



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, May 8, 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
Carol Hennessy, Secretary
Willie Beshire
Art Cottrell
Ken Krueger
John Martyn
Greg Prosen
Steve Shapiro
Jim Dickens
Joe Vitti

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Excused:

Jack Potts, Treasurer
Keven Graham
Mike Lesiak
Marvin Strauch
Ed Michael

Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs Absent and Not Excused

Members present:

Annie Vitti

Call to Order:

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

Approve Minutes From the April 10, 2024 BOD Meeting:

A motion was made by J. Martyn and seconded by W. Beshire to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2024 Board Meeting with the correction of Mike Siepker's name. The motion passed.

Order of Business:

The order of business was approved without objections.



Reports:

Treasurer's Report

D. Carlson reported that J. Potts sent out the financials earlier in the week. This month's expenditures and revenues were pretty straight forward, nothing unusual. The Annual Report has been submitted to National TU before the deadline. As part of the report, we tallied 3,665 volunteer hours. TU National is asking chapters to track their activities for veterans and first responders. They are also looking for special events for under-represented communities.

President's Report

D. Carlson reported that 22 fishermen came to the Iowa fishing outing in April. In addition, there were two spouses and one niece as well as two staff members from the Iowa DNR joining them for dinner. Of the 22 anglers, four or five were from Central Illinois.

D. Carlson reported that they conducted some eDNA testing during the trip.

Education:

D. Carlson reported that M. Strauch emailed his Education Committee Report earlier in the day. The TIC program is wrapping up for the year with the trout releases going very well. Due to no one registering for the STREAM Girls program at Kankakee River State Park on May 4th, it was cancelled. There are eight girls registered for the June 22nd Stream Girls program. The Youth Flyfishing Program is filling up with most classes filled. The Macroinvertebrate study is set for June 1st. Fourteen people have signed up with four new volunteers.

Membership:

K. Krueger reported that the Adopt-a-Highway clean up day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th. This is part of an fishing outing based in Viroqua, Wisconsin. There are 11 signed up for the trip. The Board briefly discussed the schedule for that weekend. The stretch of highway for the trash pick-up is about five miles.

K. Krueger raised the question about proof of insurance since he was informed that Bass Pro Shop requires that for events held at their store. Our chapter is able to provide a proof of insurance card from TU National.

Communication:

W. Beshire briefed the Board on the Spring newsletter. The first draft is ready. He just needs to finalize the newsletter. After the newsletter, he will be turning his attention to the website. Since about a 1/3 of our annual fundraising drive is thru the website, that needs to be updated with the correct links. There continues to be a few glitches with the website, but he hopes to have them worked out soon.



W. Beshire reported that once again there will be a Fall Wisconsin trip at Nature Nooks on September 13th-15th. He was approached by Cheryl Vermillion who inquired about accommodations for women.

The Iowa trip is set for October 11th – 13th.

Programs:

S. Shapiro briefed the Board on the speaker for next week. Dr. Jarod Homola will be presenting on the topic of Brook Trout populations in Wisconsin, more specifically, on the recent genetic studies on Brook Trout in Wisconsin.

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. Potential topics are Steelhead Alley in Ohio and other fishing opportunities in the Great Lakes region of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Upstate New York.

Conservation:

D. Carlson in K. Graham's absence briefed the Board on our conservation activities. Steve Carlson and he met with Jake Lemon. New water monitors have been installed on the Dowagiac River. These will measure both temperature and connectivity. The Kalamazoo TU Chapter, MEANDERS and the Pokagon Band are teaming up with the local 4H club to do a Stream Kids Program, similar to Stream Girls.

The Coldwater Macroinvertebrate study is scheduled for June 1st.

There were 11 volunteers at the DuPage River Clean-up on April 27th.

There were 24 volunteers at the SE Wisconsin TU work day on April 20th. This work day was held at Bluff Creek and consisted of tree planting.

They will be meeting with Sara Straussman from TUDARE in the next couple of weeks to discuss potential projects in the Driftless.

In terms of our eDNA program, they took three samples during the recent Iowa trip. Samples were also taken on Karchner Creek.

Financial Development

J. Dickens reported that the rod that J. Vitti won at the 2022 Holiday Party has been ordered and delivered. It was a H20 Helios 10' four weight rod.

At last month's raffle, \$89 was raised. Thanks to Art Cottrell for organizing last month's raffle.

In terms of the annual fundraising drive, the letter is ready go. The insert is out for review. The printing is being done at cost saving us \$1,000 in printing costs.



J. Dickens raised the question regarding the rod raffle later this year. Instead of a rod, what is everyone's thoughts about raffling off a set of waders? They would need to be purchased at a discount.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by K. Krueger and seconded W. Beshire by to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: June 12, 2024
Date

Carol Hennessy
Carol Hennessy
Secretary