

Trout Unlimited - Green Bay Chapter - Board Meeting 9/17

The meeting was called to order. In attendance were Adrian Meseberg (President), Dave Ostanek, Mike Renish (Education), Pat Hill, Jeff House (Treasurer), Bruce Deuchert (Banquet Chair), Dennis Gusick, Doug Siedl (Fundraising), Lee Meyers, Matt Norem (Membership Chair), Paul Kruse, Dani Long (Secretary).

The minutes from the previous board meeting were presented and accepted.

Budget: There is a \$1,000 check outstanding since May for the DNR. It was being held to send in with a check from another TU chapter but will be sent this week in order to get it off the books.

There is a balance of about \$6,000 for between now and February.

Committee Reports:

Work Projects - We completed 5 work projects this past summer, **the most ever**. Much of the work involved brushing and brush bundles trout habitat improvement on the South Br. Oconto, North Br. Oconto and Ninemile Creek (trib of Wolf River). An extra work day was added this year (a Friday) in July and we had 6 TU members that worked with four USFS staff. The May work project involved painting the covered bridge at the Trout Education Display across from the NEW Zoo. We still need to paint the sides of the bridge this Fall, if we set a date soon. Paul Mongin (past President) is the “comeback member of the year” by attending 4 of 5 projects. Many of our Board members attending several of the projects. Also DNR Biologist Jonathon Pyatskwit worked on several projects.

We worked with other TU Chapters including members from the Oconto and Wolf River Chapters. And also worked one day with the Nicolet Sportsmen Club at Wabeno. As a result, some of the lunch costs were covered by those Chapters. The remaining balance in the planned Work Project budget is \$139.

The Kids Fishing event was another success, the 25th year with the PALS program. Funding for this was partially covered by a Thrivent grant and as a result there is \$200 remaining in that budget.

Education - ?

Also, a thank-you note was received from one of the campers Green Bay TU sponsored this summer (Hailey).

Technology - The website is rolling along relative smoothly. GoDaddy provided some interesting service for a couple hours here and there by simply going down. This was in July and then again in August. Most probably folks didn't even notice because we get about ~20 visitors a day that last time I checked. On Sunday, August 9th, we received over 109 visits, but I'm not sure why. I'm still trying to figure out if that was linked to some type of email blast or not.

Moving forward, our site is paid through 12/15 of this year on my credit card. We'll need to budget ~\$150 to move this over to the Chapter's credit card and account. I'm not sure if we have a Chapter credit card but we need to get one fast. We could also use Pay Pal.

The number of visitors to our website and Facebook page is at an all time high. I think it has to do with compelling content and issues that grab folks' attention.

There are things I'd like to do with this website, like make it more responsive to mobile and tablet users but that takes time and development which we are short on.

Anyone who would like to submit content to the site, please send it to Adrian Meseberg.
(Format: Title (about 5 words long); Excerpt; Content; at least 1 image)

Events need to show up on the website's calendar and on Facebook.

We should be more consistent in how we "brand" the chapter; GBTU is not our website name, but that's what people look for because that's a nickname we've used.

Legislative - No report. There was discussion of the DNR land sales.

Membership - 2 expired memberships; 267 members as of 8/1/15. Please send email updates to GreenBayTU@gmail.com

We do not have current/active emails for all 267 members. How to get them updated?

Not all people read/act on emails. We could do 2 post card mailings per year. One in the fall with the fall/winter meeting schedule, and one in the spring with the work project schedule.

Project Healing Waters - Initial meeting at the VA clinic went well. Two sessions have been held as of 9/30 at the DAV building on Scheuring Road. Basic flies and casting are being taught. Whip finish tools need to be purchased - 10 @ \$8.00 from Tight Lines.

Fundraising - a gift was made to the chapter of a large number of flies. These were sorted and will be sold to raise money (for PWHFF). \$95 has been collected so far. Midges are \$1.00, others are \$2.00.

There is a conservation grant from the DNR that is worth \$1,000 but must be matched, which we could do. Doug will get more information on this.

Banquet - There will be a meeting on Oct. 1, same day as the general membership meeting. Committee volunteers are needed because of the significant fundraising that is done through the banquet. "Many hands make light work."

There were issues with seating last year. We should make sure to have a good count on tickets ahead of time to avoid that this year.

Miscellaneous: New Logo designed by Randy Lake and a new poster for the banquet. This logo will be used on the website and in other media to be more consistent.

Also, there's a draft of the first postcard available (Matt Norm). Doug S. motioned and Lee M. seconded to send the post cards.

Action Items:

1. DNR is selling 10K acres.
 - a. The list of potential parcels are significant (springs, spring creeks, sites where TU has done habitat improvement, lands that were donated for conservation, lands that were originally purchased through stamp funds and/or private groups like TU, etc.)
 - b. Some of the parcels are marked for county purchase but local governments do not have funds to maintain these lands. What happens to these parcels if counties can't/don't want to buy them?
 - c. Money from the land sales will go to the general operating fund.
 - d. There is a mapping tool on the DNR site that shows the parcels
 - e. 9/26 - Plover - There will be a WI conservation Congress Land Mgmt Committee meeting
 - f. Green Bay TU membership needs to be aware of this and to write/email/call their representatives to voice their disapproval of these potential sales.
2. UWGB will host the first annual 5K Spawning Run. 10/17, 8am packet pickup, 10am race start.
3. Besadny Open House: 10/3, 9am - 3pm - need 3 - 4 fly tiers for the open house at the spawning facility

Budget Discussion: Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) will get a \$1,000 grant from the national organization, so it will not be an ongoing expense for the club. It will likely fall under 'Operating Expenses' in the Green Bay TU chapter's budget.

8pm -Motion to adjourn by Doug, Jeff seconded.