



**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, April 10, 2024, 7:00 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  
Willie Beshire  
Wally Bock  
Art Cottrell  
John Martyn  
Ed Michael  
Greg Prosen  
Steve Shapiro  
Marvin Strauch  
Jim Dickens

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

Carol Hennessy, Secretary  
Ken Krueger  
Mike Lesiak  
Keven Graham

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

### **Members present:**

Robert Rowe

### **Call to Order:**

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

### **Approve Minutes From the March 13, 2024 BOD Meeting:**

A motion was made by J. Martyn and seconded by J. Potts to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2024 Board Meeting. The motion passed.

### **Order of Business:**

The order of business was approved without objections.



## **Reports:**

### **President's Report**

D. Carlson was pleased to announce that there are 23 fishermen signed up for the Iowa fishing outing set for April 19 – April 21, as well as two spouses and one niece. We have new folks as well as past attendees.

D. Carlson announced that the contract with Venuti's Banquet Hall for the holiday party has been signed. The date for the holiday party is set for December 11<sup>th</sup>. He thanked J. Dickens for handling this. We are ahead of the game.

D. Carlson reported that the eDNA test run is scheduled for this Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Treasurer's Report**

J. Potts presented a brief review on the end-of-the fiscal year. Total revenues were approximately \$44,000 which included the holiday party, last summer's fundraising drive, our market investments, and the Endowment Fund. He noted that the expenditures were under budget so there were no budgetary issues.

J. Potts reviewed the last month's expenses with the Board. The biggest expenses were the reimbursement for the eDNA equipment and our annual donation to TUDARE.

We had a pretty solid financial year. Net revenue was \$6,000.

J. Potts reported that he is in the process of collecting the information necessary to complete the Annual Report due to TU National. The due date to TU National is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Endowment Fund:**

D. Carlson briefly summarized the history of the Endowment Fund. This fund was started in 1989 and for the first several years 10% of the General Fund was allocated to the Endowment Fund. That practice was discontinued. Periodically there would be donations to the Endowment Fund. For the past few years, the Endowment Fund grew due to revenue from its investments. D. Carlson listed the names of the individuals on the Endowment Fund Board. He reported that there is a section in OBTU's By-Laws that outlines what the Endowment Fund is, how individuals get on the Endowment Fund Board, the difference between Restricted Funds and Unrestricted Funds, and the Request for Proposal Process for spending the funds.

The Board discussed the timing of when to request funds from the Endowment Fund. There is not a pressing need at this time to withdraw funds from the Endowment Fund. They also discussed the money market that was separate from the Endowment Fund. We need between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year to keep the chapter running, This does not include monies for conservation projects.

It was recommended to educate the general membership about Endowment Fund.



**Education:**

M. Strauch reported there were nine schools visited this year as part of the TIC program. We had two teams with 20 volunteers. He estimated the two teams had visited over 500 kids total with the entomology program. The goal now is to develop our own bug collection program from sites within 2 to 3 hours from here. M. Strauch added that there seemed to be more interest from other teachers and administrators from outside the individual classrooms.

The TIC release days are scheduled for the week of May 6<sup>th</sup>.

In regards to Stream Girls, M. Strauch stated that Alexa is really gearing up for a May 4<sup>th</sup> Stream Girls session. She is working on the recruiting efforts.

**Conservation:**

D. Carlson reported that K. Graham provided him with a few talking points for our upcoming conservation activities. On Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Krueger will also be joining the effort.

The DuPage River Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

As part of our Iowa fishing trip they will be meeting with Mike Siekert from the Iowa DNR. We will be doing the eDNA testing as well as the Wise H2O stream monitoring.

As mentioned earlier, D. Carlson and A. Cottrell and others will be going up to Wisconsin this Saturday to test out our new eDNA equipment.

D. Carlson reported on the film festival held at the College of DuPage in Naperville. Besides being a successful event, it was a good networking event. W. Beshire added that he will be touring the mussel research facility later this week. The people at the research facility are looking to recruit citizen scientist for mussel research on the DuPage River. The citizen scientist are asked to photograph and report on mussels that are found. This would be done on an ad-hoc basis. R. Rowe reported that down in Peoria, there is also a call for citizen scientists. He will follow-up with that request.

D. Carlson reported on activities by the Dowagiac River. The permitting process for the installation of the two monitors is still in the works. Also, a program similar to Stream Girls, Stream Kids is being planned with the local Indian tribe later this year.

**Communication:**

W. Beshire briefed the Board on the Spring newsletter. He plans to include a financial summary, a conservation update, a blurb about Stream Girls as well as a beef-upped report on our Trout in the Classroom program with many new pictures. He added that he also wants to highlight the longevity of our youth programs. We are in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Youth Fly Fishing Program; the 15<sup>th</sup> year for the Illinois Council's Youth Camp; and our 16<sup>th</sup> year for the TIC Program.

W. Beshire reported that we have been experiencing a few glitches with our website, primarily with our calendar. He will be doing a deep dive to figure out why we are having these problems.



**Financial Development**

J. Dickens reported that he is in the process of updating the letter for the annual fundraiser. The Board discussed the option whether or not we should continue to dedicate the funds raised from this fundraiser to only conservation and education activities. People will be still be able to earmark where they want their funds to go.

J. Dickens reported that he has been reaching out for donations for trips for our holiday party.

**Programs:**

S. Shapiro briefed the Board on the speakers for the upcoming months. Mike Siepker, Fish Biologist from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is the speaker for the April meeting. The Board discussed instead of having a pre-meeting pizza party, bring pizza to the Park District before the meeting since the speaker will be making his presentation via Zoom. The chapter would pay for the pizza.

The meeting in May will be at the Oak Brook Park District's main building. We will be using the larger room. Our speaker for that meeting is a grad student Jarod H. who spoke about Brook Trout genetics at the TUDARE symposium.

S. Shapiro reported that he is working on lining up speakers for next fall. His goal is to have all of the speakers lined up for all of the meeting from September, 2024 to May, 2025 lined up by next September. He has also reached out to the person in charge of programs for the Lee Wulf Chapter since they meet the day after our meeting. The goal is to combine our resources or to split the cost of bringing in speakers.

**Old Business**

It was reported that the it was worth the effort by the Illinois Council to have a booth at the Lake Forest Film Festival. There were 6 volunteers from the various Illinois chapters. The Council sold 37 raffle tickets for the bamboo rod and distributed all of its camp flyers.

In regards to the Film Festival at the College of DuPage, D. LaFave reported that this was a good networking opportunity with other conservation organizations. Although many of those conservation organizations projects are not cold water projects, they still are conservation efforts that are in our local area.

**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 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Carol Hennessy*  
Carol Hennessy  
Secretary