

Board Meeting
Trout Unlimited Enchanted Circle Chapter
October 12, 2016
La Fonda Hotel Board Room

In attendance: Tom Harper, Marc Harrell, Doc Thompson, Paul White, Tom Ryan
Doug Palmer, Carole Sue Ross, Ken Harrold, Bill Adkison, and Marilyn Farrow.

President Tom called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Tom announced that Stan Harrell of Black Lake has offered the use of his ponds for use by Project healing Waters. Mr. Harrell had stocked and offered his ponds for the recent Casting for Recovery retreat, during which about a hundred fish were caught!

Ken Harold has been in touch with the Quivira coalition regarding their work on Commanche Creek. Marc pointed out that at the TU national meeting this group was recognized for creating an outstanding partnership by uniting with Coca Cola Company, the cattlemen, The Truchas chapter of TU, and the Forest Service to preserve the native cutthroat by improving their living conditions in Commanche Creek and several of its tributaries. Ken said there will be a workshop at 7:30 am tomorrow, October 13, at the Ranger Station. It was agreed that we would like to have a presence in this project "right in our own backyard." Last year we gave them \$300 to defray the cost of replacing some tools that were lost. Marc moved, Ken seconded, that ECTU should donate \$300 to this year's initiative and request the coalition tell us how the funds will be used so we can tie our donation to a specific purpose. The motion carried unanimously.

There were 6 teams participating in the Tournament held October 8 and 9; winning teams were Chris Cantrell's team, first; Ron Sedall's team, second; Nick Streit's team, third; and the Project Healing Waters team, led by James Garretton/Andrew Black, fourth. Also guiding were Christoph Engle and Chris Vigil. Thanks to the Taos Fly Shop, Taos, and the Reel Life, Santa Fe for sharing their excellent guides. There was an income of \$5,750 for the tournament, expenses as follow: Guides \$1,200; \$675 rods for prizes (Sage rods bought at cost), \$325 to Taos Mesa Brewing, and an as-yet-to-be determined amount for shirts. Proceeds from this year's tournament will again go toward Red River improvements. This year's format (3 best fish per team) worked well. Nick will be asked to form a committee so that ECTU can provide better support for the event; all Board members are asked to suggest volunteers to Nick. Nick sent an email to board members outlining tasks where volunteers are needed; a copy is attached to these minutes. Next year's tournament, and hopefully future tournaments, will be held the weekend after Columbus Day. In 2017 that will be Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15. Save the date postings will begin shortly on the web site.

Tom circulated a committee volunteer list for meeting attendees to indicate their availability. Rather than doing committee work at the board table, committee chairs

will be asked to provide reports of their activities and progress at each board meeting. In most volunteer organizations such as TU, 10-15% of the members do all the work. In our chapter of 124-135, that equates to 10 to 12 people. With that thought in mind, president Tom said his goal is to have a membership of 150 by this time next year, and 175 to 200 the following year. We will continue the pattern of alternating board meetings and events. To attract new members, step one is to get candidates to some event, then not let them leave until they are engaged in some future activity. The Guadalupe chapter of TU holds an all day event, the focus being on fun including breakfast, barbecue, activities – things that makes participants look forward to the next one. They are primarily a fishing club, and secondarily a conservation club. ECTU must do a better job of communicating via print, Facebook, and ads in the Taos news. Tom and Marilyn will collaborate on articles for the News. Tom will identify the sports editor.

To enhance our communications, particularly of special events, we can broaden our exposure through our Facebook account. It is understood that a “broadcast” email can be sent for \$5, or perhaps \$10. The email recipients can be defined by geographic location or other designated demographics. Paul will investigate whether this can be accomplished by Emily using our Pay Pal Account. It was moved (Marc), seconded (Marilyn) that Emily have the latitude to spend up to \$20 per month to promote ECTU events when requested to do so by any member of the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom provided a list of possible activities to help increase event participation. They are: “Hank” Paterson, speaker; Film/Movie afternoon or night (Orvis series); Danish Games and pancake breakfast, 5 wt. Games and Burgers; Casting “Doctor”; Entomology for northern NM; and Basic nymphing rigs and techniques.

First on the list to be discussed was Hank Paterson (real name Travis Schwartz), “your fly-fishing guide”. Doc Thompson suggested hiring comic Paterson as speaker for the annual Banquet or as a stand-alone event at an estimated cost of \$1,200 plus travel expenses (he resides in Idaho). It is not known how much money would be required up front. Paterson has presented very successfully at a number of TU events around the country. There are several 2 to 10 minute videos available on U-tube for preview. With proper advance notice and marketing it is believed he could greatly increase attendance at the Banquet.

The Banquet committee will be convened in the near future by chairman Paul at which time we will set the date, and decide the program, then committee persons will determine the best available venue.

The suggested Danish Games sets up a course of obstacles that simulate various casting/fishing situations. The 5wt event offers people using 5 weight rods to cast for accuracy at different distances and for distance. Both events can offer coaching/instruction. Both events can be run on a competitive basis with prizes of just for fun.

It was agreed there should be a membership sign-up table at all events, and perhaps a “booth” or portable display being created to highlight the opportunity.

Tom will put together a proposed calendar of events for the year. Paul will check with Game & Fish to confirm the Kids Free Fishing Day will again be the first Saturday I June.

Our next event in 2016 is the gear swap and social scheduled for December 6. Doug Palmer will look for information on how other chapters handle gear swaps, as well will consult the TU National Forum for suggestions.

Taos Mesa Brewing enjoyed hosting the tournament dinner and may want to do the December event as well. Marc also suggested Taos Mesa Brewing offer a special brew for a minimum of 1 year, \$.25 of the proceeds from each beer sold would go to ECTU. A “kick-off” event at the Tap Room was suggested as a good way to publicize the beer and ECTU.

All board members were requested to email member event ideas to Tom.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Farrow
Secretary