

**ECTU Board Meeting
June 14 2016; 6:30 pm
Board Room, Hotel La Fonda de Taos**

In Attendance: Bill Adkison, Doug Palmer, Eric Patterson, Jim Morgan, Marc Harrell, Bart Hazelton, Marilyn Farrow

The Annual Banquet & Auction was a great success on May 20. The event netted more than \$9,400. There were 78 items in the Silent Auction, of which 15 received no bids (primarily salt-water fishing equipment). The top Silent Auction items were the guide trip from Ron Sedall (14 bids), the 150 flies in Wheatley Box (12 bids), the 46 Bean Head Flies (11 bids), and the Ellen Harper Painting (6 bids). One shortcoming was the presence of an inadequate number of volunteers. It was suggested we need to capture more contact information from the bidders to assure they are invited to subsequent events. In the future, the Banquet can also be an opportunity to allow attendees to sign up to help with those activities in which they would like to volunteer. A written report of the Banquet Committee's debriefing meeting was distributed to the board members who were not on the Banquet Committee. All present were appreciative of Paul's excellent chairmanship of the event, and also wanted gratitude to be expressed to the Auction team.

Currently our chapter has approximately \$30,000 in the bank of which \$20,000 is committed to the Hondo Tribes project.

Toner Mitchell, who unexpectedly was unable to attend the meeting, called in to discuss the Natural Resource Damage Settlement grant application for work on the Red River for restoration of Questa Mine damage. There is an area where the gradient is low enough to grab debris, which is building up. Bart will meet with Gregg Spoonholz to discuss how to add subtle in-stream structures that would comply with function, resiliency and eco-structure considerations. Toner's TU budget will pay for the design work; he will go to the stream tomorrow to assess opportunities. Enchanted Circle TU's involvement could include some volunteer work with hand tools and may act as the fiscal agent. It was stated that the Village of Questa would benefit from defining what geographic area will benefit their economic development initiatives. The Grant deadline is July 31, and Toner could use some help. He will write the narrative; Gregg Spoonholz is working on the concept and a price quote. He will complete this work in July. Bill Adkison has a copy of the proposal which he will circulate by email; Toner will suggest specifics of where we can help; Peter Vigil of Soil & Water can also help us. Toner will check on any requirement that TU National be involved if project exceeds \$200,000.

Bill reported the Kids Fishing Fiesta June 4 at Eagle Rock Lake was a huge success. There was good support from the Questa Forest Service personnel; David Gilroy was excellent discussing bugs, Bill Adkison tied flies, and Paul worked with the young people on casting. One kid from San Luis received help assembling and using his new kit from Cabellas. A photographer from the Taos News and the sports editor

(who plans to interview Bill A) were there. Marc will contact the photographer for photos to put on our website.

Some of our Trout in the Classroom resources may need to be reassigned. Although, with the help of Oban Lambi, the program at Anansi School was accomplished this past year, at this time we do not have a teacher in that school enthusiastic about the program. David Gilroy has expressed interest in getting TIC into Taos High School, and the Anansi tank may be relocated there. The Red River TIC was successful. The cost per set-up is approximately \$2,000 in materials; ALL attempts at implementing the TIC program are viewed as worthwhile.

David Gilroy has suggested we take kids fishing. If we are to pursue, we must set parameters, such as always have 2 adults present both of whom have taken training (e.g. on-line courses available through Boy Scouts, or Episcopal Church "Safeguarding our Children"), and after checking state laws for further requirements. We could work through other existing organizations such as schools, churches, Scouts. A one-day fishing camp would be an easy initiative, and with our existing relationship, could be started with the Taos High Salamanders. Marc will seek other chapters' experience through the TU Forum.

Jim Morgan reported on all the activities of the Eastside ECTU.

The Cimarron High School activity conducted on 3 May at Gravel Pit Lakes, Cimarron Canyon State Park, involved: trout fishing, water quality testing and stream flow beaver habitat study, and map exercises. There was no Trout in the Classroom activity last year at CHS, but there will be one again this coming school year. Personnel from NMDGF and NM State Parks provided most of the instruction and equipment for the activities. ECTU members assisted as needed; Jim M, Bart and Doug participated.

Kids Fishing Derby at Lake Maloya, Sugarite Canyon State Park, went well. Jim attended and provided: 1 year TU Youth Memberships (3 Stream Explorer and 5 Teen), and 6 rod/reel combos, on behalf of TU; he will submit an invoice to the chapter for the rods and reels. Eric sent along some items on behalf of the Sierra Club. Next year ECTU may want to provide a booth with information on "Why Fly Fish."

Jim continues his work as Environmental Issues representative on the Regional Water Planning Steering Committee for Colfax County. New Mexico Water Board and Interstate Stream Commission. A two year review and update of water issues has been completed; copies of the lengthy document are available from Jim on request. Consideration of: Supply/Demand, Conservation, etc., and Proposed Projects for Funding, was presented. Jim is on the Environment Issues Committee. There was a successful inclusion of in-stream flow as an important factor for consideration.

There is a Wetlands Action Proposal for Moreno Valley. Cimarron Watershed Alliance was able to secure funding to have a review made by a professional hydrologist of possible wetlands designation for parts of the Moreno Valley. Meetings were held where interested parties provided input. Additionally, a fish habitat improvement project

is being prepared for development by CWA for the Cimarron River. It has the support of Eric Frey, NMDGF. Funding would come from the NM River Stewardship Program.

The water release from Eagle Nest Dam is only done at the request of those who have established water rights for use. NMDGF did not request any water rights when they purchased the Lake from CS Ranch. Those who have the water rights are primarily agricultural interests and municipalities. Water is not normally requested to be released from the dam during the winter month. Any water in the river below the dam during the winter months comes from whatever flow is present from the tributaries of the Cimarron below the dam. That amount may not be adequate to protect the fishery in dry years.

Fishing is an important industry for Colfax County, but recreation has no water rights and is not a part of planning; the river has to be managed for biological, chemical, and physical characteristics. ECTU could lobby the primary users of the Cimarron's water (City of Raton, CS Ranch, Philmont, and Vermejo Park) for their help in setting appropriate flow levels. ECTU can work on education and building a consortium to address the flow in the Cimarron. Bill A will ask Toner about reports previously published in Trout Magazine. A program on Colorado water laws could be presented with the public invited; Tom to explore.

The Board is extremely grateful for Jim's active involvement in all things relevant to water and fish habitat on the East side of our chapter's geographic area.

Marc reported on the Red River cleanup set for July 9. There is now a custom page on our website. The river cleaning will be from 10-12 with lunch (hamburgers & hot dogs on the grill) served in the Hatchery parking lot at 12:30, and fishing instruction and fishing available after lunch. Under consideration is a kids' derby for about an hour, rules to be developed. Rocky Mountain Youth Corps will be involved a workers; their strong young backs are welcomed! Doug will remind Bruce Mulligan and Leroy Feathers the Scouts are invited. Marc will solicit participation of BLM and Forest Service personnel. Marc will print and circulate posters; Eric has a couple of Zebco rods and reels and Sierra Club backpacks to contribute. Tom Harper will offer casting instruction. Attendance at the event of 35-40 people would be considered a success.

Bart reported Mark Torres is meeting with Game & Fish and the Forest Service about the horse trap and fencing. If approved, ECTU can help with the labor. An open issue is the hardening of the stream crossing to enable vehicular access. Noted was that cattle grazing alternates between two different areas; this year they may be on the Comanche Creek side.

ECTU has pledged \$20,000 (\$10,000 per culvert) to the Hondo tributaries project; our involvement as a chapter is financial only. Work can begin as soon as liners are ordered. The goal is to keep relic populations of Rio Grande Cut Throats isolated. Game and Fish has been interested in the Gavilan (low gradient), and the Manzanita; currently their interest has shifted to the Pecos River. The Costilla reservoir on the Vermejo Ranch has been treated to remove all trout species, and will soon be replanted with Rio Grande

Cutthroat Trout.

The Taos River and Land Cleanup is set for June 25; the teams will meet at St. James church. ECTU will donate \$100 and promote the event on our website.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Farrow, Secretary