

ECTU Board Meeting
February 21, 2017; 6:30 pm – 8:09 pm
Board Room, Hotel La Fonda de Taos

In Attendance: Tom Harper, Bill Adkison, Marc Harrell, Larry Kelley, Doug Palmer, Doc Thompson, and Marilyn Farrow.

President Tom called the meeting to order at 6:30. The minute of the December meeting were unanimously approved following motion by Bill, second by Doug. The Winter Social took the place of the January Board Meeting. It was noted that Marc Harrell has resigned from representing ECTU on the New Mexico Council; Bill Adkison has been appointed to replace him.

In the absence of Treasurer Paul, Assistant Treasurer Bill reported we have \$34,432.16 on deposit, the same amount as last reported with \$20,000 still being held for the Hondo tributaries culvert sleeves.

Doug reported that we currently have 138 members, having added 3 new ones this month. This is significantly improved from the report at 2016 year-end when a number of members had not yet renewed their membership. Because TU National sends membership renewal notices, Doug is not doing so.

A discussion of our communications methods centered on the difficulty of consistently conveying accurate and timely information to our members and potential members. We currently have multiple lists – membership from National (which frequently has incorrect addresses), as well as list created at the local level. Needed is a current list of members, past members, as well as “friends” in a sortable-by-type format to whom appropriate messages may be sent. To help Emily send communications, Bill will go on line and set Emily up to have access to the data base at National so she can get updates. As new members join, their names should be sent to the Board so we can welcome and engage them. When the newsletter is updated there should always be a section listing new members.

To sustain a newsletter it was agreed a person with a passion for the organization would be the best choice to maintain it. Suggestions included providing a newsletter one time per month and posting on Facebook one time per week. Each Board member is requested to bring 2 paragraphs of content to each Board meeting where they will be edited. The President will act as a “filter” to assure items are appropriate before they are broadcast.

The January Winter Social was a great success. It was well attended, the food was excellent, and 6 new members were signed up. A very good time was had by all. Starting in 2018 the Winter Social will be held on the 2nd Saturday in January each year (January 13, 2018). Promotions will include a “Bring a Friend” or “Bring a Guest” with a drawing of those who bring guests to be awarded a “treasure”.

The Banquet Committee met February 17; all is going well. Paul will order "Save the Date" postcards and posters from National in about a week. Going forward we will hold the Banquet on the 2nd Saturday in May. In 2018, the Banquet will be held Saturday May 12 even though Mothers' Day will be Sunday May 13.

The \$1,000 grant request submitted to the Rotary Club was declined. The club had 26 requests. Consensus of the Board was that, nevertheless, we should pursue organizing a youth camp to span a weekend. Stan Harrell's ponds would be an ideal venue; Dreamtree may be a source of a van for transportation. The event would be limited to 10 young people ages 11 to 14 (or possibly 13 to 18); 4 to 5 adults would be needed to assist. Families would be invited for a cookout on Sunday. Although Marc will be travelling for 30 to 60 days starting March 30, Marc will prepare a proposal and budget for submission to the Board and will check with National to identify guidelines for youth camps (e.g. background checks for leaders, practices to safeguard the children).

A public meeting was recently held to stress the importance of keeping public lands in public hands. Toner Mitchell was in attendance and Nick Streit spoke in favor of it.

With regard to an ECTU beer to be produced and sold by Taos Mesa Brewing, Marc reported he'd met with one of the owners, Dan, who assured him he will move the project through. The beer will be known as Rio Grande Cutty – it will be the renaming of a beer they currently brew. \$1 will be donated to ECTU from each beer sold. In about a year they may move to canning the beer for wider distribution. The connection with ECTU will focus on the importance of "cold clean water" to both beer, and TU. ECTU members and Board will promote the beer; marketing materials will be developed. Up Slope brewing is currently engaged in a similar activity for Truchas chapter; Bill will check with Art Vollmer about the terms under which they are working. ECTU will bring Taos Mesa Brewing on as a National TU member in response to the offering of Rio Grande Cutty.

Tom had previously emailed a proposed Catch and Release action plan and memo to the Board. Discussion of these resulted in suggestions of increasing size and volume of fish stocked in Catch and Take waters and an increase in limits to offset any negative impact on addition of any catch and release waters. A big business in New Mexico is the stocking of fish; Game and Fish should be asked to agree to increased stocking before going further. A survey may be initiated on the riverside near the Red River hatchery, asking passers-by "how do you feel about catch and release" without offering any prejudicial comment. Tables should also be set up on the rivers, at Wal Mart, etc., and on-line petitions to get a clearer perspective of public sentiment.

All Board members are asked to review the action plan and send comments to Tom by Friday March 3. Doc will provide information from a Game and Fish Anglers Survey; and determine the current stocking levels and determine what levels should

be sought., Tom and Bill will seek a Game and Fish commitment. The proposed project on the Red River above the Ranger Station between Questa and Red River has been approved. When Tom's memorandum is finalized an appointment with Game and Fish will be sought.

In Cimarron, Mariah Fleming, science teacher with a biology background, is committed to Trout in the Classroom at Cimarron High School. She will activate the equipment (of which she has provided Bill a list) in August 2017 when school resumes. Doug and Bill will ask Ben Hermann to be the TU support person in Cimarron; Bill will help get the project started, but as Bill is supporting 3 programs now, he will not be able to be the ongoing support person. It is estimated about \$50 to \$100 will be expended for disposable items needed. Ongoing TIC programs exist at Taos High School, Red River Charter School, and with Chrissy Streit at the Taos Charter school. It was noted that TIC was initially a Game and Fish program with responsibilities later transferring to Trout Unlimited.

Project Healing Waters is seeking a new person to head the program. Alternatively, information on the similar TU program will be sought.

The Red River project funding for which we applied was awarded in the amount of \$87,000. Work will be rolled in with a Questa project and will begin in 2018. Funding thus far earmarked for the improvements above the Ranger Station now totals over \$100,000.

In April, a free member event is proposed to be Danish Games with casting instruction. Tom has all the necessary equipment, and he suggests we hold the event not as a competition. Obstacles will simulate fishing situations. In Arizona, where Tom previously presented the games, it was held in conjunction with a pancake breakfast. Should we pursue doing the breakfast, the chapter would pay for the food (sausage and pancakes), hold the event at Fred Baca Park. We would start the event with one participant at each station to facilitate progress; the event will be presented as family-friendly. We will add some activity for younger children. Tom will talk to the City about use of the Park; the date will be set to accommodate availability of the park and with consideration for Easter being April 16, and Earth Day being April 22.

Marilyn will contact the involved organizations to learn the date for the Taos Rivers and Land Clean-up date.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Farrow
Secretary