



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, March 13, 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
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 7:10 p.m.

D. Carlson stated that the Board will adjourn to an Executive Session after the conclusion of the regular Board meeting.

Approve Minutes From the February 14, 2024 BOD Meeting:

A motion was made by K. Graham and seconded by M. Strauch to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2024 Board Meeting, with the correction that Ken Krueger was in attendance. The motion passed.



Order of Business:

The order of business was approved without objections.

Reports:

President's Report

D. Carlson reported on the Illinois Council's activities. The Council now has invested in a high-yield savings account and CDs. Also relating to the Illinois Council's money, at the last Council meeting there was a discussion on what portion of its funds were raised by Earthshare, and are those funds restricted? The Earthshare funds are restricted to conservation projects in Illinois. The Council's treasurer reviewed all available accounting records and then made his best estimate regarding the amount in the unrestricted funds and the restricted funds. The conclusion was that \$71,000 is in the Earthshare Fund, \$18,000 is in the Youth Camp Fund, and the remaining \$12,000 is discretionary spending. Our priority waters are primarily the Great Lakes, the Council is exploring opportunities for projects relating to the Great Lakes.

D. Carlson recommended that since TU National updated its strategic plan emphasizing the priority waters, we too should review and update our strategic plan to align with TU National's strategic plan.

D. Carlson invited anyone who may be interested serving on the Illinois Council, please contact him, C. Hennessy, Illinois Council Co-Secretary or J. Vitti, Illinois Council Co-Secretary. Each chapter is allotted one council member for 50 chapter members.

D. Carlson reported that the Illinois Council at its March 4th meeting confirmed that it will continue to reimburse 50 percent of the chapters' donations to TUDARE up to \$750.

Treasurer's Report

J. Potts reviewed proposed budget, which is consistent with prior year with primary changes involving new conservation projects. The chapter has approximately \$65,000 in non-endowment fund.

Brief discussion on conservation projects and endowment fund. Will reserve time in future meeting to review endowment fund strategy and goals.

A motion was made by J. Potts and seconded by M. Strauch to approve the 2024/2025 Budget as presented. The motion passed.

J. Potts reviewed the financials with the board briefly highlighting the activity, expenditures, and revenues for February. He reported that the balance sheet is consistent with prior months.

Education:

M. Strauch reported that we are now entering the very part of the year for the Education Program in regards to our Trout in the Classroom, Youth Fly Fishing, and Stream Girls. He stated that he is



purchasing the equipment needed to do the bug collection for the entomology component of the program. There are nine schools that we will be visiting this year. W. Beshire will be the lead person in four schools and he will be the lead person in the other five schools. The trout release days are scheduled for the second week in May. Permits for release are in hand.

In regards to the fly-tying event scheduled for Sunday, March 17th with the Sierra Club in Peoria, we have six volunteers. There are 12 attendees scheduled for each session.

Conservation:

K. Graham reported that the TUDARE Symposium was held this past Monday and Tuesday. TUDARE will be sending out links to the recordings of the presentations in the next few weeks.

K. Graham agreed with the recommendation that when our chapter has trips to the Driftless Area, we should include a Wise H2O program to do stream monitoring since we are a conservation organization. This will be discussed further at the Conservation Committee

K. Graham reported on the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association Conference where OBTU was a non-profit sponsor. It was reported that it was a successful conference and they appreciated our sponsorship.

He reported that TU National and the Illinois Council have named the Great Lakes as our local priority waters. They are promoting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and are asking our members to voice their support. He gave some background history regarding this Initiative. Senator Dick Durbin is a strong proponent of the initiative – he has doctoral student on his staff that only focuses on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

K Graham reminded the Board that on Saturday, April 20th we are scheduled to help out with the SE Wisconsin work day. They will be planting trees this year. A. Cottrell will be leading our effort that day.

K. Graham announced that there will be a Fly Fishing Show on April 7th in the Gordon Center in Lake Forest.

A. Cottrell gave a brief presentation on the newly purchased eDNA equipment, the Geotech pump and filter system. The water samples will be sent to lab which will then determine what species of fish are in the stream. This is the same technology that is being used to track Asian Carp. We will be using this initially to look for Brook Trout in Illinois, but hope to expand this use to Brook Trout in Iowa and beyond.

Communication:

W. Beshire briefed the Board on the upcoming Conservation Fair scheduled at the Frankfort Library. There are 14 conservation organizations that will be participating at this fair. This is a networking opportunity. We will have our normal booths and flyers.

W. Beshire reminded everyone about the North Central College Film Festival. D. LaFave added that we will have a table at the Thursday evening opening night. D. Carlson also added that there are eight films being shown at the Friday film festival, all pertaining to water related issues.



Other tabling events are at the Bass Pro Shop this upcoming weekend.

W. Beshire reported that he is finalizing the newsletter.

Financial Development

J. Dickens thanked A. Cottrell for running the raffle at last month's meeting. We raised \$185 at that meeting. A. Cottrell agreed to run the raffle at this month's meeting as well.

J. Dickens announced that our annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th at Venuti's – the same location as last year's fundraiser. He was able to secure the same deal as we had in 2023.

J. Dickens gave a brief update on the Spring funding campaign. He researched the printing services that TU National offers and found that they did not quite meet our needs. He is reviewing other printing companies as well as ones used in the past. He thanked everyone for their input on the solicitation letter.

Programs:

S. Shapiro briefed the Board on the speakers for the upcoming months. P.J. Smith is scheduled for next week. He will be coming to the pre-meeting pizza party. His speaking fee is \$200. Mike Mike Siekert, Fish Biologist from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is the speaker for the April meeting and a grad student Jarod H. who spoke about Brook Trout genetics at the TUDARE symposium.

The consensus of the Board is to request the larger room at the main park district building for the May meeting.

Membership:

K. Krueger did a quick update on our Adopt-a-Highway in Wisconsin. He also reported on the fly tying class that was held back in February. There were six attendees. It was well received. The instructor was very good.

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 8:05 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: April 10, 2024

Date

Carol Hennessy

Carol Hennessy
Secretary