

Maine Council Trout Unlimited
October 29, 2008
IF&W Region B Headquarters, Sidney
Call to order 7:03 p.m.

In Attendance:

Georges River: Dan Daly

Kennebec: Sean McCormick, Chair; Steve Brooke, Secretary; Jeff Reardon

Sebago: Dave Bowie; Bill Oleszczuk

Somerset: Craig Denis, Treasurer; Joe Albuit

Minutes, May 21, 2008

- **MOTION to approve** - Bowie/Daly – passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report – distributed electronically before meeting:

- **MOTION to approve** - Brooke/Daly – passed unanimously
- Council banking is being shifted to Franklin, Somerset Credit Union.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chair McCormick updated the Council on information received and actions taken by the Executive Committee since the May 21, 2008 meeting:

- Chair McCormick read aloud two letters from IF&W June 18, 2008 & July 9, 2008
 - In discussions with the Chair, IF&W has indicated they want to meet frequently to discuss issues raised. They say they are ready to manage both wild and native waters.
 - IF&W has requested that TU sponsor legislation to enabling restoration Big Reed Pond.
- The Chair noted the upcoming public comment period and hearings on the proposal to list Atlantic Salmon in the Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin drainages as endangered.
- Annual chapter financial reports are significantly different this year and they are due November 15th.
- DEP is requesting nominations for water quality upgrades in Maine Rivers and has release their DRAFT position on Scribner's Mills. Comments are due soon.
- The Penobscot Indian Nation consulted with the Chairman regarding options on Lock & Telos Dams.
- The Executive Committee met with Andy Goode to discuss Natural Resource Agency consolidation.
- Chair McCormick did a program for Mt Blue State Park last summer.
- The Sunkhaze Stream Chapter has been de-chartered by National. Council will hold their assets for three years (until May 20, 2011). If the chapter is re-charted in that time frame, the assets will be returned.
- Council filed comments on the combined freshwater & ice fishing rule book on October 18, 2008
- Craig Denis circulated draft notes Council on his field trip as part of the West Branch Stewardship Committee of the West Branch Project. Council had contributed to the acquisition of the easement and in exchange was guaranteed input in the management planning and stewardship review. Denis expressed concern about some practices that were observed and recommended that Council submit a letter to the Forest Society of Maine expressing

concerns. Chair McCormick instructed Denis and Council Secretary to draft a letter for the executive committee to approve and for the Chair to sign.

- **MOTION to approve the actions of the Chair and Executive Committee -**
Oleszczuk/Albuit – passed unanimously

NLC Update – Bill Oleszczuk, NLC Delegate reported:

- Maine's NLC delegate is now Chair of the Eastern Joint Venture initiative
- Report from NLC Meeting in Utah
 - TU earned \$30 million in 2007, in the top 5% of conservation organizations worldwide
 - 200+ Chapters have been rechartered successfully with ~75 dechartered.
 - The new Strategic Plan was accepted and approved by the NLC. The NLC has requested that it's role in the Plan be more clearly defined.
 - There is new emphasis on multi-year watershed efforts
 - All Councils will be required to submit new Strategic Plans in 2009. Chapters will be required to submit Strategic Plans in 2010.
 - The New Hampshire Council has requested that the NLC hold a national meeting across all of New England in the near future.
 - The Trout Camp meeting was a productive round table discussion
 - Next Year's NLC meeting will be TU's 50th Anniversary meeting. It will be held in Travers City, Michigan.

Trout Camp Update: Chair McCormick

2008 Trout Camp was challenging because of high water. He complimented the Albuits as superb hosts and for their excellent facilities. The Trout Camp Committee will be working on the 2009 season this winter.

HYDRO Update - J. Reardon

- Grand Lake Stream relicensing: Jeff McEvoy and Dave Huntress have expressed interest but will need support and oversight from Council. Fisheries and recreational issues will be important to have comment from TU.
- Upper & Middle Dams – major structural rebuilds are expected at both sites. Middle is expected to have the same footprint but Upper is going to be moved. Issues include gate location & flows. Access for construction activities is of concern along with potential migration of bass upstream from the Rapid River.

Council Fundraising: D.Daly & Chair McCormick

- Marketing of prints at issue. Has spoken with Laurie Gilman at LLBean seeking help. Publication rights have been donated. Also spoke with the American Museum of Fly Fishing and has approached them for sales at their shop on a consignment basis with 50/50 share. Expecting to approach other retail outlets including Orvis if LLBean declines.
- Will be approaching members directly for sales over winter.

Arctic Charr:

Council held a wide ranging discussion expressing concern for the long term viability given the State's lack of success protecting the remaining 14 waters. Chair was instructed to coordinate with National for their review of options.

Atlantic Salmon:

Council discussed the upcoming public meetings and reviewed the State of Maine's draft position. The discussion focused on issues for Council to focus on in its comments including:

- Consistency of approach between major water sheds of concern
- Potential impacts on other recreational fisheries
- The importance for the State of Maine to work collaboratively with federal agencies so that blanket policies can be avoided in favor of specific approaches
- The need of Council to reach out to Chapters not represented at this meeting with conference calls to be used for follow-up discussions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sportsmans Shows:

- **MOTION Council is expected to participate in both the Augusta and Presque Isle shows as long as expenses can be held to reasonable amounts (including overnights for Presque Isle) - Bowie/Oleszczuk– passed unanimously**

Membership in the Maine Council of Atlantic Salmon

- **MOTION to pay the \$50 for membership - Brooke/Oleszczuk– passed unanimously**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Nominations:

Chairman – Dan Daly
Vice Chair – vacant
Secretary – Steve Brooke
Treasurer – Craig Denis
NLC member – Bill Oleszczuk

- **MOTION to cast a single vote for the entire slate - Brooke/Bowie– passed unanimously**

ADJOURNMENT : ~10:15 pm.