

**Trout Unlimited Enchanted Circle Board Retreat**  
**January 13, 2016; 9 am – 3 pm**  
**Mabel Dodge Luhan Lodge**

In Attendance: Bob Longoria (Facilitator), Bill Adkison, Eric Patterson, Paul White, Ben Herman, Bart Hazleton, Tom Harper, Doug Palmer, Marilyn Farrow

**NOTES**

**Reasons for joining TU-EC**

- Meet like-minded people with whom to fish after attending a meeting elsewhere and not wishing to become engaged
- Took one board member 2 years to FIND ECTU
- Interested in bringing back the natives
- Coalitions of like-minded groups
- Community activities, especially with young people
- Interaction with community coupled with career in conservation
- Opportunity to use training in biology.
- Ability to pass on to next generation; get parents and kids involved in protecting habitat
- Have enjoyed a lifetime of fishing – this is chance to give back and improve our streams; also interested in getting kids involved.
- Long-time member Federation of Fly Fishers; TU is more hands-on
- Create greater awareness in community of stream conservation
- Teach proper techniques (catch & release; killing if keeping)
- You can do a big project on your own
- Am an environmentalist and a fisherperson

**Vision for the Chapter**

- Become true community to improve Enchanted Circle waters
- Cold water conservation & water quality with kids actively contributing
- Do more with small streams and habitat
- Want to increase kids' participation
- Want to continue to improve habitat
- Be conservation leader in our area and be known as such to locals & visitors

**Feelings about Last Retreat (September 22, 2014)**

- Achieved a sense of direction; problem = lack of people to step up and accept responsibilities although expectations were clear
- We are now way ahead of 2 years ago;
  - most projects are well attended
  - Question – Are the right persons in the right seats?
  - Question -Was there support for the potential leaders identified?

- Accomplishments come from individuals, not “the chapter”
- If we don’t ask others to volunteer we deprive them of the chance to participate
- There are un-utilized opportunities for personal contacts to be made; opportunities to ask
- Membership’s geographic distribution precludes some interactions
  - Move meetings around (Angel Fire?)
    - Problem – finding someone to organize remote meetings
  - Have multiple meetings; not expect everyone to attend every meeting

### **State of the Chapter Report (Bill Adkison)**

#### **Successes:**

- Measure of Success? Look around this room.
- Our 115 +/- members do more than most larger chapters
- We’ve had a lot of fun
- Chapter has been in existence 8+ years, have money in the bank, have effective fundraising; have a budget and adhere to it
- Education
  - Trout in the Classroom, Taos Tiger Salamanders, Youth Day, Pajarito Center in Los Alamos
    - Question – How leverage that contribution? A kid’s trip to see Center?
- Outreach
  - Project Healing Waters
  - Casting for Recovery
  - Liaisons allow others to be involved
- Conservation
  - Red River projects
  - Stream Clean-Up on Cimarron involved about 70 volunteers
  - Hondo Tribs on track to be completed in 2016
- Relationships
  - Quivira, Rio Costilla Cattlemens’ Association = major accomplishment
  - Red River partners – Questa Economic Development Board, Chevron Moly Mine, BLM, FS
- Improved Socials, Banquet
- Tournament is engaging participants
- Meetings more palatable, becoming more fun

#### **Opportunities to improve**

- Networking with government & non-government people
  - BLM, Amigos Bravos, Forest Service, Quivira, Chevron Moly Mine, Boy Scouts
- Interacting with Fly Shops, related businesses
  - Tell them how TU helps them
- Pursue Grant Money; there’s plenty of it out there!

- Do not have a conservation **plan**
- Need to engage more of our members
- Have more fishing activities
- Identify and market to our members our “value-add”
  - Annual Meeting food
  - Red River habitat improvement
- Failure to “brand” – need to be TU-EC, not reverse
  - Benefits of Red River project for “catch & keep” fisherpeople
  - Educate on when to keep, when to release fish
  - Be aware of difference between people who fish for sport and those who fish for dinner
  - Is TU Fly Fishing? Or Any Fishing?
    - Identify & promote Catch & Release enhances sustainability
- Be Pro-active, not reactive

### **Meetings & Events**

- Had 6 Board meetings & 4 General membership meetings in 2015.
  - Need enough General to keep people engaged & aware of projects
  - Should continue to alternate Board & General meetings
  - Socials are counted as General meetings
  - Board meetings should be monitoring of committee activities, progress
- Still experimenting with location, content
- Not tapping all 115 members; solution = “just call them”
- Have something that includes families
- Have some meetings on weekends
  - Weeknights = barrier for remote members’ participation
  - Younger members are busy on weeknights with kids, often working too late to want to participate
- Board Meetings can often be handled by conference call
  - Most @ retreat prefer “in person” to telephone meetings
  - Work done by committees & reported to Board
- Identify General Meetings as “Events” – term “meeting” is a turn-off
  - Board & Annual – only “meetings”

### **Expanding Event participation**

- Re how to contact: For Banquet reservations, responses were 60 by email; 40% by USPS
- Send Bill’s update to email list,
  - include proposed calendar
  - Invite to visit website (provide link)
- Get the State TU calendar updated (contact info way out of date!)
- Create “calling tree”
  - Board members all 10-15 people each
  - Some may be best reached by email

## **Proposed 2016 Calendar**

- Wednesday, January 13 Board Retreat, Mabel Dodge Lujan, 9-3  
Doug Palmer: Logistics  
Bob Longoria: Facilitator  
Photographer: Bill Adkison
- Tuesday, February 9, 2016 Chapter Meeting and program  
6:00 p.m. Gorge Bar and Grill  
Program Coordinator: Bill Adkison  
Program: Noah Parker on Chama River C&R initiative  
Photographer: Bill Adkison
- Saturday, February 13 Winter Social  
@4 or 5:30, Gorge Restaurant  
Program Coordinator: Bill Adkison  
Advertising Posters: Emily Roley  
Program: Duayne Redford, author Flyfisherman's  
Playbook- Will offer fly-tying & book signing in pm;  
No-host dinner w/talk on Taylor River  
Redford will receive a small fee  
Photographer: Bill Adkison
- Tuesday, Mar 15 Board Meeting  
Hotel La Fonda de Taos  
6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16 General Membership Event  
Possibly @ 3 pm; Gorge Restaurant  
(allows attendees to fish the "tax hatch")  
Program Coordinator: Bill Adkison  
Program: Van Beecham presentation on his  
Guiding experiences in Wyoming, Culebra & elsewhere  
Photographer: Adkison
- Friday, May 20 Banquet & Auction  
Sagebrush Inn  
Program Coordinator & Logistics: Paul White  
Silent Auction: Marilyn Farrow  
Photographer: TBD
- Tuesday, June 14 Board Meeting  
La Fonda Hotel Conference Room  
Coordinator: President Bill Adkison  
Discussions to include Valle Vidal planning  
Bart to confirm dates, etc., w/Mark Torres

Note: 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in June = National Free Fishing Day  
1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in June – Taos Streams and Trails Cleanup

- Saturday, July 9                      General Membership Event  
Clean-Up on lower Red River  
Coordinator of event: TBD  
Fishing Event for Kids  
    Include Boy Scouts (for Merit Badge)  
    Include St James Youth Group  
    Doug & Marilyn to coordinate  
Photographer:
- Tuesday August 9                      Board Meeting  
La Fonda Hotel Conference Room  
Coordinator: President Bill Adkison
- Friday, September 17                      Annual Meeting  
Orilla Verde Campground, 4 pm meet; 5 pm dinner  
Fishing suggested pre-meeting  
Coordinator: President Bill Adkison  
Program Coordinator: Bill O, Marilyn, Bill A  
Program: Tom, Louis Bacon's fish biologist @  
Trinchera  
Business Meeting: State of the Chapter, Elections  
Dinner (provided by Chapter)  
Dinner Coordinator: Doug Palmer  
Photographer:
- Tuesday October 11                      Board Meeting  
La Fonda Hotel Conference Room  
Coordinator: President Tom Harper
- Tuesday, December 6                      Holiday Party  
Program:  
Equipment Swap  
Swap Coordinators: Doug, Ben  
Regional Guides talk  
Talk Coordinators: Bart & Tom  
TU member photo contest w/prizes (best photo, not  
best fish) "Keep 'em WET!"  
Photographer:

**Program Ideas on schedule**

- Fishing Event (5)
- Bacon's Fish Biologist (5)

- Equipment Swap (3)
- Regional Guides (3)
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### **Other Program Ideas (and number of votes cast in their favor)**

- Consumers' perspective of fishing in Argentina/Patagonia
- Memorial streamside for Jock Fleming; FS & BLM organizing
- Impact on Colorado & New Mexico Water Laws (1)
- Presentation on Commanche Creek work in 2015 & 2016 (1)
- Presentations by Game & Fish (2)
- Game & Fish lay person
- Presentation by BLM
- Rick Schrader – High School, kids, Rio Grande)
- Vermejo Park –Leif - re stocking engineered vs natural fish (2)
- Amigos Bravo re Rio Fernando (2)

### **Communications/Publicity**

- Re how to contact: For Banquet reservations, responses were 60 by email; 40% by USPS
- Send Bill's update to email list,
  - include proposed calendar
  - Invite to visit website (provide link)
- Get the State TU calendar updated (contact info way out of date!)
- Create "calling tree"
  - Board members each call 10-15 people to invite to participate
  - Some may be best reached by email
  - Get meeting notices up in Fly Shops

### **Communications/Publicity**

- Secretary = Internal communications
- PR = External communications
  - Website
  - Social Media
  - Newsletter
  - Newspaper
  - Radio
  - Emailing re events
- Paid assistance desirable
  - Louis Moya, UNM, to be contacted about students to handle
- Failure to Brand – topic at next Board Meeting
  - Logo
    - Adopt National look?
    - Use National AND current ECTU?
    - Bill A to research National images

- Pamphlets when fishing (8 ½" x 11 tri fold)
- Distribute cards when fishing

## **Committees**

- Marilyn to write job descriptions
- For Education Chair, Eric to contact Jim Gilroy
- For Communications, Bill A &
- Doug to contact Mike Ritterhouse, Louis Moya
- Grant Writing, Paul is Finance Chair
- Nominating Committee = Entire Board
- Government Affairs
  - Responsibilities are cultivating relationships
    - FS, BLM, Game & Fish, politicians
  - Primary responsibility rests with current president
    - 2 year continuity
  - President assisted by Immediate Past President, VP
    - Past = History, VP = building future relationships
  - Desirable to enlist retired government employee
- Outreach
  - Project Healing Waters liaison = Jim Wenger
  - Casting for Recovery liaison = Marilyn Farrow
  - River Cleanup –
    - ECTU = Lower Red in 2016; below footbridge @ hatchery
      - Involve Boy Scouts
      - Provide picnic
      - Bill A seek coordinator
      - Coordinate with G&F and BLM
        - They provide bags, pick up trash, et.c.
    - Separate from Town of Taos Clean Up (Amigos Bravo & RMYC organizing)
      - Eric to confirm date
    - Donate \$100 to be shown on advertising as sponsor of Town of Taos Clean Up

## **Succession Planning**

- Each officer to find own replacement
  - ID candidate(s)
  - provide name(s) to Nominating Committee by end of July
- Each committee should have a vice-chair to act as understudy training to take position next
- When recruiting, present as honor, opportunity to make a difference
- Involve potential leaders in activities, identify their strengths to assure their participation in appropriate endeavors
- All of current officers on their first terms; can run for another term if desired

## Home Waters

- Preferred Home Waters Project = Catch & Release on lower Red River
- We have a fund for small projects/local streams such as signs we put up @ Cabresto
- Currently in background = Rio Grand Watershed Alliance Federal Grant Request w/BLM & FS in Washington DC
  - Bart to be our “ears” to keep us posted
  - Project Goal = high quality waters
    - Would involve tree thinning, etc.
  - All our local streams flow into the Rio Grande
    - Amigos Bravo investigating Rio Fernando improvements
- What is ECTU's philosophy?
  - Just native trout? Or any cold water environment
  - Stockers are for the “catch & keep” fisherpeople
  - Support “commercial” projects to aid the economy vs any cold water
  - Natives are getting hammered
  - Natives have no representatives – no voice for Catch & Release;
    - if not us, then who will do it
- Need to get Game & Fish determination of what waters will have what fish as designated in their 10-year plan

## Priorities for Coming Year - 2016

### #1 = Catch & Release on Lower Red

- On record as wanting Catch & Release below footbridge by hatchery
  - Adkison sent letter to Mike Sloan, G&F
  - Now is the time based on recent work on of Catch & Keep stretches of Red @ Questa and Hatchery
  - Must handle delicately & with proper research
    - Current Catch & Release vs Catch & Keep Waters
    - Statistics similar to those Chama advocates used

### #1 = Concurrent Priority, Hondo Tributaries

- We have already invested financially in all the background studies; most of the work is done
- Need to put pressure on FS Ranger
- Need to put pressure on Biologist with Department of Transportation to provide final draft
- We can offer “boots on the ground”
- Hondo Tribs critical to any future development of Rio Hondo @ TSV
  - Toner & Mar Harrell have made tentative contacts w/TSV people
  - Bill A to backtrack w/Toner; will include Forest Supervisor in meeting

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### Other Possibilities



- Rio Pueblo (runs along Golf Course)
- Little Rio Grande (runs along Hwy 518)
- Help ameliorate flood damage to Cimarron caused by 2015 flood

### **Annual Banquet**

- A May date may increase participation of part-time residents
- Paul to look into graphics capabilities @ National TU
- Already have a donated raffle item trip from Aurelio, Corso Costilla Creek Fishing Lodge

### **Additional Requests Presented**

- David Gilroy presented Eric request for funds for transportation for Taos Tiger Salamanders
  - Gilroy to submit written proposal (Marilyn provided form to Eric for transmission to David)
- Eric requested TU memberships be awarded to Taos Tiger Salamanders again this year
- Eric provided Zebco rods & reels to all Salamanders last year (15 @ \$15 ea = \$225); requested ECTU underwrite this year
  - TU is a conservation organization
- Chapter has 4 Fly rods valued at around \$125 each available to award @ banquet to top scholars from Taos Tigers Salamanders who participate at Banquet as they did last year
- Cabella has fly fishing outfits available for \$35 and up

### **Question – Is Women’s initiative still on (\$15 membership)?**

- Doug to inquire

### **Understanding the duties and responsibilities of paid TU staff**

- Toner = statewide initiatives
- Jason Amaro = currently SW native trout initiative

### **This meeting would be a success for me if.....**

A Calendar of events is scheduled

- With separation of Board Meetings and General Membership Events
- Names of responsible persons, dates established
- A Plan with priorities
  - Specific projects identified
  - Holding to that plan throughout year
  - Accountability established

Rising Energy

Nice to see everybody

Excellent Facilitator

A good education for a new team member

**Next Steps**

Bring a friend to next membership event

Nail the calendar by next Board meeting