

**ECTU Board Meeting
March 15 2016; 6:30 pm
Board Room, Hotel La Fonda de Taos**

In Attendance: Bill Adkison, Paul White, Nick Streit, Chrissy Streit, Bill Owen, Marc Harrell, Ben Herman, and Marilyn Farrow

Treasurer Paul reported our books are balanced with \$32,319.61 on hand. Of that, \$20,000 is reserved for the Hondo tributaries improvements; the Western States grant funds have gone elsewhere due to a missed deadline. There are other anticipated expenditures of approximately \$900. Jim Morgan will receive about \$90 for rods and reels provided to youth at the Fish Fiesta.

There were no Membership or Casting for Recovery reports as chair Doug Palmer was unable to attend.

Tom Cole, president of the Truchas Chapter of TU, called in to solicit support for an educational initiative his chapter is beginning. The goal is to teach young people the importance of healthy watersheds, lean water, proper vegetation, temperatures, turbidity, and PH levels in the Santa Barbara watershed. The year-long program will include classroom studies during the fall and winter, and four trips to collect data in the Rio Santa Barbara and riparian area. The students will then present to the Peñasco community on its importance. Truchas will provide volunteers and financial support; they would like Enchanted Circle to contribute volunteer as well as some financial assistance. The project will cost \$10,000 (including in-kind Game & Fish equipment valued at \$3,000); Truchas will supply \$5,000; State TU Council will provide \$1,000; an additional \$3,000 request has been made to Game & Fish. With these donations, the project is still \$1,000 short (which they would like ECTU to provide). Should fundraising efforts come in above budget, Truchas will reduce their \$5,000 pledge.

Off-line it was suggested that the \$1,000 requested from ECTU would be provided IF Truchas provides a team from Santa Fe for the ECTU tournament. The decision of the Board was to award the \$1,000, and to simply encourage participation in the tournament and to spread the word about the tournament.

Taos Land and River Cleanup report was not available as Eric Patterson was unable to attend the meeting.

Marc reported the July 9th clean-up of Red River was attended by only about a dozen people, but the crew was sufficient to clean the small amount of debris found along the river in the vicinity of the Hatchery.

Bill Owen reported on the recently submitted ECTU proposal for use of National Resource Damages funds. In May there was a hearing by the trustee; our proposal was submitted to meet the August 1 deadline. There is \$4 million available, \$2.5 mil

committed to the Village of Questa for remediation of sewage treatment (which will be used to put in pipes to residences), and \$1.5 million is available for aquatic resource remediation.

Toner Mitchell worked with Craig Spanholtz to draft the proposal. The project covers 1,000 feet above the ranger district offices, and is 500 feet in length. Sediment has built up; when the 10 or 20 year flood happens the sediment would wash these sediments into the portion of the river that was recently renovated. The land in question is owned by the government. The total cost is estimated at \$86,000 to put in J-Hooks and boulder placement. The budget for final design and permitting is estimated at \$6,200. Amigos Bravo has applied for funds for work on the Bitter Creek area; the Village of Questa is looking at \$1.5 for Red River improvements downstream below Highway 522 along private parcels and creating a fish passage around Molina.

The review agencies for the proposals will be Fish and Game, Carson National Forrest, BLM and the Office of Natural Resources trustee. If full \$86,000 comes to ECTU it would kick us into another tax category when coupled with all our other income (banquet, tournament, etc.). Toner is consulting with Beverly Smith at TU National for advice.

During the 2016-17 school year, ECTU will supply Trout in the Classroom equipment to four schools: Red River Valley Charter School, led by Davia Garrett and assisted by her husband, Randy (who will work directly with Game and Fish; Cimmaron High School led by a new science teacher per Ben Herman, and a new installation at Taos High School led by David Gilroy (who will integrate with other classroom studies). Last year equipment was also at Anansi School, but they will not continue this year. Submitted at the meeting was a proposal from Chrissy Streit to have a TIC set up in her 5th grade classroom at the Taos Charter School. She will integrate the program into science and social studies, including education of the human impact on the environment. She identified how these activities will fit with the State standards. She will include 1 to 2 field trips to study habitat and life cycles. \$1,200 is the estimated cost of a new set up. It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to supply Chrissy with the set-up. Bill A. Will provide Chrissy with the dimensions of the tank and equipment, and advise her on when and how to get the eggs, taking into consideration the project takes about 12 weeks, eggs to release. The setting up of the equipment and balancing of the water is an additional learning opportunity.

Nick reported it is time to make some changes in order to grow the annual Fishing Tournament. In the past, the tournament has been a Taos Fly Shop event – Nick has paid his employees to cook burgers, etc. Nick is happy to continue to run the event, but to grow, we must diversify and expand responsibilities. The primary need is for TU members to get teams together. Ten teams participating would be a great success. Last year, working through his guides and clients, Nick fielded all the teams.

ECTU members need to engage the Truhas, Bosque, and San Luis chapters of Trout Unlimited, encouraging them to bring one team each.

The ECTU tournament emphasizes conservation, beginners welcome; a friendly tournament with guides actively involved. Other regional tournaments are structured differently. In Vail, CO, America Cup teams are comprised of 6 people who fish 7 venues; the cost is \$200 per person. In Durango they have a similar format but include pledges developed by each team (e.g. \$ per fish, amount set by donor) which greatly increases their proceeds.

The specific beneficiary of the event will be our home waters, the Red River; specifically, to use with the requested NRD grant funds.

Proceeds from the fall ECTU-sponsored tournament are expected to be \$3,000-5,000 depending on the number of teams participating. We will limit participation to 10 teams. The cost will be \$350 per person – a bargain for two days guided fishing. The costs of staging the tournament are directly related to the number of teams participating. Expenses include shirts, gift bags, and beer and burgers. The 2016 tournament will be held October 8 & 9.

The ECTU Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on September 17 in the Orilla Verde area near Pilar. Paul will reserve a pavilion through the BLM. President Bill will give an overview of the past year; elections for president, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary will be held. Bill will confirm with Tom that he wishes to serve as president. Board members Marc, Ben Herman and Bart have served 2 years and are eligible to serve additional terms.

Additional candidate for leadership are needed. Possible candidates are to be sought by current board members. For suggested candidates, consult any current officer.

Closing discussion centered on the need to keep our eyes on the big picture projects. As a chapter we ought not to get bogged down in minutiae, but focus on lasting projects on which we can provide substantive influence.