

**ECTU Board Meeting
November 9, 2016; 6:30 pm
Board Room, Hotel La Fonda de Taos**

In Attendance: Tom Harper, Bill Adkison, Larry Kelley, Doc Thompson, Bart Hazelton, Paul White, Doug Palmer, and Marilyn Farrow.

On motion by Bill and second by Doug, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously. The Agenda was amended on motion by Marilyn, second by Doug, to add two items: authorized bank signers, discussion of the value of maintaining stream flows. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Paul reported we have \$33,000 in the bank, of which \$20,000 is committed to the Hondo tributary project, and \$5,000 to the Red River work. There are some tournament bills outstanding; Tom submitted some miscellaneous tournament expenses; Paul will work with Nick Streit to finalize the tournament numbers. \$300 has been sent to the Quivira Coalition as requested at the last meeting. Paul has a bill from Hank Paterson for \$1,200 as the speaker fee for the 2017 Banquet. Travel (estimated air fare of \$4-500) and lodging will be additional costs; Doc is working on getting some of the expenses covered

National TU is encouraging conscientious tracking of volunteer hours. All time spent on TU work outside of meetings should be recorded and submitted to Paul monthly. Hours to be tracked include time with CFR, PHW, making phone calls, etc.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that our account #10659628 at People's Bank will be amended to align with our history and by-laws as follows: President Tom Harper will be an authorized signer on checks; Treasurer Paul White and Secretary Marilyn Farrow will continue as signers on our account; and Past President Bill Adkison will be removed as a signer, but will continue to be granted access to the account as he will oversee our financial activities.

Marilyn moved and Bill seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul reported that the Banquet committee had met, and Saturday, May 6 will be the date of the 2017 Banquet. Committee members visited Old Martina's Hall and Sagebrush. Old Martina's can seat about 160 people; there is a stage for the program, and auction items can be displayed around the perimeter. Martina's has beer and wine license; may have full license by the date of the banquet. Sagebrush has a new contact and cannot confirm any dates until after the first of the year. Paterson is confirmed for May 6; if he were to stay over for a "Fish with a Celebrity" day on Sunday, May 7, there would be an additional \$400 fee. The banquet committee will determine if the "Celebrity" day is a viable option for a high-value raffle ticket sale. If we go forward with this raffle idea, Doc Thompson would donate his guide services for May 7.

The Holiday Party and gear swap tentatively set for December 6 will be changed to a Winter Social event after the first of the year. Doug and Ben Herman will explore.

Tom circulated a copy of the article he wrote and submitted to the Taos News sports editor, Arcenio Trujillo. Mr. Trujillo said he would publish it at some point.

The subject of creating an email newsletter was discussed. A good model is the newsletter of the San Luis Valley chapter of TU. ECTU will seek a responsible individual to be paid to post accounts of activities; the event coordinator will provide an article if possible, or at a minimum the following information: what was the event, who was there, and photos of the event. The coordinator will also send information to Emily 60 days out to facilitate marketing of the event. Tom and Larry, while at a first responders' meeting, had met a young woman with the NM Wildlife Federation who does that sort of work – but because we have a good working relationship with Emily Roley, Tom will talk to her first to see if she is interested in expanding her role. Suggestions for the content of a newsletter included listing of upcoming events, projects progress, and identification of how to become involved.

The Board Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, alternating with member events. Board meetings will be in the La Fonda board room; Tom will confirm dates with the hotel.

December 13 – Board Meeting	July – Member Event
January 2017 – Winter Social	August 8 – Board Meeting
February 14 – Board Meeting	September - ?
March – Member Event	October 14 & 15 - Tournament
April – Board Meeting	November 14 – Board Meeting
May 6 – Banquet, Old Martina's Hall	December - ?
June – ? (River Clean-Up?)	

Paul reported on Project Healing Waters; their last trip was to the private ponds of Stan Harrell in Black Lake. Paul, Tom and 6 to 8 vets had a great time catching 20" fish; so much fun they didn't quit until after 4 pm! During the winter months the group will focus on techniques, e.g. setting up dry-dropper riggings, knot tying, etc. Paul is currently recruiting members as well as fundraising for their participation in the tournament. All a vet needs to participate is a Veterans' Administration proof of disability; men and women are welcome.

Tom and Doc attended the Catch and Release public meeting in Chama gathering opinions on the proposed 3.5 mile stretch of the Chama river below Heron Lake. There were 34 people present, 17 for, and 17 against, each side with fairly strong views. Tom is writing a response to the various objections raised (e.g. our culture....always fished with bait, hooks, etc. There needs to be a clearer definition of what catch and release means. Game and Fish will offer more time for public

comment. If ECTU is to pursue Catch and Release on the Red, ECTU must work with the Questa Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, etc., and get appropriate information to their representatives in order to avoid a response of “we never heard anything about it.”

Marc and Tom went to Questa to learn about the clean-up status. They found involved parties to be calm with things moving on schedule for construction of catch basins; by the end of 2017 the project will just be monitoring.

Doug initiated a discussion of our current NM water laws governing stream flows, and how Colorado worked with Trout Unlimited to find ways to conserve the health of streams and concurrently make money from fly fishers. Doug suggested Tom contact Melinda Cassis (303-579-5453) to engage her and/or Justice Greg Hobbs to present a program to members on how to get laws written and passed. If ranchers can get better usage, the irrigators may be responsive. It was also suggested we involve the NM TU Council in this concern.

Doc suggested our chapter work on involving outlying communities, perhaps with annual dedicated community-driven river clean up projects. As an example, the Starr Fly Shop guides would be interested in participating in, and helping drive participation in, a Red River community event.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Farrow
Secretary