

Annual Meeting
Trout Unlimited Enchanted Circle Chapter
September 17, 2016
Bravo Campground Pavilion
Orilla Verde Recreation Area

In Attendance: Bill Adkison, Paul White, Roy Dunlap, Tom & Ellen Harper, Jim Morgan, Ken Harrold, Chris Herring, Raymond Sanders, Carolyn Sanders, Dave Delken, Tim Christian, and Marilyn Farrow.

President called the Annual Meeting to order at 5:15 pm and promptly distributed TU bumper stickers to all in attendance. Then door prizes were awarded to Marilyn Farrow (Fly Fishing New Mexico), Tom Harper (Fly Fisher's Playbook), and Bill Adkison (7 wt. LL Bean fly rod), which Bill promptly donated to Jim Morgan for his use at the annual Lake Maloya youth event.

Bill's recap of the year began with recognition of, and thanks to, the prior year's officers and board. First, he offered the good news: Since last year's annual meeting membership has increased from 125 people to 135. ECTU is financially sound, and pursuing their commitment to conservation through funding two plastic sleeves to go into culverts protecting the Hondo tributaries' native trout populations. An \$87,000 grant has been applied for further work on the Red River just upstream from the Ranger Station. The ECTU Red River cleanup day in August was lightly attended, but the help was sufficient as there was very little trash to be found. We continue to pursue designating the Red from the footbridge at the Hatchery downstream to the confluence with the Rio Grande as a catch and release, single hook, fishery. Our Trout in the Classroom set-ups are at the high school in Red River (3 years), beginning this year at Taos High School with the support of David Gilroy, and a new one at the Taos Charter School in Chrissy Streit's 5th grade classroom. In 2016 we participated in youth activities at both the Fish Fiesta and at Lake Maloya. We continue to support Casting for Recovery and their annual retreats through representatives Doug Palmer and Marilyn Farrow. We also support Project Healing Waters through fly tying in the winter, and fishing in the Summer. Many thanks to Paul White for his leadership of that group. Our chapter is blessed with a very diverse group of people devoted to conservation, education and outreach.

The report of the not-so-good news was that event participation is down despite increased Facebook, newsletter, and email communications. Even with Marc Harrell's excellent information outreach, we had a very low volunteer turnout for the Red River cleanup. Those who did attend had great lunch provided by Marc, and the opportunity for some excellent visiting. With regard to the 2016 Tournament scheduled for October 8 and 9, to date only 2 teams are signed up. The cost is \$350 per person for the two days fun guided fishing. Four teams are required to make it a viable event. Bill further discussed the need for more committee members; committee chairs are listed on the website and people are encouraged to contact them to volunteer.

Treasurer Paul White distributed printed copies of his financial report. The Banquet brought in \$13,269.49 with expenses of \$3,871.40. Our current bank balance as of this date is \$36,164.54. Of that, \$20,000 is committed to the Rio Hondo Tributaries, and \$4,896 is reserved for work on the Red River for a total of \$24,896 committed to existing projects. When the new TIC setup (estimated at \$1,500) is installed at the Charter School we will have \$9,768.54 in available funds.

Looking to our financial future it is hoped the Tournament will bring in \$5,000, and with the addition of the Banquet income in 2017, it is anticipated we will have \$20-25,000 by next year. In determining the strategy for use of the funds, we have learned the best use of funds is to leverage our resources to get projects started – that is, providing seed money.

Our commitment to the Hondo tributaries includes the purchase of 2 plastic sleeves to be inserted in existing culverts at a cost of \$20,000. This will increase the velocity of the water flow; no NEPA or archaeological studies are needed; this is considered simply maintenance on the culverts. The sleeves will in no way compromise the road; this solution will cost a fraction of an earlier proposed \$175,000 solution. The Forest Service will provide the manpower and equipment to install this spring. Insertion of these sleeves will protect the cut throat trout.

Studies are now being done on the Red River; ECTU will donate up to \$5,000 of in-kind or cash (from current funds) to get moving the project proposed to improve the Red above the Ranger Station. \$1,000 has been pledged by ECTU to the Truchas chapter of TU for an education initiative about the Pecos; Rich Schraeder of River Source is leading the current work. The Truchas program includes field trips and classroom time for the students to teach analysis of the stream flow, water quality, and macro invertebrates. The students are doing the counts and will provide an assessment of the riparian environment.

ECTU is working with the Quivira group for improvements along the Costilla and Commanche Creeks. Last year ECTU provided tools, and joined work teams. Ken Harrold will attend an October 12 meeting to learn more about this year's proposed work.

Jim Morgan raised the ongoing reality that fishing and other sports have no "standing" in regulations of flows in New Mexico streams and rivers, and there is no requirement there is water in any stream at any time. He proposed ECTU consider undertaking legislative activities to change the belief that water is only beneficial when it is taken out of a stream (e.g. irrigation).

Paul stated he always has the checkbook and bank statements of the chapter available at all meetings for anyone interested in reviewing them. The Treasurer's report was received, and Paul was heartily thanked for his thorough and conscientious maintenance of the chapter's financial records.

Elections were then held; Tom Harper (Vice President in 2016) was nominated and unanimously elected president; Treasurer Paul White and Secretary Marilyn Farrow were nominated to continue in their current positions. 2015-2016 president Bill Adkison was thanked as he becomes Past President and congratulated for the achievements he led over the past 2 years. No candidate was identified for Vice President, so the position will remain open for now.

The bylaws provide for no less than 3 nor more than 6 members, along with the officers, will serve as the chapter's Board of Directors. The Board meets every other month; staggered terms are for 3 years. The continuing members of the ECTU Board are Marc Harrell, Bart Hazleton, Ben Hermann, and Doug Palmer. Doc Thompson and Larry Kelly were nominated and unanimously elected to join the board this year. The minutes of all board meetings are available on our website.

In closing, all were invited to participate in the Tournament October 8 & 9; just contact Nick Streit and he can put you on a team. The event is meant to be fun, not hard-core, and significant prizes will be awarded.

The first week of December we will hold a holiday party and gear swap; Ben Hermann will be offering details in the near future.

The next Board meeting will be held October 11; new president Tom Harper will check out potential alternative locations; if no announcement is made to the contrary, the meeting will be held in the La Fonda hotel boardroom. All are welcome to attend.

And finally, Taos High School graduation is set for the same weekend as the Banquet; a different date should possibly be considered to assure full participation by our Taos members.

The meeting was adjourned, and a hot dog & hamburger dinner was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Farrow
Secretary.