

H&L Nohr Trout Unlimited Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022, @The Hollow, Montfort, WI

Members present: Don Pluemer, John Morton, Carol Murphy, Gordon Grieshaber, Dave Swanson, Kurt Meyer, Kyle Richards, Mike Mooney.

Via Zoom: Tom France (from Argentina, our first international meeting attendee), Todd Templen, Ted Swenson.

Called to order @7 pm.

1. Approval of Agenda. Done.
2. Approval of previous minutes from 11/16/2021. Approved unanimously.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Treasurer's report, John: Previously distributed via email. John summarized those numbers tonight. He is responsible for reporting all of the volunteer hours to TU National. He proposes that everyone keep track of their volunteer hours, by category, and report them to this chapter annually in April so they can be compiled and reported to National. Remember to keep track of the hours you spend for the organization. John will distribute more information as to what qualifies as diversity activities. Categories of volunteer work hours are: Conservation, science and monitoring; communications and engagement; youth education; veterans/first responders; fundraising; board operations and management. John's treasurer's report was accepted unanimously. Note made of new donations to the project fund from Jim Sime and Terry Guerink/Sally Wilmeth. We have a sizeable donation from the Tim Fraley estate which is now in a trust at Edward Jones.
5. Diversity initiatives/water monitoring reports, Carol: She has several groups of women coming together from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa in April, May-June, and September with a fishing and overnight event in each state. This is in addition to the Fishing Clinic at the West Fork of the Kickapoo. Water Monitoring refresher and new training will be available soon. Carol will send out an email announcing when. If interested in being a water monitor please contact Carol. The State DNR is putting a course together and some new technology on better entomology to improve stream aquatic insect monitoring.
6. Workdays/website reports, Ted: Previously approved payment to the website builder, Gregg Gamm \$1,525 via email vote on January 13, 2022. Anticipate that we will need to budget about \$200 annually to keep Gregg on a retainer for questions, guidance, and maintenance of the site. There is also an annual fee to have a website. Ted is in the process of loading project reports onto the site. He is working on the addition of ".org" domain. Carol suggested a couple of things to update on the site. Dave suggested that pictures are invaluable for the site. Send them to Ted if one has good pictures. John pointed out that the National Site has some incorrect data regarding our chapter's officers and site links. Several contacts to correct those were discussed. Ted has two work dates with the Southern Chapter on June 4 and May 21 on the Smith-Conley Creek. He is working with the DNR on getting stiles on the Little Grant River in

Grant County. Work on stiles is planned with the Lee Wulff Chapter in late April/early May. Ted will send out a notification. Justin from the DNR has gotten permission for some stream bank clean-up at the sites where the two previous stiles were built last fall. Ted is looking for members' input for streams in our area that would be in need of a stile.

7. Youth report, Kurt: Congratulated on his award by the State Council. We will send the student to the State Council's Fishing Camp who was supposed to attend last summer's COVID cancelled camp. Fish in the Classroom release date is May 13. There was some discussion at the last State Council meeting about raising money to support the TIC. The MAYFLY project is having meetings and there is a search for appropriate aged children who would be candidates for this service. There will likely be a need for fund raising to get fishing equipment to use by the children over the next few years.
8. Membership/Grants report, Brian: email report: No new members. Donation request from other chapters continue to go out. Grant was received from the DNR for just under \$50,000 to be used on the Big Spring project this summer.
9. Project report, Don: Little change from November other than several bills have been payed. Work will begin in the spring based on the weather. There is an upcoming meeting among several DNR officials, several TU chapters, Badger Fly Fishers and the Smallmouth Alliance to discuss Martin Branch and its fish sterility and possible causes and treatments (this is old business).
10. Threats to resources, Dave: Water study results available in March. The Grant County Land Water Conservation head is leaving office (not good news). Several proposed CAFOs in the northern areas are awaiting DNR approval. If approved, this will set water quality threatening precedents. Dave noted that the CAFO article in the Wis Trout paper was good but not all inclusive. Dave and his wife are members of the Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network, SRWN, and hope to have more State Council involvement with that organization. They have a CAFO map that is available to monitor.
11. New Business:
 - a. Board positions to be filled in 2022 for Brian and Ted. Will have a slate of board officers that will be proposed for the annual meeting in April.
 - b. Annual meeting in April when we will have elections, work on a final budget, and Don will discuss with Kris Wright at the UW-Platteville to lead a discussion of what his students have done the past summer to monitor the local streams after improvement projects.
 - c. Email list and board list. Some emails have not gone to everyone so we need a consistent way to communicate to the entire board. Members present were reminded to begin a new email with the appropriate addressees with the subject of the note identified.
12. Upcoming events:
 - a. State Council meeting update: they will be looking for about \$2,000 to help with a project for a significant dam removal. More discussion at future meetings.
 - b. May Banquet, Gordon: The last two attempts for holding the banquet have been cancelled by COVID and the current schedule for Friday, May 6 will be maintained. The current COVID

pandemic is downward so we are cautiously optimistic. A new mailing will be printed and sent out in late March. Previous donations will be honored for the appropriate dinner tickets. We have lots of items for bucket and other raffles. Members with items to donate should email Gordon with a list so we can prevent duplication.

- c. Lie and Tie planned for Saturday, March 5 at the Hollow in Montfort based on venue availability. Should know soon. Goal would be to have extra equipment available for those who would like to learn to tie flies.
- d. Next meeting—March 5 prior to the Lie and Tie or on Tuesday March 15 if no Lie and Tie.

Submitted by Gordon Grieshaber, Secretary.