



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, May 10, 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
Willie Beshire, Past President
Art Cottrell
Keven Graham
Lisa Gilmore
Ken Krueger
Mike Lesiak
Steve Shapiro
Marvin Strauch

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Excused:

Carol Hennessy
Ed Michael
Steve Shapiro

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Not Excused

Members present:

Call to Order:

D. Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Approve Minutes From the April 12, 2023 BOD Meeting:

A motion was made by A. Cottrell and seconded by K. Graham to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 Board Meeting. The motion passed.

Order of Business:

The order of business was approved without objections.



Reports:

President's Report

D. Carlson reported that there were 18 participants at the Wisconsin Fishing Outing up in Fennimore the weekend of April 21st. The weather was not the best, but the fish were biting. He added that Renee from the Fenway Inn offered to block off the same weekend next year for our fishing outing. The Board discussed the option of going a week later. The consensus was that going a week later would probably not make much difference. D. Carlson stated that he will look for a volunteer to run the trip next year. This trip is pretty much turn-key since it is a repeat trip to the same area.

D. Carlson announced that he received a note from Wally Bock saying that he is returning to the Oak Brook Chapter. Wally is a past president of the chapter.

D. Carlson requested that we prepare a check in the amount of \$200 for Jay Anglin, next week's meeting speaker.

D. Carlson showed the Board one of the fly boxes that S. Zarnoweicki found. Each box is \$5.00. D. Carlson also showed a sample sticker with our 50th anniversary logo which could be placed on the back of each box. Alternatively, we could use a sticker with our regular logo. The Board concurred to purchase 200 or 250 boxes and to use the 50th anniversary sticker on the back side of each box.

D. Carlson reported that Robert Rowe has sent out a couple of emails regarding our advocacy efforts. (D. Carlson added that Robert came up to the clean up day on Saturday). In terms of our advocacy effort he is working with some state legislators on a bill that would improve waterway access. This bill unfortunately is on hold. However, Robert has made some good contacts. Relating to advocacy, W. Beshire reported that C. Hennessy found an article about the proposed CAFO on Bloody Run Creek. The Courts ruled in favor of the Sierra Club in that the Iowa DNR acting improperly in its approval for the CAFO.

50th Anniversary

K. Graham reported on the 50th Anniversary Committee's activities. The celebration planning is on going. They received a lot of feed back from potential vendors for the event on August 12th. They are sending out notifications to other organizations inviting them to the event. Work on getting commitments from vendors and organizations will begin in June. Additional reminders will be sent out to everyone as well. They are getting very good feedback from the various vendors and organizations.

A draft of the flyer was presented to the Board with the agenda for the day. Programing for kids and families is the next big push. The Board discussed what this should entail.

K. Graham gave a brief rundown for the day's schedule. Event starts at 2:00 with a hard stop at 6:00. We are trying to get a food truck for the day. The vendors and partners will have tables at the event. We can set up before the 2:00 p.m. start time. Answers to questions about the food trucks and sound system are still being finalized.



Programs and Special Events

D. Carlson read the short report provided by S. Shapiro which included details about next week's May Membership meeting. This meeting will have the bratwurst cookout. The cookout will start about 6:00 p.m. L. Gilmore offered to do the shopping for the cookout, i.e, bratwurst, buns, chips, condiments. S. Shapiro will be cooking the bratwurst. W. Beshire mentioned that he has some leftover paper goods that will could use.

In S. Shapiro's email he stated that Keven Graham reached out with a speaker suggestion, a young man by the name of Joel Ruby. Joel is a graduate from an area high school, and is a videographer who has worked with Orvis and recently did a video called "All in the Water". It's a video about giving youth of diversity, an opportunity to get involved in the outdoors. He's going to reach out to the director to get her blessing and we'll begin formulating a plan. The movie is about 20 minutes in length which will allow for a great time for him to share, view the movie, and then do a Q&A. It may also be a great time for our chapter to brainstorm on how we can create a path for those interested in learning more about getting involved in the outdoors through our organization. The plan is to line him up for the fall.

W. Beshire suggested that we look at the Driftless Symposium as a source for speakers for our membership meetings

D. Carlson reported that he was speaking with P.J. Smith, an authorized Orvis Guide, who expressed interest making a presentation at a future membership meeting. P.J. Smith's wife is a certified fly casting instructor. The Board discussed the possibility of inviting her to the 50th Anniversary to do some casting demonstrations.

Treasurer's Report

J. Potts reported that there was not a lot of activity this past month. He did deposit around \$1,000 into the bank. These moneys were from our monthly raffles as well as a donation from a member who pledged to cover a good percentage of the cost for new vises for our Youth Education Program.

J. Potts reported that he is finalizing work on the Annual Report. We are in good shape with the report which will be submitted very soon to National TU.

Financial Development:

In C. Hennessy absence, W. Beshire reported that he spoke to her earlier today. Her goal with the Fund Raiser was to get the letter and flyer out by the end of the month. Our communication will be similar to last years.

The Board briefly discussed the Holiday party, a decision has not been made yet about the location.



Communications:

W. Beshire reported that the next big push, besides the fund raiser, is the 50th Anniversary Event. He is working with that committee to develop the publicity for the event. W. Beshire also mentioned that we sent out 180 Constant Contact messages last year.

Education:

M. Lesiak reported on the upcoming Youth Fly Fishing sessions. The first session is this Saturday. He has 11 kids and 8 mentors. We are in good shape. There are 10 kids signed up for June and 6 kids signed up for July. M. Lesiak reported that he is beginning to backfill August and September dates.

M. Strauch reported that the Trout in the classroom is wrapping up. The trout releases at Kankakee State Park are done. Everyone who released their trout at the Kankakee River State Park liked it.. He also reported that there were 22 volunteers for the Entomology component of the program and 17 volunteers for the Trout Release component. Many of the volunteers are new faces, which is a good thing.

In regards to Stream Girls, M. Strauch reported that Alexa Cottrell has been working very hard in the recruiting effort. She sent out a pile of information to parents who expressed interest, and has 8 or 9 girls who may be interested. Unfortunately, no one has returned a completed application to date.

M. Strauch updated the Board on Dean Hansen and whether he plans coming down next year. Next year may be a transition year.

M. Strauch reported that they notified the new TIC school. He is also in contact with a potential new TIC school. More to follow

M. Strauch updated the Board on the traveling exhibit on loan from the National Fly Fishing Museum which will be on display in Monee. Orvis will be doing the fly casting instructions, therefore our chapter only needs to provide 3 or 4 volunteers for the fly tying component.

He also updated the Board on the May macroinvertebrate study.

Conservation

D. Carlson reported that at the recent SE Wisconsin workday, OBTU sent 6 volunteers. There was a total of 20 volunteers that day. He informed the Board that after the workday, A. Cottrell was able to purchase a Stihl brush cutter for about \$470. He will submit his receipt for reimbursement. The brush cutter was presented to the SE Wisconsin Chapter at our April 17th Chapter meeting.

D. Carlson reported that there were 18 volunteers, many of them new faces, at our DuPage River Cleanup on Saturday, May 6th. He thanked D. LaFave for picking up the supplies from the Conservation Foundation.

D. Carlson reminded everyone that the Coldwater Macroinvertebrate study is set for Saturday, May 20th.



D. Carlson informed the Board that there is a webinar hosted by Jake Lemon tomorrow where there may be updates on the DL sensor.

Another reminder to the Board, Jay Anglin will be our speaker at our May chapter meeting. Jay is the president of MEANDERS as well as a fishing guide on the Dowagiac River.

D. Carlson reported that he recently visited the site on Timber Coulee Creek where the \$1,500 we donated was used for stream improvement. He added that the stream looks very nice. He even caught a few fish there.

Another site that D. Carlson recently visited was Traverse Valley Creek. He was informed by Paul Krahn that the permit was only recently submitted. Work may begin later this summer.

D. Carlson reported that we had sent our contribution of \$1,500 to TUDARE. The new guidelines have us sending the money to TU National who will then send it to Sarah Strassman at TUDARE. She informed him that she has not received the funds yet. Sarah Strassman informed him that three applications have been submitted for the Nation Fish Grant Applications have been submitted in February, two in Trempealeau County and one in Buffalo County.

D. Carlson reported that he spoke to Bob Micheel, Monroe County. His office has experiencing turnover this year. At this time he does not have any projects for us to participate in.

D. Carlson reported that he spoke to Duke Welter recently about the status of the dam removal on the Kinnickinnic River in River Falls. To date, \$140,000 has been raised as a match for the cost of the required study. The goal is \$170,000. The plan is to remove both dams at the same time which will happen in six to seven years.

D. Carlson updated the Board about the proposed eDNA project. The conservation committee continue to research its options. One option would require the purchase of a pump. This option would allow testing for brook trout DNA on about seven streams in Illinois. The Committee is reviewing alternatives which would allow for DNA on more species and more situations.

S. Shapiro asked if he had a spec for the pump. He may be able to assist with project.

Illinois Council Youth Camp:

D. LaFave reported that we have nine boys registered, but no girls. He is still looking for additional mentors. He is also considering mentors that can only make a few days instead of the full week. The goal is to have a one to one ratio of campers to mentors.



Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: June 14, 2023
Date

Carol Hennessy
Carol Hennessy
Secretary