommended by a board member.
- A motion was made to approve \$100 donation by Ford Stryker, seconded by Betty Bloom.
- Motion carries.
- Mario Carrello will mail a check to the Bald Eagle Sportsman Club.

### **Budget 2023-2024**

- Mike March reviewed the proposed budget for 2023-2024 with expenses totaling \$91,548.
- The budget line for Form 990 preparation has been increased to \$1,000 (versus \$500 for this past fiscal year) as the board will need to hire someone to help prepare taxes.
- Insurance for the chapter is budgeted at \$150. There are several levels of coverage available from TU, but in the past the chapter has usually gotten additional medical insurance. This covers all our events. Mike March purchase the policy this month for the upcoming fiscal year. Landowners may sometimes be added as an "additional insured" which doesn't come at an additional cost and can be acquired from TU upon request.
- Some line items in the budget have been reduced compared to the previous year or removed. For example, historically there was a cost associated with running a credit card machine at the banquet, but since we are using the Square Card Reader or Eventgroove for transactions, it is no longer necessary.
- The cost of running the website is approximately \$47/month from three Dream Weaver licenses from GoDaddy. We may not need three licenses in the future. Sam Hume will follow up with a modified number and seek a refund.
- For income, it was noted that TU National Rebates for new members were low for this past year at \$15 dollars vs. the projected \$300. Mario Carrello contacted TU regarding this and found out that new members must register via a specific link.
- A motion was made to approve the 2023-2024 Budget by Bob Vierck, seconded by Heather Sees.

- Motion carries.

### **New Business**

#### **Banquet, Sweepstakes, & Trip Swap**

- Ford Stryker led the discussion on the success of the event and requested feedback from the board members. In general, the feedback was positive.
- The board agreed to continue to work with Tammi Miller as the MC.
- The food menu was changed for this year's event and there were some complaints about the food (cold, dry, limited vegetarian options). The event staff did a good job, but the cost was high. A change of venue to minimize cost for next year was discussed.
- In general, the silent auction being online was well received and allowed for easier check out at the end of the night. The bucket raffle went well. A board member suggested using tickets for the sweepstakes rather than having it online.
- There was some confusion about table numbers and bidder numbers on name tags.
- The board discussed starting the event an hour earlier as some attendees left early.
- A board member recommended that the chapter compile a short presentation to be included during the event on the year's activities.
- Ford Stryker would like someone or a few individuals to volunteer to help organize the event next year with the hope that one of them would be able to take over in 2025.
- Ford Stryker proposed a new date, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, for the 2024 Banquet due to scheduling conflicts. A motion was made to approve the new date by Bob Vierck, seconded by Mario Carrello.
- Motion carries.

#### **F3T- Wed, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm, State Theatre**

- The 2023 Fly Fishing Film Tour will be held at the State Theater on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm with 10 dollars from every ticket sold going to the chapter. At least 100 are expected to attend so we can expect ~\$1,000.

#### **Family Fishing Day- June 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Family Fishing Day event is held at Tussey Mountain. Board members will be needed in the morning to set up. In the afternoon, fishing mentors will be needed to help families with fishing (spin rod, not fly-fishing). The event usually finishes around 5pm.
- Mario Carrello received a donation from Harris Township for the event.
- It was mentioned that Clearwater Conservancy usually supports this event too. Ford Stryker will contact Clearwater Conservancy to solicit donation.

#### **Stream Cleanup- April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Clearwater Conservancy's Watershed Cleanup Day will be held from 8am-12pm on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. There are 10 individuals signed up so far, but ideally would like to have 24-30 people. Volunteers will be split over two sites.

- Tim Bruggeman asked the board members to volunteer. The event will be advertised again via the Newsletter and social media.

### **May General Meeting**

- Ford Stryker has the Comfort Inn Suites reserved for the general meeting in May, but currently, there is no speaker lined up. Chris Lipfert suggested Tim Cammisa as a speaker.
- The board brainstormed other individuals that could fill the role including those that contribute to the Spring Creek Watershed Atlas. Another board member suggested local nature photographers (Dave Whiteman, Mark N.) as potential speakers.

### **Old Business**

#### **Voodoo Brewery Event**

- Mike March has been in touch with Voodoo Brewery about potential dates for an event in April/May and is waiting to hear back.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Conservation**

- Bob Vierck is working on a proposal for Millbrook Marsh/Slab Cabin Run.

#### **Women Anglers**

- This coming weekend is the Skills Consolidation Retreat at GodSpeed. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, WA will be fishing with Tom Doman. Other guided fishing days are in the calendar for spring and summer.

#### **Communication**

- Tim Bruggeman has been working setting up the Google Non-Profit suite since approval. The plan is to use the space to store chapter documents and potentially utilize other resources like chat, Google Docs, calendar etc.
- Sam Hume has started setting up and moving content to the new Square Space site. The plan is to have the new website in use by the end of the summer.
- Sam Hume and Tim Bruggeman requested high quality photographs that are large in size to use on the website. Tim Bruggeman can set up a folder on Google Non-Profit account to drop photos into.

#### **VSP Update**

- Fly Tying and Fly Fishing 101 classes have been successful. The group is meeting next week with volunteers and coaches for their 1<sup>st</sup> day on the water at Fisherman's Paradise.
- Ray Faczan has signed up for a booth at a local Bellefonte outdoor event in May and is also hoping to promote VSP at an upcoming PA Military Museum event.
- Ray Faczan has been in contact with an individual from New Mexico and another from Carlisle about setting up a veteran service program for their respective chapters.

**Youth Education**

- This is a busy time of year for the Youth Education Committee. Larry Ragan and Richard Novak have been helping the boy scouts.

**General Meetings**

- Chris Lipfert provided an update on the April general meeting. Although the turn out wasn't big, the speaker was engaging, and the attendees enjoyed the presentation.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 Mario Carrello, seconded by Tim Bruggeman.