



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, June 12, 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
Jacke Potts, Treasurer
Carol Hennessy, Secretary
Willie Beshire
Wally Bock
John Martyn
Marv Strauch
Greg Prosen
Steve Shapiro
Joe Vitti

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Excused:

Art Cottrell
Keven Graham
Ken Krueger
Mike Lesiak
Ed Michael
Jim Dickens

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Not Excused

Members present:

Robert Rowe
Annie Vitti

Call to Order:

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

Approve Minutes From the May 8, 2024 BOD Meeting:

A motion was made by J. Martyn and seconded by W. Beshire to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2024 Board Meeting with the correction Steelhead Alley being in Ohio. The motion passed.

Order of Business:



The order of business was approved without objections.

Reports:

President's Report

D. Carlson reported on the request from Jamie Vaughn, TU Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator, to sign on to the letter being led by the National Wildlife Federation and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters urging Gov. Pritzker to sign the Project Partnership Agreement for Brandon Road. The Brandon Road Project is the long-planned measure to stop the invasive carp from crossing into the Great Lakes basin.

A motion was made by M. Strauch and seconded by C. Hennessy to add OBTU's name to the sign-on letter urging Governor Pritzker to sign the Project Partnership Agreement that will allow the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Inter-basin Project to proceed in a timely manner. The motion passed.

D. Carlson reported that we have an opportunity to get involve with some fly-fishing instruction in Peoria as part of the Outdoor Fun Extravaganza in Prairie Park.

R. Rowe added some details about the event. This event is scheduled for June 29th and June 30th. Past events were well attended by families. He proposes that we do a joint class with the local Sierra Club as a follow-up to the class to the fly-tying class held this past March. The new class would cover basic fly casting and tying flies onto fly lines. He reported that he spoke to K. Graham who volunteered to help teach the class. R. Rowe would be the other instructor. Trace Pitzen who lives in Peoria may also be another resource.

The Board briefly discussed if we had enough rods for this class since twelve of our rods are being used for the Stream Kids class on June 29th and ten are in use on June 22nd for the Stream Girls class. Will follow-up with M. Lesiak to see what is available. R. Rowe added that he is looking for only four rods.

D. Carlson reported on the Illinois Council Meeting held on June 3rd. The Council discussed a Conflict of Interest Policy that TU National is recommending all chapters and councils adopt. The Council also discussed the results of the research regarding its fund balance. Most of the balance is now invested in CDs. The discussion on how to use the money is always a topic as well as what the restrictions are on the what the money can be used for. No decision was made.

D. Carlson reported that he briefed the Council on our chapter's eDNA project in Northwestern Illinois. As a courtesy to the Lee Wolfe chapter he provided more details to Jerry Sapp since that project is in their geographical location. As we move forward, we will communicate with all the chapters since they all expressed interest.

Conservation:

D. Carlson in K. Graham's absence briefed the Board on the meeting they had with Sara Strausman, TUDARE. We demonstrated the eDNA pump and explained how we do the sampling.



Also in attendance were Peter Jonas and Paul Krahn. We have an audience for the eDNA testing in the Driftless. On a related note, the lab that the samples are sent to has a two to three month back-log. Members of the Conservation Committee are exploring other options.

In regards to the Traverse Valley Project, Peter Jonas confirmed that everything is now ready to go. This project should be completed this summer.

Paul Krahn provided information on potential new projects in the Driftless and Sara Strausman was doing some water analysis before the meeting.

D. Carlson announced that our contact at Vulcan Materials reached out to us. They have another \$1,000 donation for us. They are looking for a specific program to illustrate what the money is being used for. Last year the money was allocated to the T.I.C program. It was noted that the T.I.C Program has regular predicted expenses every year. It is good public relations for the company as well.

Education:

M. Strauch reported that the Youth Fly Fishing Program was subscribed for May and June, is fully subscribe for July and partially subscribed for August and September. We can always use more mentors for August and September.

In regards to Stream Girls, the May class was cancelled due to lack of interest. However, the June Stream Girls class is fully subscribed. Things are working well with the Northern Illinois Girl Scout Council. They are working on trying to duplicate the same results with the Greater Chicagoland Council. Alexa and her crew are going over to Michigan to do a Stream Kids class there in conjunction with MEANDRS.

M. Strauch reported on Trout In the Classroom. We had another successful year. The school that was selected to be the new T.I.C. school is St. Bruno / St. Richard in the Archer Heights neighborhood in the Southwest Chicago.

Membership:

D. Carlson reported on behalf of K. Krueger on the Adopt-a-Highway clean-up event near Viroqua, Wisconsin. It was a good event. Photos were posted on Instagram and Facebook. Ken and his crew put on a nice Saturday dinner as part of the trip to Viroqua. One downside to the weekend was that the contact to the Wisconsin Highway Department never got back to Ken so he had to buy safety vests, pickers, etc. for the clean-up.

Communication:

W. Beshire briefed the Board on the status of our website. There continues to be glitches with the site including being locked out of the staging site. The website problems are related to the 26 plug-ins that were installed as part of the Wordpress upgrade. Our contractor continues to work on fixing the plug-ins. This work also requires fixing problems in the companion Flatsome webpage builder. As soon as the website is fixed, the Annual fundraising drive will be mailed to our membership..



W. Beshire reported that the newsletter was recently emailed out to the membership. It took a while to get it to post.

Treasurer's Report

J. Potts reported that he sent out the financials earlier in the week. This month's expenditures and revenues were pretty straight forward, nothing unusual. Most of the expenses were T.I.C. related expenses. Other activity included depositing some checks.

Programs:

S. Shapiro reported that he continues to work on lining up speakers the upcoming 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 is also exploring options of partnering with Lee Wulff to bring in a more well-known speaker. The Lee Wulff chapter meets on the third Thursday of the month. There could be some type of cost sharing to get speakers as well as a shared fundraising event during the day, ie tly tying event during the day. Other options include finding a prominent speaker to do a zoom event for both chapters in combination at Central Park West. The Board briefly discussed the best month to do this type of event. The Board also discussed in-person presentation versus presentation via Zoom and the pros and cons of each.

Conservation:

K. Graham will email the Conservation Committee Report to the Board at a later date.

Diversity Initiative:

A. Vitti briefed the Board on the Diversity Initiative Committee's last meeting. The committee is exploring partnering with other organizations to develop new audiences. One possibility is to partner with Reel & Healing Midwest for women battling and surviving all types of cancer. Other options include partnering with mental health organizations and veteran organizations to find intersections with these organizations and our organization. The Board briefly discussed other organizations that may be a good fit with our chapter.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: August 14, 2024
Date

Carol Hennessy
Carol Hennessy
Secretary