

Meeting Notes
ECTU ANNUAL MEETING
September 13, 2015 – 5:00 pm
Bravo Campground Pavilion
Orilla Verde Recreation Area

Twenty-five people, many of whom had fished the Rio Grande earlier, attended the ECTU Annual Meeting. Following an ECTU provided BBQ dinner, the business meeting was called to order by President Bill Adkison.

Adkison reported the “state of ECTU” was good! The restoration and improvements to the Red River below the Questa Ranger station have been completed, providing sinuosity and improved fish habitat. A diversion dam above the Fish Hattery on the Red has also been removed. ECTU provided seed money (\$5,000) and was instrumental in developing this \$800,000 project and seeing it to completion.

Barriers between the Rio Hondo and the Yerba and Italianos tributaries are being pursued to protect the Rio Grande Cutthroat. Until these barriers are in place, any attempts to create an RGCT fishery at the Taos Ski Valley is neither practical nor viable until these tributaries are isolated as Game and Fish will not stock in its present condition.

A “Home Waters” project will be identified by the chapter through consultation with our local governmental agencies to understand their emphasis. President Adkison also asked for input from the chapter members and guests present at the meeting.

Active partners have been and will continue to be sought for all ECTU projects.

This year ECTU also partnered with Quivira Partnership to improve conditions in the Valle Vidal, fencing areas to control damage by grazing cattle, and ongoing work on Commanche and Grassy Creeks. A horse trap is to be constructed with initial work being done to take down abandoned barbed wire and posts.

Currently, under the leadership of Jim Wenger, we are working with Project Healing Waters, a program for military veterans. Jim needs volunteers to help with guiding, fly tying, and casting instruction.

Since the founding 7 years ago of the New Mexico/Texas Panhandle/Southern Colorado Casting for Recovery initiative, 14 women breast cancer survivors participate annually in a 3-day retreat where they enjoy the support of their peers, psychosocial and medical facilitators, and the CFR board members. And the ladies are taught the basics of fly fishing – the motion of casting having been found beneficial to the healing of those who have experienced breast cancer surgery.

ECTU actively supports education, currently sponsoring Trout in the Classroom projects in Red River, Angel Fire and Cimarron with hopes soon to add a Taos project. Participating students have been given Stream Explorers memberships. The chapter also participates in the Fishing Derby and streamside education programs.

Eric Patterson, Water Sentinels, and Jim Morgan have led students in water sampling and testing projects. Taos High School's Salamander group, under the leadership of David Gilroy, presented their water sampling findings at the annual banquet through posters on display and one-on-one discussions with banquet attendees.

For those wondering "How Can I Help?" president Adkison suggested people attend an outing or a meeting, and bring a friend. The chapter is in severe need of publicity, communications, website, education, and governmental liaison volunteers.

Also, at this time, the Forest Service is developing its Forest Plan – we need people to be proactive now. Also, ECTU Board members are engaged in strategic planning and implementation – we could use input from interested people.

ECTU could use your help with our influence via Facebook – please look at our page and if you like it, indicate that you do. and share it with your friends. Marc Harrell has generously helped with our website, and we can always use photos. Photos should be sent to Bill Adkison (hwmadkison@gmail.com).

Participation in the upcoming annual ECTU Fishing Tournament, October 17 & 18. Currently there are 5 to 6 teams signed up; prizes include Sage rods valued at \$850 each for every member of the winning team of 3 people and 1 guide. And the tournament is FUN! Teams will be distributed between the Red and Rio Grande rivers over the two days. All funds raised go to the improved Red River fish habitat, an ECTU-sponsored project that is now near completion. Tournament teams of 3 anglers and 1 guide are forming now; if a sole angler wishes to participate we'll help you build a team. Contact Nick Streit at the Taos Fly Shop to sign up.

And finally, take a young person fishing!

The 2014-2015 fiscal year Budget report was presented by Treasurer Paul White. Expenditures reflect our focus on conservation. A motion was made to accept the budget as presented (copy attached) was unanimously passed.

ECTU currently has a vacancy in the office of Vice President. Bart Hazleton nominated Tom Harper, an attorney recently relocated to Taos from Phoenix and active fly fisherman and employee of Taos Fly Shop. He is a national recognized certified fishing guide. Following a second, the motion carried unanimously.

The door prize of an LL Bean rod and reel went to Jim Herman, the chapter's membership database guy!

In closing, non-members Ann Hazleton and Diane Urtiaga were awarded complimentary memberships in Trout Unlimited, and ECTU "car" stickers were offered to all in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Farrow
ECTU Secretary