



Coulee Region TU Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. on May 9, 2024.

Board directors present: Berger, Freund, Kyte, Muresan, Rees, Spademan, Townsell, Welter D.

Board directors absent: Hubbard, Jester, Jonson, Welter K.

Quorum is present.

The President called for any discussion of the minutes of the prior meeting. There was no discussion and it was moved by Rees to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Townsell. The vote to accept to approve the minutes was unanimous.

President's Report

- The President called for discussion regarding the publishing of minutes on the Chapter's website. Spademan commented that email addresses on board package exhibits should be redacted as a practice. Muresan agreed that such a practice should be instituted and would not be difficult to do with an Adobe tool. A motion to publish the board meeting minutes on the Chapter website was made by Kyte and seconded by Townsell. After further discussion with respect to the appropriate disclosure of financial information the vote was unanimous.
- General Call for Volunteers – The President discussed some of the challenges with promoting need for volunteers: 1) the notice is often too short on time; 2) the same people are being imposed upon to volunteer (board members); 3) means to publicize the need and track respondents. It was suggested that a list of people could be developed to tap when needs arise and could be solicited via email, Facebook, and the Chapter website. Muresan was tasked to see if a MailChimp landing page could be utilized to gather names of potential volunteers.

Treasurer's Report

Financials were presented by Rees as Chapter Treasurer. It was reported that the current bank balance is sufficient to support anticipated activities. It was noted that the pending distribution of \$5,000 for the matching contribution to the Friends of Wisconsin TU grant for the Mormon Coulee project is still to be made.

Rees reviewed the 990 - Annual Activity Report filing the chapter must submit to National TU. He took questions from the board regarding the reporting which had been previously distributed to the Board for review. Motion was made by Welter D. and seconded by Berger to accept the 990 – Annual Activity Report filing and the Treasurer's Report as presented. There was no further discussion and the vote to accept both reports was unanimous.

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Committee Reports

- Membership Meetings – Muresan confirmed that the venue for the October meeting (Phoenix Banquets in Richland Center) has been reserved along with the Student Union at UW-L for November. Ideas for speakers for the January, March, and April meetings were solicited and it was suggested that Shawna McDowell would be a good choice. Muresan was tasked to contact her and make the invitation.
- Valley Day – May 4 – Muresan along with Freund, Spademan, Berger, and Welter D. report that the event went well – high traffic through the booth despite the rainy weather. Thanks go to the Genske family (Blake, Lauren, and Harland) for their assist with fly tying and spinner making.
- Chapter Picnic – May 15 - Plans for food and preparation were discussed. Muresan added that a grill might be desirable to expand the menu and volunteered to find something available. Rees is doing the shopping for the event and outlined what he would be bringing. Others volunteered to bring accompaniments.
- TroutFest – June 22 – Berger and Muresan outlined the program as an expansion of the activities from prior years. We are going to need many volunteers and can accommodate morning and afternoon shifts so that it does not need to be an all-day volunteer. Muresan reported that fund raising for the event was going slow – many potential donors had already donated to TroutFest and were unable to separately help CRTU. To date, \$450 has been raised and time to decide on whether to invest in the shirt purchase was near. Muresan reported that at least \$2,100 beyond the funds already raised would be needed for the 300 shirts and printing. It was suggested that 50 of these shirts be reserved for StreamGirls. A motion to approve expenditure on the shirts and printing for TroutFest of up to \$2,100 was made by Welter D. and seconded by Spademan. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous. It was suggested that temporary tattoos of the chapter logo would be fun to incorporate into the activities at TroutFest and StreamGirls.
- Youth Outdoor Fest – July 13 – joint venture event with La Crosse Parks and Fish and Wildlife Service – need minimum of 3 people; 4-5 volunteers would be ideal. Berger, Freund and Spademan indicated interest.
- StreamGirls – August 10 –Volunteers will be needed (female anglers would be great). Ideas for the shirts reserved from TroutFest are welcome.

Old Business

- NRCS streambank stabilization project for Tainter Creek – Freund reported that this project has been re-scheduled to 2025. No financial assistance needed at this time.
- WDNR request for financial/workday assistance for tree cages – Freund reported that the WDNR was not in a hurry about this project and Freund will follow-up on a time schedule.
- Appeal for volunteers to cook for the 5 Rivers Event April 27th and 28th – Freund stated that we received no response to our offer to split the cost of food with the Clearwater Chapter of TU. Event has passed.
- Provision of food/cooking for State Council Meeting – June 1 – Freund reported the Council will reimburse for the cost of food and CRTU would provide the labor and effort. It has been suggested to do lasagna and plan to feed 40 people (5 lasagnas).
- Grant Funding availability – Paul Krahn forwarded information to the chapter regarding the availability of grant funding from the Coldwater Land Conservancy – 1:1 match up to \$10,000. Freund mentioned that he would like to see the chapter pursue more grant

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funding and have to rely less on fundraising efforts at the banquet. This item was tabled for future discussion

- Driftless Habitat Maintenance Project – a funding request from this project was made to the chapter – total program of cost is \$24,000 with a match from the Trout Stamp Fund of \$12,000. Lee Wulff and Elliot Donnelley chapters have pledged \$2,000 each. It was noted that Richland County is the only area in our chapter included in this project. A motion to support this project with a \$1,000 contribution was made by Welter D. and seconded by Townsell. There was no further discussion and the vote to approve the motion was unanimous.
- Monroe County Resilient Infrastructure Initiative – a request for a letter of support to Congress for this initiative. Freund has drafted a letter of support for review of the board.
- Film Festival – Driftless Angler – Board felt there was need for further clarification on what was needed/expected. It was suggested that we could distribute materials on windshields or solicit donations to the chapter. Freund was to have another discussion with Driftless Angler.

New Business

- Various requests for volunteers were made: 2024 Women on the Water Fly Fishing Skills Clinic – June 12-14 – request for mentor guides; WDNR Timber Coulee Tree Planting – May 13; Weekend Trout Fishing West Fork Sports Club – May 17-19
- Vernon County Board Special Meeting on the dam decommission for Coon Creek and West Fork Kickapoo watersheds was reported on by Muresan – attended the meeting via Zoom and is troubling as it seems everything is a foregone conclusion but no one knows what has been decided. Kirk Olson indicated there may be some better news on Jersey dam.
- Letter of College Recommendation for Lauren Genske (if requested) – The Chapter would like to support Lauren with a college recommendation letter if requested. Motion to offer a letter of college recommendation for Lauren Genske from the Chapter was made by Welter D. and seconded by Freund. There was no further discussion and the vote to approve the motion was unanimous.
- Request for teaching at Norskedalen – Due to TUDARE being unavailable for the May 14, the Chapter was asked if they could provide volunteers to teach stream entomology. Welter D. volunteered.
- Rees presented news from oratrails.org and the opening of new area including Hammel Creek. This organization presents another opportunity for collaboration for conservation. Jed Olson is their representative.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Freund and seconded by Rees. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Submitted:

Deborah Muresan, Chapter Secretary