



Coulee Region TU Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on October 10, 2024.

Board directors present: Berger, Freund, Jonson, Kyte, Muresan, Spademan, Townsell, and Welter K.

Board directors absent: Hubbard, Jester, Rees, and Welter D.

Quorum is present.

The President called for any discussion of the minutes of the September 12th meeting. There was no discussion and it was moved by Townsell to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jonson. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

President's Report

- The President reported on the issuance of the final draft of the position paper for the dam decommissioning on Coon Creek and West Fork watersheds. There was discussion from the floor regarding distribution of the paper. It was suggested that the position paper and economic impact statement be emailed to the chapter membership via MailChimp with a link to the Vernon County Board of Supervisors and a request that any member so inclined could distribute the position paper to their district supervisor. The chapter would distribute copies of both documents to the entire Vernon County Board of Supervisors from the CRTU email account along with Ben Wojan (Vernon County Conservationist) and Bob Micheel (Monroe County Conservationist). The Secretary was instructed to accomplish this distribution. It was also suggested that copies be sent to the Crawford County Independent and Vernon County Reporter newspapers. Also to be distributed to Sydney Widell with the Coon Creek Community Watershed Council. The President called for a motion to accept the position paper on the Coon Creek and West Fork Watershed Dam Decommissioning as presented. It was moved by Townsell and Jonson that the board accept the position paper as official. The vote to accept the position paper was unanimous.
- The President reported that the kickoff for the ORA Trail project is Saturday, October 19. Further opportunities for engagement can be found on the ORA Trail website – <https://www.oratrails.org/calendar>. Projects within the Community Trail Farm may have some opportunities for CRTU as there is a thriving Brook trout population in the area of Pammel Creek that could be supported.

Treasurer's Report

Financials were presented by the President in the absence of the 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 (Friends of Wisconsin TU grant and CRTU Chapter match) for the Mormon Coulee project is to be diverted to Dutch Creek as the Mormon Coulee project is delayed.

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During the discussion, Spademan mentioned that many federally-chartered banks are required to participate in community reinvestment activities and stream restoration and maintenance work might qualify for funding from those sources.

Motion was made by Kyte and seconded by Welter K. to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. There was no further discussion and the vote to accept the report was unanimous.

Committee Reports

- Membership Events – Muresan reported that the arrangements for the October 16 meeting were confirmed and that Berger had been outfitted with items needed for the reception duties. Thanks to Berger for volunteering to fill-in. The November membership event is set for the Student Union on the UW-L campus on November 20. The presentation by the UW-L ecology students to include results of the winter mortality study; preliminary logger data analysis from the CRTU-sponsored logger program; and a potential report from Kirk Olson of WDNR on conservation topics of interest.

Old Business

- 2025 Fundraising Campaign Ideas – Muresan proposed adopting an annual event schedule to help us have conversations about cash donations to support the events. No action was taken on this topic and the President will consider appointing a smaller committee to work on this issue of expanding the Chapter's financial support sources.
- Community Partner's Day/Event – Muresan reported that no progress had been made on this issue due to time spent on the drafting of the position paper. Muresan hopes to get back to developing this idea in the future with the assistance of Welter D.
- Chris Veit situation update – Muresan distributed the message sent to Mr. Veit and reported there had been no further response. Issue is considered closed.
- Driftless Trout Trifecta idea update – Muresan proposed an event similar to the Utah Cutthroat Slam at the previous meeting. There is no new information to report pending a response from the Utah Cutthroat Slam organizers.
- Monroe County Request for Easement Mowing Contribution – Item passed until the Treasurer could be available to report. The President would try to contact Bob Micheel in the meantime for any update.
- Rent-A-Goat – Muresan proposed this as a chapter contest having members nominate an easement for maintenance and the chapter to pay for the rental. It was determined that more information was needed.
- Outdoors Forever update – Item passed until the Treasurer could be available to report.

New Business

- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh "Freshwater Camp" – a suggestion from Townsell as a project to sponsor local high school students. His granddaughter (Katie) participated and would be willing to discuss details. Berger offered to reach out and contact Katie for more details.
- Additional supplies for TIC project – Berger reported that additional maintenance and replacement items were necessary for the start-up of the new TIC project at Lemonweir. He is requesting reimbursement of \$121.10. A motion to approve the expenditure was made by Berger and seconded by Townsell. There was no further discussion and the vote to reimburse the expenditure was unanimous.

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Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted:

Deborah Muresan, Chapter Secretary