



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, July 12, 2023, 7:05 PM, the OBTU Board of Directors held their monthly meeting via conference call (Zoom) due to the pending severe weather

Officers and Directors present

Dave Carlson, President
Dan LaFave, Vice President
Carol Hennessy, Secretary
Jack Potts, Treasurer
Willie Beshire, Past President
Art Cottrell
Keven Graham
Mike Lesiak
Steve Shapiro
Greg Prosen
Ken Krueger

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Excused:

Ed Michael
Ken Krueger

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Not Excused

Members present:

Call to Order:

D. Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Approve Minutes From the June 14, 2023 BOD Meeting:

A motion was made by M. Lesiak and seconded by K. Graham to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion passed.

It was decided to put all of the past minutes on the website starting with the January meetings.

Order of Business:

The order of business was approved without objections.



Reports:

President's Report

D. Carlson stated that he has only a few items under his report this month starting with the \$1,000 donation from Vulcan Materials. This is the third year in a row that our chapter is in receipt of this donation. Vulcan Materials has built this donation into their budget. This money will be used to sponsor the Youth Fly Fishing Program.

D. Carlson reported that he was contacted by an organization that puts together fly fishing film festivals. He asked the Board what their thoughts and opinions about working with this company to organize a local fly fishing film festival. He added that the film that are produced seemed to be high quality productions. The Board discussed if we should explore this or if we should defer it to the Illinois Council. It was noted that it is hard to make money on these film festivals. One needs to secure the theaters for viewing. W. Beshire stated that there is usually a commitment of funds up-front. A few years ago there was discussion about hosting a fly fishing festival, but there was not much support from the Board at that time. C. Hennessy added that another way of looking at the possibility of a film festival as not a money maker, but a method of exposing more people to conservation, Trout Unlimited, and fly fishing. W. Beshire noted that some view these film festivals as fancy fish "porn", but he is getting this information second-hand. D. LaFave added that he attended one of these film festivals in Lake Forest, and was impressed by the quality of the films produced which could entice people to become interested in the whole aspect of fly fishing. A. Cottrell reported that he had attended the local fly fishing shows in the past, one at Thalia Hall, one in Lake Forest and one in Wilmette that was hosted by the Elliot Donnelly Chapter. The films are well produced with many showing exotic destinations. D. Carlson stated that he will get more information from the party that approached him and will report back at a future meeting.

50th Anniversary

K. Graham updated the Board on the progress for the 50th Anniversary event thus far. We are one month out from the event. The Committee decided to rent one larger tent instead of a bunch of smaller tents. The DuPage Forest Preserve and the Cook County Forest Preserve have been contacted. He is having a hard time getting the representative from the DuPage Forest Preserve to call him back. The Cook County Forest Preserve would like to set up a display at the event.

K. Graham reported that there has been posts made on social media as well as on our email blast. C. Hennessy stated that she will be using the Illinois Council's email platform to send out the message to all of the members under the Illinois Council's umbrella. She just sent out a couple of messages as requested by the Trout Unlimited's Great Lakes Program.

The Board discussed the fly box that is being donated by Carl Huerter which will then be presented to Chris Wood. C. Huerter would like to have the Board raise \$1,000 for the fly box; he will then in-turn, donate the money back to the chapter. The consensus of the Board was to have Jack set up separate entries, one for the fly box donation and one for the annual solicitation. The Board members will need to email him to let him know which one the money is designated for if donating online. If donating by check, just make a note in the memo line.



The Board discussed the issue of having a sound system set up for the event. Would we need to contract with a sound system company or would the Jeff Troutman and the Parachute Adams band have a sound system that we could use?

K. Graham reported on the upcoming communication efforts to the membership. He also reported on the Committee's efforts to get the commitments from vendors, etc.

L. Gilmore updated the Board on possible authors and others who may be interested in having a table at the event. Ann Miller is a no since she has a wedding to attend that day. She reached out to Kevin Feenstra and Mike Miller from the Wisconsin DNR since both have books that they have written. John VanVelt is confirmed. She reported that she will reach out to Donna Smith at Orvis to see if anyone at any of the Orvis stores could make the event. D. LaFave added that he did speak to Ben, the manager at the new Wilmette store. Unfortunately, they will be short staffed that weekend so they will not be able to help out.

Illinois Council Youth Camp:

D. LaFave reported that the camp begins this upcoming Sunday, July 16th and runs to Friday, July 21st. We have nine mentors and 10 campers. He did receive an email from a woman in Michigan last night wondering if she could get her daughter into the camp. Too late this year, but maybe next year. Regarding the Council's rod raffle, notice about who won will go out through the Council's I-Contact.

Financial Development

C. Hennessy reported that the Annual Solicitation Letter and Flyer went out the last week in June. We also included a flyer about the 50th Anniversary event in the mailing as well. Donations are beginning to come in. As in past years, we will have periodic reminders sent out via constant contact.

Leadership Development:

C. Hennessy reported that she is planning on scheduling a Leadership Development Committee Meeting after she gets back from the Illinois Council Youth Camp. She did speak to E. Michael who expressed interest in continuing on the Leadership Development Committee.

Communications:

W. Beshire reported that he has begun sending out messages on the fundraising efforts as well as the 50th Anniversary Celebration. He has posted announcements about the 50th Anniversary on Facebook as well.

W. Beshire reported that he is working with Doug Vanerka, Greg Prosen, Wally Bock, Ed Michael to write out the history of the chapter. This will be in a bullet format just listing the highlights of the chapter. This will include the formation of TUDARE and the history of our Youth Education Program.



Education:

D. Carlson reported that M. Strauch informed him that Alexa Cottrell and Annie Vitti are recruiting girls both sessions of Stream Girls. The first session is planned for Kankakee River State Park and the second is planned for Camp Dean.

M. Lesiak reported on the Youth Fly Fishing sessions. The third session was held on July 8th. There were 12 kids at this session. We did have some technical difficulties, but was able to work around them. The next session is August 5th which is pretty full. The September session is starting to fill as well.

Conservation

D. Carlson reported that there is a work day scheduled by the SE Wisconsin TU Chapter is set for this Saturday, July 15 on Karcher Creek.

Regarding the Dowagiac, D. Carlson reported that he and Steve Carlson went to the recent MEANDERS meeting. They would like to put warning signs up on the bridges going down to where the dam once stood. There have been some close calls and they wish to prevent further mishaps. They were informed that the county will start charging fees to use Dodd Park. There will be an attendant on site. The State DNR will take over the old Pucker Street boat ramp. D. Carlson added that he suggested that they put the Mayfly Monitor back in to measure the turbidity of the water and report it online. He added that there was a woman from the local 4-H in attendance that is looking for activities for local youth. Steve Carlson will talk to her about possible programs. D. Carlson reported that the Potawatomi tribe has hired a consultant to do a Longitudinal survey. Finally, it was reported that a park will be built downtown Dowagiac with a riverwalk and fishing access.

D. Carlson reported that John MacKenzie. Coldwater Consortium has ordered the replacement monitor.

D. Carlson also reported that the Conservation Committee made a commitment for a project in Iowa. We had \$2,000 budgeted for projects in Iowa. Kent Kleckner contacted him to inform him on an opportunity for two easements on Otto Creek. The easements will provide public access. The project costs \$100,000 which the local match is \$25,000. The Committee had a few follow-up questions for Mike Siekert, a fish biologist with the Iowa DNR who was able to answer them. The Committee pledged \$2,000.

A short time later, the Committee was approached again. This time for funding for habitat work. Mike Siekert is working with Sara Straussman from TUDARE in developing a NRCS grant request for work on Patterson Creek and North Bear Creek in Iowa. Total project cost is estimated to be at \$640,000. The NRCS share is \$560,000 with the landowners share to be \$84,000. We would join other chapters and organizations to help cover the landowners' share. Money would be going to TUDARE which coordinates the donations. This is a 2023/2024 project. This will be discussed at the August Conservation Committee meeting.

D. Carlson reported that W. Beshire, J. Potts, and he will be attending the TU National Convention in Spokane to receive the Silver Trout Award. TU National is working on the press release on this award.



Treasurer's Report

J. Potts reported that he had sent out the Financials for the Boards review and comments earlier in the week. We received the donation from Vulcan Materials. The Vanguard accounts are up as most of the market is up. For the quarter, the Vanguard accounts are up. Donations for the annual solicitation fundraiser are coming in. We have received \$514 for the annual fundraiser. We do have \$2,000 in the Paypal account. J. Potts outlined the expenses that were paid out this month. He added that he had filed the Annual Report with the State. The next item he will be working on is getting D. Carlson and D. LaFave and the bank accounts. W. Beshire will be removed from the accounts since he is no longer president. M. Lesiak, as the Financial Reviewer will be given viewing access.

Programs and Special Events

S. Shapiro reported that Joel Ruby, the local videographer who has worked with Orvis and recently did a video called "All in the Water" will be the presenter at our September Meeting. He is still trying to confirm speaking dates with P.J. Smith, a Driftless area guide and Mat Wagner who organizes trips to Patagonia. S. Shapiro informed the Board about another potential presentation for the membership meetings are representatives from Construction Reliance Association with builds new styles of culverts which impacts the flow of rivers and streams. He does not have any definite dates yet.

Diversity

L. Gilmore reminded the Board that since we are taking a more integrated approach on how we address diversity (diversity initiatives are not a separate item, but should be part of all committee's thought process) we need to continue to think of our long-term vision. How does our membership change in the long-term? We need to continue to think about the metrics when we make decisions. The Board briefly discussed these points.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by L. Gilmore and seconded by D. LaFave to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58. p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: August 8, 2023
Date

Carol Hennessy
Carol Hennessy
Secretary