



Directors: Art Cottrell, Lisa Gilmore, Keven Graham, Ken Krueger, Mike Lesiak, Steve Shapiro,
Ex Officio Director: Willie Beshire; **Emeritus Directors:** Jeff Berg, Joe Hammon, Ed Michael, Gregory Prosen,
Marvin Strauch, Doug Vanerka, Joseph Vitti

Officers: Dave Carlson, President; Dan LaFave, Vice President; Jack Potts, Treasurer; Carol Hennessy, Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 7:06 PM, the OBTU Board of Directors held their monthly meeting at the Downers Grove Public Library and via conference call (Zoom)

Officers and Directors present

Willie Beshire, President
Dave Carlson, Vice President
Jack Potts, Treasurer
Carol Hennessy, Secretary
Art Cottrell
Lisa Gilmore
Dan LaFave
Mike Lesiak
Ed Michael
Greg Prosen
Steve Shapiro
Marvin Strauch
Joe Vitti

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Excused:

Ken Krueger

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Not Excused

Members present:

Keven Graham

Call to Order:

W. Beshire called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Approve Minutes From the November 30, 2022 BOD Meeting:

A motion was made by M. Strauch and seconded by J. Vitti to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting. The motion passed.

Order of Business:

The order of business was approved without objections.

Reports:



President's Report

W. Beshire reported that the room here at the Downers Grove Library is booked for the next two months.

W. Beshire stated that Jay Allen will be presenting in person at the January Membership Meeting. The chapter is paying him \$200 to defray his travel expenses. C. Hennessy offered to assist K. Krueger in setting up the pre-meeting pizza party at Gulliver's in case he isn't able to do so.

The Board briefly discussed the option of extending the monthly raffles to the online Zoom participants. The consensus was to try to do so this month.

W. Beshire reported that we are still having some problems with the website's calendar function. He is requesting assistance from Ken Wojcieszek, the consultant who built our website since he may owe us a favor – we directed some business his way when former member Doug Varnerka was looking to build a website for the Fred Ware Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

W. Beshire informed the Board that our Constant Contact contract expired with no warning. He will be sorting this out with Constant Contact tomorrow. It should be a relatively easy thing to fix. He will put the annual payment on his credit card and then get reimbursement from the chapter. The annual payment plan is \$540 per year.

W. Beshire reminded the Board on the upcoming trade shows. The Chicagoland Outdoor and Fishing show is set for January 26 to January 29. The Illinois Council sponsors the booth at this show. We will be getting materials from various sources for this show within the next few days. We have volunteers from our chapter as well as the other chapters in Illinois.

The Tinley Park Fishing show is set for February 17 – 19. OBTU purchases the booth space for this show. This year's show is at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Our booth location is close to the front door.

W. Beshire stated that he is pleased to report that we now have complete administrative control over our Facebook Page. He thanked E. Michael, C. Hennessy and Jeff Yates for their extra initiative to getting this done. C. Hennessy added that Jeff Yates at TU National was extremely instrumental in getting our Facebook back to us.

W. Beshire reported that we he is in the process of setting up both the Wisconsin and Iowa Fall Fishing trips. He booked the Nature Nooks Center for September 22 – 24 for the Wisconsin trip.

D. Carlson asked if it was possible to do an informal fishing outing in the Fennimore, Wisconsin area? W. Beshire thought it may be possible. Last year we had about 11 guys book rooms at the Fenway Inn on their own for an informal outing. Last year John Snyder organized this informal outing. It was noted that we need to broaden the pool of people that are willing to organize the fishing outings.

W. Beshire informed the Board that we have speakers for the February and April meetings. S. Shapiro is working on getting speakers for the March and May meetings. S. Shapiro has graciously volunteered to take on the duty of booking speakers for the membership meeting, but welcomes everyone's input. He added that the new Speaker Committee chair will make the



decision whether to continue with the remote speaker option or go to in-person speakers only. There may still be the need for flexibility.

W. Beshire stated this is his last meeting as Chapter President and it has been a real privilege to serve on the Board these past years, the last four being president. There has been a lot of rewarding experiences along with a few frustrating items, but we were able to carry on. He added that looking at every major committee that we have, there have been many successful activities. He also added that he does intend to stay involve. We need to up our game in our communication efforts and he intends to be part of that. He hopes to expand our efforts by involving more members.

W. Beshire pointed out some of the challenges that we face. In the past Orvis was a big recruiter for our chapter. Orvis seems to be doing more of their own things now. They are running their own fishing trips and continue to only turn to us for FF201 assistance. He also noted that after Covid the number of members at our meeting have been down and are only slowly starting to rebound.

M. Strauch thanked W. Beshire for all of his hard work and efforts as president of the chapter. The rest of the Board concurred.

Leadership Development:

C. Hennessy gave a brief overview of next week's Annual Membership Meeting. The Board briefly discussed the timing of the appointment to fill the vacancy of D. LaFave's director's position once he is elected Vice President of the Chapter. The consensus was to do that at the Special Board meeting instead of waiting for the meeting in February. C. Hennessy stated that she will have the paper ballots ready to go case there are any nominations from the floor. L. Gilmore stated that since she will be unable to attend the meeting she will give her proxy to any regular board member at the meeting.

Financial Development:

C. Hennessy deferred to J. Potts to provide a preliminary report the Holiday Party results. She noted that we still have some outstanding expenses including the invoice from Alpha Graphics. She stated that she had questioned Alpha Graphics why the postage for the postcard was so much higher than the postage for Spring Solicitation mailer earlier this year. They are reviewing that matter. The Board briefly discussed options other than Arrowhead. It was noted that we may need to make that decision relatively quick. C. Hennessy reported that the costs for Arrowhead were about 44% higher this year than in the past year. She also is hesitant about booking at Arrowhead because it is in unincorporated DuPage County and falls under the County jurisdiction for raffles. If we were to start selling raffle tickets at the August 12th event we would be over their time frame on when we could sell tickets. Of course we don't know what other jurisdictions time frames are.

M. Strauch echoed C. Hennessy's concerns regarding Arrowhead and wondered where the other groups who supposedly wanted Arrowhead since there were two empty meeting rooms in the facility. The consensus is to review other facilities before booking with Arrowhead.

D. Carlson noted that there has been some interest in having a banquet next year since it is our 50th Anniversary. Is there support for a banquet versus a cocktail party. L. Gilmore stated that we



could use the momentum from the August 12th toward a banquet. C. Hennessy stated that she will have the Fundraising Committee look into that possibility ASAP. One option is the Abbington in Glen Ellyn which was the location of a previous banquet. The banquet that was held back in 2013 was a success largely due to the efforts of Tom Wilhelm and that people were required to purchase tables for the event. E. Michael reminded everyone that there is only so much institutional energy to go around, it may not be the best year. W. Beshire added to make a banquet worthwhile we would have to double or triple our attendance from the Holiday Party. L. Gilmore stated that some of the groups that we may try to get to buy a table might also be people that we are asking to travel to come to our 50th anniversary – would that build momentum or would that work against us?

W. Beshire reminded the Board that this past Spring Solicitation netted \$10,000 and the Holiday Party will probably net us close to \$8,000. Back in 2013 our banquet netted us about \$15,000 which was the only fundraiser for the year W. Beshire stated that in his conversation with Tom Wilhelm, it was evident that he was not a fan of going back to a banquet.

J. Potts reported that our chapter is not in dire need of funds so to invest on of this effort into a banquet is not needed at this time. J. Potts recommended that if we wanted to do a banquet for other purposes rather than fundraising, we get a group together to organize it and not use a lot of energy talking about it.

E. Michael pointed out that we are not that far from a banquet with our current set-up. We just have to massage the edges, with one being encouraging members bring their spouses which would increase ticket sales.

C. Hennessy informally asked the Board are we “cocktail party type of people” or “sit-down dinner type of people”? What is most comfortable for our membership?

The Board discussed if we could find a venue with a better value/price? \$75 per ticket seemed high. J. Potts and K. Graham both thought that this was probably the going rate at many venues in the area.

C. Hennessy did a brief wrap up on the party. It was a success. We had 45 attendees. There were 25 silent auction items and 17 raffle items. Some items went better than others, but that is to be expected. It seemed everyone had a good time. She thanked everyone who was there early to set up. Set-up went smoothly and everything was in place by 6:00 p.m. well in advance of the 7:00 p.m. start time.

C. Hennessy reported that she has the items set for the January monthly raffle. She will be at that meeting. She will be bringing the items for the raffles for February – April since she will be missing those meetings. She reported that she will be going to the TU National ‘store’ to see what is available at a discount price since our inventory is getting low.

C. Hennessy reported that she has begun working on a draft for the Spring Solicitation letter and flyer since we want to get this out in the mail much earlier than last year. We would like to get this wrapped up by the middle of the summer thus being able to turn our attention on the 50th Anniversary. This will be a little tricky since we don’t have the budget done which highlights the areas or projects where the money raised will be spent.



50th Anniversary

K. Graham gave a brief update on the 50th Anniversary planning. Their Committee is rolling along with the plans for August 12th Event. He will be making a brief announcement at next week's membership meeting about the August 12th event giving people an idea of what it is and trying to build the momentum. The Committee has started working on some communication pieces. The Committee is divvying up some of the responsibilities associated with this event.

Conservation

D. Carlson reported on the Conservation efforts. He plans to distribute the 50th Anniversary pins during different events this Spring and Summer

He informed the Board that the Driftless Symposium will be an on-line event this year as it was last year. The dates for the Symposium are March 7 and 8. More information regarding the registration will be coming out soon.

Reviewing conservation activities state by state: D. Carlson reported that the Cold Water Macroinvertebrate Survey is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th. As pertaining to Michigan, Jay Anglin is now the president of MEANDRS, the organization that has been working on the Dowagiac River. Jay would like to speak at one of our chapter meetings.

Moving over to Wisconsin and TUDARE, D. Carlson reported that he did send an email up to Sara Strassman stating that we would be interested in participating in some Driftless Projects. Jeff Hastings was always a good contact for us in the past. D. Carlson also reported that he did remind her about our chapter's 50th Anniversary event. He also informed her that Jeff Hastings had always sent us an administrative letter asking for our financial support.

Regarding the Traverse Valley project, he has sent out an email to Peter Jonas requesting an update on the grant status. He has not heard back from Mr. Jonas yet. He will also let him know about the 50th Anniversary event. D. Carlson stated that he will be up by Eau Claire at the end of April and he will try to get together with Mr. Jonas then.

D. Carlson reported that the guys from the Southeast Wisconsin TU Chapter will speak at our April Meeting. We are working with them to confirm the dates for the summer work projects. They hope to do three work days this year.

D. Carlson will be sending an email up to Bob Micheel up in Monroe County to check in regarding what is happening in county.

D. Carlson reported that the date has been set for the Adopt-a-Stream here in Illinois. The DuPage River Clean-Up Day is Saturday, May 6, 2023. Also in Illinois, he has been in contact with some folks in Northwest Illinois talking about potential projects over there. Also, briefly he has had some contact with representatives from the American Farmland Trust about working together. More to follow at a later date.

D. Carlson updated the Board about the North Bear Creek Project in Northeastern Iowa. The Conservation Committee approved the \$2,000 contribution for this completed project in the Iowa Driftless. The questions that were raised at the November meeting were sent over to Kent



Kleckner who forwarded them over to Mike at the Iowa DNR. We received the answers which satisfied the concerns. D. Carlson added that J. Potts has sent the check over to them. D. Carlson also stated that Mike from the Iowa DNR informed him that they have four additional projects lined up for North Bear Creek, some of which may go forward next year.

D. Carlson told the Board that he put together a musical slide show on Instagram showcasing the trip to the Wind River with Jay Allen. It has been posted so he is inviting everyone to check it out.

Education:

M. Strauch reported that the date for the Youth Fly Fishing Classes have been set and the flyer has been prepared. We anticipate that this will be a normal year for this program with full attendance at all Saturday classes.

In regards to StreamGirls, they are trying to work out the exact dates for that program this year. They are trying to finesse between the existing Camp Dean and other potential sites. The Committee has a couple places that they need to look at to see if they would work. Relating to StreamGirls, the Next Generation Grant from TU National has gone a long way to secure the equipment to allow us to have two completely separate programs – Youth Fly Fishing and StreamGirls and not worrying about who has what equipment. Each will have its own equipment. To close the loop we need to purchase 12 fly tying vises, spending \$600 to \$700 of chapter funds. Phil Young had offered to match the chapter expenses for this purchase. The chapter has the flyrods and reels as well as the hip boots for the kids.

In terms of the Trout in the Classroom program, Dean Hansen will be returning again this year to run the entomology component of the program. The big proviso is that Minnesota has a large amount of snow on the ground and his ability to get the bugs for the program hinges on what the weather may bring in March. M. Strauch also informed the Board that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has agreed to allow the TIC program to release the trout from the classrooms into Rock Creek, a tributary of the Kankakee River down by Kankakee River State Park

M. Strauch requested that he be allotted 10 minutes at the January Annual Meeting to introduce the entire Education program to the members along with Mike Lesiak, Alexa Cottrell, and Stan Zarnowiecki. If all goes according to plan, we need a lot of volunteers to staff the various programs.

As mentioned earlier, during Chris Wood's Town Hall Meeting in December, he mentioned OBTU's Youth Education activities. Sara Strassman from TUDARE saw the Town Hall Meeting and has invited OBTU to make a presentation at the TUDARE symposium on the Youth Education activities. M. Strauch said that he will be making the presentation.

A motion was made by E. Michael and seconded by C. Hennessy to approve the expenses to purchase the 12 vises for the StreamGirls Program this year. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

J. Potts reported that the Financials were sent out earlier today for the Board to review. He briefly went through some of the highlights of the reports. J. Potts reported that we had a very successful Holiday Party Fundraiser. The gross revenues were \$12,500. We will have a more detailed report at a later date when all of the expenses have been paid.



J. Potts reported that our Endowment increased as the stock market went up in the fourth quarter, however it is still down for the year.

Expenses for the month included the \$2,000 for the Northeast Iowa Project, fees for the Tinley Park Outdoor and Fishing Show and the invoice for the 50th Anniversary pins. The only cost that he has for the Holiday Party is the cost for Arrowhead, but there will be a couple of other things yet to pay.

Turning to the Balance Sheet, we have a significant amount of net worth.

J. Potts informed the Board that he will need to start the budget process by getting the templates out starting with Conservation and then over to Education. The goal is approval at the March Board Meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by D. LaFave and seconded by M. Lesiak to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55. p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: February 8, 2023
Date

Carol Hennessy
Carol Hennessy
Secretary