

GENERAL MEETING NOTES  
ECTU MEETING  
JULY 14, 2015  
Hotel La Fonda de Taos 6:30 p.m.

Present: Bill Adkison, Geoffrey Butler, Sid Covington, Sloan Covington, Marilyn Farrow, Tom Harper, Ken Harold, Marc Harrell, Bart Hazleton, Jim Herman, Chris Herring, Doug Palmer, Tom Ryan, Nick Streit, Paul White.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 with the welcoming of new members and guests.

Nick Streit reported on his recent trip to Washington, DC, as part of a delegation from the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and Trout Unlimited. There were about 40 people in the delegation representing business, tribal, and veterans' interests. Their purpose was to make contacts, lobby legislators (16 were visited, 8 republicans and 8 democrats) about the antiquities act, and discuss with the undesirability of the potential to return Federal lands to State controls. The concerns center on the traditional lack of access to state lands for sporting and community activities. Those who fish and hunt favor national monuments as an investment in the future of their sports. The legislators were also thanked for their protection of the Isleta del Sur Pueblo, and Organ Mountains, Las Cruces, and establishment of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

Paul White reported on the very successful Hopewell Lake kid's fishing event – about 70 kids were there with tickets. Doug Palmer, his cousin, and David Gilroy represented EC-TU. Brook trout were displayed in an aquarium, Gilroy showed actual bug samples and compared them to those found in a fly box. ECTU representatives taught knots and discussed the dry-dropper set up. There did not appear to be any problem caused by the date not coinciding with the statewide kids' free fishing day.

Bill Adkison asked for help getting EC-TU activities up on line through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

**Action Item:** People interested in posting photos should send Bill Adkison their names and emails and he will add them as editors to the FB page.

**Action Item:** Marc will add a blog by next month.

The EC-TU Fishing Tournament will be held October 17 and 18. According to Nick Streit, this year the banquet is separate from the tournament. The teams will be comprised of 4 people including the volunteer guide. The Rio Grande and Red Rivers will be the venues. The fee will be \$1,000 per team. Sign up is available on line. Prizes in the past have been equipment; Nick is suggesting trips might be more desirable than equipment, and he will pursue donors. An awards event is in the planning stages. Also being developed is the concept of fisherpeople soliciting pledges, e.g. \$1/fish, or \$.25/fish, etc. Truchas Chapter will help sponsor the

tournament with the understanding proceeds will go toward enhancing the Red River project. The publication date is uncertain of an article Toner Mitchell has submitted to "Trout" on the Red River Project.

Ten teams should be the minimum for a successful tournament; 20 would be preferable. To sign up, teams will provide a team name when they sign up, and pay in full. In the past there have been two sponsors (Taos Fly Shop and Solitary Angler) with the participants meeting at each location. A second sponsor will be sought for this year.

**Action Item:** Nick will coordinate all Tournament activities

**Action Item:** Nick will solicit a second sponsoring organization; Marc will do the same in Questa.

**Action Item:** Nick will provide a date by which the \$1,000 is due; checks should be sent to treasurer Paul.

**Action Item:** Marc to investigate an ad in "Trout" magazine's fall issue;

**Action Item:** Nick will provide a one-page .pdf flyer with image and tournament information (including a "swag" list).

**Action Item:** Nick will solicit prize donations.

**Action Item:** Bill will contact other chapters to promote teams' participation.

**Action Item:** Doug will pursue teams through his Texas and Philmont connections.

**Action Item:** Marilyn will pursue a CFR team

**Action Item:** A beer sponsor is being sought by Mike Rearick and Toner Mitchell.

The Rio San Antonio has cutthroat trout in its tributaries now. The Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Ecology in Albuquerque and the Chama Peak Land Alliance are cooperating to do work similar to that done on the Comanche creek (building fences, repair and replace fish barriers, place in-stream boulders, timber weirs, erosion control, water catchments, etc. The proposed project would slow down the flow; the stream is currently deforested and in the sun (the water is too warm). The Forest Service is working on finding funding. Currently there is only grant money to study the situation, none for completing the improvements. All heavy work will be contracted out.

Marilyn reported the Casting for Recovery fundraiser will take place on Saturday and Sunday, July 18 and 19. Women are invited to participate in the 2-day clinic with lodging provided by San Geronimo Lodge, and volunteers offering instruction and assistance on the rivers they will fish, the Costilla and Pinos, conditions permitting. The fee is \$100 per day exclusive of lodging.

Bart reported the Comanche Creek horse trap project will take place August 8 and 9. This project is a cooperative effort of EC-TU, Game and Fish, and the Rio Costilla Cattle Association. Bart will go with Mark Torres to look over the site and will send photos of work to be done. Seventeen volunteers signed up during the Banquet; Bart will contact them to confirm. There is a separate project sponsored by the Truchas chapter and Quivara Coalition on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> for which camping is available complete with a chuck wagon dinner for \$30 for the two days.

**Action Item:** Bart to confirm participants

Doug Palmer reported the recent spectacular flooding on the Cimarron changed the topography of the river. There are new holes, boulders moved about.

Water came down from Bear Canyon; Clear Creek to Ute Park is fine; above Clear Creek to the Holy Water is currently a swamp due to lack of flow out of the dam.

Coming Meetings:

The EC-TU Board Only will meet Tuesday August 25, 2015, to develop a budget and plan for the coming year.

**Action Item:** Bill Adkison will provide details of where and at what hour.

The ECTU Annual Meeting is planned for Sunday, September 13. This will consist of fishing, followed by BBQ and refreshments at the Pilar pavilion. Event will include a presentation of the financial condition of the chapter, the budget for the year, a report on the state of the chapter, and elections. It may also include Spey, Tenkara, and fly casting demos.

**Action Item:** Paul will check with BLM about reserving the Pavilion (cost estimated to be \$8-\$10).

**Action Item:** Doug to assist in planning and organizing the event.

**Action Item:** Nick will explore possibility of having a vendor supply demo rods for the flycasting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.