



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, March 8, 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

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

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Excused:

Marvin Strauch

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Not Excused

Members present:

Call to Order:

D. Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Approve Minutes From the February 8, 2023 BOD Meeting:

A motion was made by A. Cottrell and seconded by K. Graham to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023 Board of Directors' meeting with the correction that D. LaFave was absent and excused. The motion passed.

Order of Business:

The order of business was approved without objections.



Reports:

President's Report

D. Carlson reported on the new technology purchased. A. Cottrell researched various microphones available to improve the sound while members are calling into the meeting. It was discussed whether this type of microphone could be used for general membership meetings as well. A. Cottrell also made arrangements with the library to use their monitor in tandem with a laptop.

J. Vitti mentioned that his son has direct experience in this type of technology. He offered his son's consulting services and if we need to purchase additional equipment to improve the sound during general membership meetings, he offered financial help.

The Board continued with its discussion of its general membership meeting technology. Arrangements were made to train A. Cottrell on setting up for the meeting since W. Beshire and S. Shapiro will both miss the April meeting.

D. Carlson reported that he spoke to Robert Rowe regarding helping E. Michael out on the Illinois Council's Advocacy efforts. W. Beshire reported that Mr. Rowe is a member of our chapter who lives in the Peoria area. He is active in the Sierra Club and its advocacy efforts. He is a retired professor from Bradley University. He has participated in our Southeast Wisconsin work day.

E. Michael added that Mr. Rowe has been very amenable to look at any thing we needed him to review has part of our advocacy efforts. He is involved in the Illinois Environmental Council weekly meetings and tomorrow will be attending the Clean Water For All Meeting.

A motion was made by E. Michael and seconded by C. Hennessy to approve D. Carlson's appointment of Robert Rowe to the Illinois Council. The motion passed.

It was noted that we do have room to appoint other Oak Brook chapter members to the Illinois Council.

D. Carlson briefly reviewed the committees that are listed in the by-laws and the chair of each committee. He noted that we currently don't have an advocacy committee. TU National has recommended that chapters set up advocacy committees that are separate from their conservation committees. He suggested that we ask Robert Rowe to fill this role. He added that he will check with Mr. Rowe to see if he is interested.

The Board discussed our current committees. It was recommended that we keep Communications separate from Public Relations. One is geared towards internal communications with our members whereas the second is communication with the public at large via press releases, newspaper articles or articles in magazines such as Wisconsin Trout.

The Board also discussed its diversity efforts by expanding it to include reaching out to veterans organization. The Board reviewed how other organizations attempted to partner with the Hines VA to develop a program. Both DRIFT and Gary Borger Chapter attempted this to various degrees of success.



D. Carlson recommended that we review the by-laws to discuss and amend the definitions and roles of the various committees if need be.

E. Michael recommended that this be done without amending the by-laws because the process would open up the entire by-laws for discussion which would extend the timeframe. Much of this can be done outside of this process.

D. Carlson reported that E. Michael asked that we appoint a new financial reviewer. Originally, it was thought that Richard Tworek could fill this role, however since he has agreed to help J. Potts with the Treasurer's duties there would be a conflict. The financial reviewer cannot have access to our cash. D. Carlson added that M. Lesiak volunteered to fill this role.

D. Carlson reported that there are 20 people signed up for the Fennimore Fishing outing later this Spring.

D. Carlson reported on the Tinley Park Fishing Show. There were 12 volunteers who staffed the booth over the three-day period. The consensus was that it was a worthwhile show. There were vendors that were actually involved in the fishing industry and not filler vendors. Although there were fewer attendees than past year, the foot traffic was consistent and it allowed for more conversation.

D. Carlson informed the Board that he was contacted about a potential exhibit coming to Monee in Will County. Will County is hosting a show with displays from the Columbia Exhibition (the Chicago World's Fair). This exhibit is on loan from the National Fly Fishing Museum. Although we have lots of events occurring when this exhibit is on display, we could probably carve out a time when we can participate.

Treasurer's Report

J. Potts reviewed the proposed 2023/2024 Budget with the Board. Many of the budgeted expenses are the same as in prior year's expenses. Much of the discussion on the budget focused on the 50th Anniversary Event at the Oak Brook Park District. The Board reviewed each of the items outlined in the spreadsheet that the 50th Anniversary Committee submitted. The proposed budget for the 50th Anniversary is \$8,100. There is another \$5,000 for a Legacy Conservation Project.

K. Graham added that we still need to define what it means to have a successful event. What is our goal. It was also recognized that there needs to be a consistent outreach to other organizations.

E. Michael recommended that we need to reach out to TUDARE or other organizations now to figure out what we can do as a Legacy Project. We cannot wait until May for the August Event.

It was noted that a goal for a successful event is to raise our profile in Chicagoland with other groups and organizations giving a voice in the mission of clean streams.

In terms of the Education Program, J. Potts noted that there was a slight increase in the proposed budget. The Conservation Program has a proposed budget of \$24,100. Items include: TU or other conservation organization conference, \$600; Mayfly Unit DO sensor & maintenance \$1,500;



Habitat or access improvement for the Dowagiac River; \$1,000, Monroe County area project \$2,000; Traverse Valley Creek, \$6,000; 50th Anniversary Legacy Project, \$5,000; SE Wisconsin TU donation, \$500; Stream Temperature Monitoring \$1,000; eDNA Brook Trout Sampling Program \$3,000; North Bear Creek Northeast Iowa Project, \$2,000; TUDARE Donation \$1,500.

A motion was made by C. Hennessy and seconded by W. Beshire to approve the budget as presented this evening. The motion passed.

50th Anniversary

This was discussed under the Treasurer's report.

Conservation

D. Carlson stated in lieu of the time, he will send out a recap of the conservation committee meeting to all the Board members later in the week.

Education:

D. Carlson stated that M. Strauch sent him a brief report on the Education Program's activities. There were 26 participants at the February Train the Trainer. There are even more volunteers to the program that could not make the event. In regards to the Youth Fly Fishing Program, registration is a little slow. No one has signed up for the May date.

D. LaFave reported that he just spoke to a boy scout in the library and informed him about the Youth Fly Fishing Program. He was from Troop 101 in Darien. It was recommended that we post a link about our Youth Fly Fishing on our social media platforms.

In M. Strauch's report, he stated that Dean Hanson will be visiting our TIC schools the week of April 17th. The TIC release dates are May 1 to May 5th.

Membership:

K. Krueger reported on upcoming membership activities. There will be a fly-tying event on Wednesday, March 29th as part of the Trout on Tap. There is also a fly-tying event on Saturday, April 8th in Urbana. He is also working on putting together a fishing trip in far southern Illinois during the last two weekends in July. This trip is to Devil's Kitchen Lake in the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

Illinois Council Youth Camp:

D. LaFave reported that we have some campers registered, but we still need campers. We also need mentors. There are only six mentors. The goal is to have one mentor per camper.

Communications:

W. Beshire reported that he is working on the electronic newsletter. This should be out by the end of next week.



Endowment:

E. Michael reported that the Endowment Fund is looking for directors. These members cannot be on the current board of directors.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by C. Hennessy and seconded by D. LaFave to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57. p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: April 12, 2023
Date

Carol Hennessy
Carol Hennessy
Secretary