



**Directors:** Art Cottrell, Lisa Gilmore, Keven Graham, Ken Krueger, Mike Lesiak, Steve Shapiro,  
**Ex Officio Director:** Willie Beshire; **Emeritus Directors:** Jeff Berg, Wally Bock, 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, February 14, 2024 7:06 PM, the OBTU Board of Directors held their monthly meeting at the Downers Grove Public Library and via conference call (Zoom)

### **Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Present:**

Dave Carlson, President  
Dan LaFave, Vice President  
Jack Potts, Treasurer  
Carol Hennessy, Secretary  
Willie Beshire  
Wally Bock  
Art Cottrell  
Keven Graham  
Ken Krueger  
Mike Lesiak  
John Martyn  
Greg Prosen  
Steve Shapiro  
Marvin Strauch  
Joe Vitti  
Jim Dickens

### **Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Excused:**

### **Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Not Excused**

### **Members present:**

Annie Vitti

### **Call to Order:**

D. Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

D. Carlson briefly reported that the Executive Committee is still reviewing the alleged issues in the correspondence received from J. Schmiedeskamp. More to follow at a latter date.

### **Approve Minutes From the January 10, 2024 BOD Meeting, January 17 2024 Annual General Membership Meeting, and the January 17, 2024 Special Board Meeting:**

A motion was made by M. Strauch and seconded by J. Martyn to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Special Board Meeting. The motion passed.



A motion was made by M. Strauch and seconded by J. Martyn to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Annual General Membership Meeting. The motion passed.

A motion was made by K. Graham and seconded by M. Strauch to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Special Board Meeting. The motion passed.

A motion was made by M. Strauch and seconded by M. Lesiak to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 Board Meeting, with the simplification of language regarding the J. Schmeideskamp letter. The motion passed.

### **Order of Business:**

The order of business was approved without objections.

### **Reports:**

#### **President's Report**

D. Carlson stated that he is looking at putting together a chapter fishing outing the weekend of April 19 – 21 in Iowa. Attendees would make their own lodging arrangements.

C. Hennessy recommended that those going on the Iowa trip stop at the new shop in Decorah since they did donate a trip to our Holiday Party.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

J. Potts reviewed the financials with the board briefly highlighting the activity for January. The chapter received a matching donation of \$1,000. We received the same last year. He also briefly reviewed the January expenditures. The balance sheet is consistent with prior months.

J. Potts reported that D. LaFave and D. Carlson are now on the Hinsdale Bank account and the paperwork has been submitted to add them to Vanguard account. He added that he is getting M. Lesiak familiarized with the financial review component. In regards to the budget, he is getting the Committee Chairs' input and is starting to compile it.

There was a brief discussion to provide a brief financial summary at the end of the fiscal year.

#### **Education:**

M. Strauch reported that he has only ten people signed up for the upcoming Train the Trainer-day at the end of March. He will make further announcement at next week membership meeting.

M. Strauch announced that Dean Hansen will not be coming down this year for the T.I.C program. However, he has collected the bugs for us, and someone will drive up to Wisconsin or Minnesota to get them. For future years he intends to train us on collecting the bugs. In regards to the actual classroom days, we do have the ability to duplicate the program. We do need to purchase some new equipment for the bug collection. M. Strauch briefly explained some possible logistics for collecting the bugs for the program going forward.



M. Lesiak distributed a couple of sheets with the dates for the Youth Flyfishing program and asked the Board members to sign-up for the dates that they are available.

**Conservation:**

K. Graham reported that the Conservation Committee had a call last week. K. Graham announced that the Driftless Symposium is scheduled for March 11 and 12. It is a virtual event this year, but they may return to an in-person event next year.

In regards to the Dowagiac, that project is moving forward. They have identified three spots for monitors.

K. Graham reported that A. Cottrell has secured the eDNA equipment. He and D. Carlson are developing a pilot testing.

K. Graham reported that the local Wisconsin TU chapter is requesting people send letters to the Wisconsin DNR voicing their concerns that a couple of the dam removal projects don't include plans for fish barriers to keep the brown trout going upstream to the brook trout parts of the stream. We shared that chapter's request from their Facebook page on our Facebook Page.

K. Graham reported that we were invited sponsor/have an exhibit at an event in northeastern Wisconsin. This event is the Land and Water Conservation Conference in Green Bay.

The Southeast Wisconsin TU chapter has its work day on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. A. Cottrell is organizing members from our chapter to attend.

K. Graham announced that the Fly Fishing Film Tour has been cancelled. It was pulled by the national organization puts on the film tour and moved to Florida.

**Communication:**

W. Beshire reported that he is working on the newsletter. One item for the newsletter is to keep informing our members about our website and the calendar on the website. He did report that he was waiting to update our website program. There are some glitches when he updates the calendar or other spots on the website. He is working with Go-Daddy tech support to resolve these issues.

**Financial Development**

J. Dickens reported on the issue of the bass lures that we had in our inventory. There was some thought about selling them on e-Bay. After researching this, he determined that they were not suitable for ebay. There are 21 lures which will be packaged up and we will see if anyone from our is interested in buying them.

J. Dickens reported that J. Vitti who won the rod raffle in 2022 decided on a 10 weight. Unfortunately Orvis informed him that this rod is not available right now. There is a wait-time for the rod. (J. Vitti stated that he is willing to wait.)



J. Dickens stated that he sent out a game plan for Financial Development for the upcoming year. He asked Board members for their feedback. He is also looking at writing a grant application and will work with K. Graham to identify possible projects. Possible grants are from the Salmon and Trout Foundation as well as the Embrace a Stream which we got in the past.

J. Dickens reported that he is has started costing out options for our Annual Campaign. TU National does not have anything out of the box where they print, stuff, and mail donation requests. He will work with W. Beshire and C. Hennessy to develop the social media and the constant contact material. W. Beshire reported that we do have a member that runs a print business that may be a good option for handling this project.

#### **Programs:**

D. Carlson confirmed that Central Park West building is not available in May. There is a meeting room at the main park district building that is available. S. Shapiro reported that he has the Mat Wagner from the Driftless Angler coming next week, P.J. Smith will be at the March meeting, Mike Secert from the Iowa DNR will be the April meeting. There still is an opening for the May meeting. A. Cottrell will reach out to grad student Jarod, who presents about Brook Trout DNA variation, about his availability in May.

S. Shapiro raised the idea of having an event like a swap meet in May. We would either have to find another location or have it on another date. This is a one-time event. Is there an interest in doing this. The Board discussed other meeting topics/events where members talk about where they have fished the past summer, fly fishing auctions with both used and new equipment,

#### **Membership:**

K. Krueger reminded the Board about our Adopt-a-Highway in Wisconsin. He did not receive any responses to his request for volunteers.

K. Krueger reported about a women's fly fishing day that he was informed of. (The recording only picked up every third word or so)

W. Beshire reminded everyone about the upcoming Tinley Park fishing show this weekend. It is much larger than past year's fishing shows.

D. Carlson reminded the Board about the Bass Pro show on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. He still needs a couple more volunteers for this event in Bolingbrook.

D. Carlson reported that he did get the chapter's dvds from Dale MacDonald. He will bring them to next week's chapter meeting. We have not made a decision whether to continue with the lending program or to just sell them.

#### **North Central College Film Festival**

D. LaFave updated the Board on the upcoming film festival which started off as a showcase on various impacts on local streams, specifically on the DuPage River. This film festival will focus on fresh water mussels which are like 'the canary in the coalmine.' The festival is March 21<sup>st</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thursday night is invitation only, which we have 20 spots.



**Diversity Initiative**

M. Strauch reported that the Diversity Initiative Committee met. It was a cozy group because some members could not make it and others got sick that day. They divided up areas of things that they thought they could tackle. They will be reaching out to Community Colleges focusing on the south and southwest suburbs. They are looking at boy scout councils in the city of Chicago. They are exploring conservation components and how they could interact with other conservation groups that are active in efforts that effect the Great Lakes.

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: March 13, 2024  
Date

*Carol Hennessy*  
Carol Hennessy  
Secretary