

OIL CREEK CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
Minutes of the Board of Directors and Membership Meeting
October 18, 2017/ King's Family Restaurant, Franklin, PA

CALL TO ORDER: 6:36 PM Gary Ross, President

ROLL CALL: **Officers:** President Gary Ross, Vice President Don Wilson,
Treasurer Dan Rockwell, Secretary, Vaughn MacGregor.

Directors: Joe Lehosky, Jennifer Lyons, Jason Rockwell, Suzan Senko, Tom Young.

Members/guests: Tim Hummel, Julie Schle, Regis Senko, Elaine Young.

Special Guests: Jim Lanning, Lynn Mitchell

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD and MEMBERSHIP MEETING

* MOTION to approve September meeting minutes: By Jason Rockwell; 2nd Suzan Senko
Vote – Approved.

ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION LIST: Please list any Chapter Activities you have
participated in since the last meeting. Note them on tonight's Attendance Sheet beside
your name.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Report – Gary Ross: 1. For recent projects, we were covered for liability
insurance under the contractor's insurance and Venango Conservation District.
2. We sent in the purchase for supplemental liability insurance to National TU.

Treasurer's Report -- Dan Rockwell:

Beginning balance: \$15,125.64 **Total deposits:** \$0.12 **Total expenses:** \$224.28

Ending Balance: \$14,901.48

Dan noted that the annual financial report will be sent to National TU next week.

*MOTION to approve officers' reports: By Tom Young; 2nd Joe Lehosky.
Vote – Approved.

PROJECT REPORTS

Venango County Conservation District: – Tim Hummel: Previously, Tim had noted that the County District needs an electro-shocker. The Coldwater Heritage Partnership funds could be used for this, with a Coldwater grant of up to \$2500. This would leave \$5500 which VCD would still need.

PA Trout Fall Meeting: -- Vaughn MacGregor:

Here are some highlights of topics covered at the PA Trout Annual Fall Meeting:

1. 12 changes to the state by-laws were voted on and approved. These mainly are to provide more transparency. They can be viewed on the PA Trout website.
2. The Keystone Coldwater Conference will be held in February. More information is available at coldwaterconference.com.
3. There was a very good presentation: Understanding and Communicating the Benefits of Riparian Buffers, presented by Alysha B. Trexler, Watershed Project Manager of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. This consisted of a slide show showing many successful riparian project areas and some problems caused by lack of riparian buffers. She provided some good tips on educating landowners and municipalities regarding riparian areas and stream bank stabilization.
4. A video was shown covering the Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp. A diverse group of students were featured expressing what they gained from attending the camp.
5. A review was given of the 5 Rivers Student Reps. This is a PATU/college outreach program. The purpose is to attract younger TU members on college campuses.
6. There is another program, STREAM Girls, which is a cooperative program between TU and the Girl Scouts.
7. Marsha Benovengo is the coordinator for Casting for Recovery. This is a support group for women who have had breast cancer. Fly fishing is one form of therapy they promote.
8. Dave Kinney, TU Mid-Atlantic Policy Director covered some concerns, including the state legislature's initiatives to reduce the state budget. These include conservation funding, including Growing Greener; the oil and gas severance tax rider; the Clean Water Rule (possible elimination of ephemeral & intermittent streams); and water release concerns to the Delaware River Basin. More information is available on the PA Trout Fall newsletter, available on the PATU website.
9. Trout In The Classroom sweepstakes is underway. Information available also on the PATU website.

OLD BUSINESS – As noted above.

NEW BUSINESS – 1. Vaughn MacGregor – Officers' terms are up for election at November's meeting. Three board of director's terms are also expiring: Suzan Senko, Joseph Lehosky, and Linda Wilson. The remainder of Linda Wilson's term is being served by Tom Young.

2. Tom Young and Joe Lehosky raised a discussion concerning use of donations to purchase fly rod outfits to be donated for youth activities. This would promote youth education and interest in TU activities.

*MOTION- We will establish fly rod outfits to be given away at youth activities from any level donations and from donations to the Linda Wilson memorial fund:
By Joe Lehosky; 2nd Tom Young. Vote – Approved.

3. It was suggested we change the venue of the annual Christmas Dinner this year to Dawndi's Restaurant. This was agreed after discussion.

*MOTION- OCTU's annual Christmas dinner will be held at Dawndi's Restaurant on December 20 at the usual time: By Joe Lehosky; 2nd Tom Young.
Vote – Approved.

The date and time for the Christmas dinner will be the same: December 20, with the social hour starting at 5:00 PM. Location of Dawndi's is Route 417 North out of Franklin. At the top of hill are signs on left. Turn right, and at the top of hill is the Restaurant

New Business from the Floor: Regis Senko notified us that some retired Conservation Officers got together. They are requesting permission from the PA Game Commission to add historical items to display at the Middle Creek Visitors' Center. There are a lot of items of historical value which can be included.

Tonight's Program: Tonight's program was entitled "Veteran's Service Program". Mr. James Lanning, VP of the Northcentral Region of PATU and Board of Directors member of the Spring Creek TU Chapter, and Lynn Mitchell, Senior Vice President of the Spring Creek Chapter gave a presentation on Spring Creek TU's success with veterans. This program helps veterans with PTSD and disabilities. They have a family fly fishing program for veterans and provide a one-year membership free for veterans' families and other volunteers. They also showed a video of Joe Humphreys teaching a fly casting demonstration. Joe Humphreys is a member of the chapter. It is supported by Penn State and other organizations.

OCTU would like to become involved in similar activities with veterans.

"Thanks for Being Present, You Win" Drawing (\$25 gift card):
Name drawn: Don Wilson

Motion to adjourn: by Tom Young; 2nd Dan Rockwell. Vote – Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.