

Maine Council Trout Unlimited
DRAFT Minutes
November 27, 2007
IF&W Region B Headquarters, Sidney

In Attendance:

Georges River: Dan Daly
Kennebec: Sean McCormick, Chair; Greg Ponte, Steve Brooke
Merrymeeting: Orman Hines
Mollyockett:
Sebago: Dave Bowie, Secretary; Bill Oleszczuk, NLC Delegate
Somerset: Craig Denis, Treasurer; Kevin O'Brien
TU National: Jeff Reardon

Minutes, May 5, 2007 Council Meeting: - see attached

- **MOTION to Approve as amended** – Brooke/Oleszczuk – passed unanimous
Amended to correct spelling of “Denis”

Treasurer’s Report: - see Attached – Ending Balance \$20,243.95

- **MOTION to Approve** – Ponte/Hines – passed unanimous
- General discussion points
 - All chapters completed financial reports to National
 - Cost of 2007 Trout Camp ~\$11,600
 - Credit card account at Key Bank has been closed

OLD BUSINESS:

Chair McCormick updated the Council on actions taken by the Executive Committee since the May 5th Council meeting:

- Merry Meeting chapter has requested that surplus funds contributed by them for the 2007EAS project with IF&W be returned. The executive committee will research the exact balance and return them.
- The Atlantic Salmon Federation requested a donation to purchase television advertising in support of the Conservation Bond. The Executive Committee declined.
- Presentations from advocacy groups regarding the Plumb Creek proposal pending before LURC are available to interested chapters.
- McCormick & Ponte visited the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands in Orland as strong potential site for an EAS grant project. That project would be sponsored by the Council.
- Sponsors of an environmental priorities bill before the legislature seeking passage for sea-run alewife in the St. Croix River are seeking Council support.
- The Executive Committee submitted written testimony regarding the proposed management plan for the USFWS Umbagog Wildlife Refuge.
- The Executive Committee submitted written comments regarding MeIF&W’s proposed ice fishing rules. The comments requested special consideration for Blueback Trout and Atlantic Salmon in the Sheepscot watershed.
- The Executive Committee has secured a booth for the Council at the Augusta Sportsman’s show.

- The Executive Committee is currently in negotiations with Project Healing Water's regarding language of a MOU between the two organizations.
 - The Executive Committee nominated Greg Ponte for an "Outdoor Hero" award by LL Bean for his work with the Maine TU Trout Camp. Greg was selected for the first award to be presented by LLBean. The award includes a \$5,000 contribution to Council which the Committee recommends be allocated to Trout Camp.
- **MOTION to accept the actions of the Executive Committee:** Ponte/Hines: passed unanimously.

NLC Update – Bill Oleszczuk, NLC Delegate

- Bill attended the 2007 NLC meeting in Boise Idaho where new leadership was elected.
 - Access remains the largest national issue with two separate sub-committees working on it.
 - Bill joined two Committees:
 - Chapter Focus Committee
 - Brook Trout Committee. Bill has been asked to chair this committee.
- Council members noted the TU web site continues to be a problem with out of date information and poor access. Chair McCormick asked that anyone experiencing problems report them immediately to Sally Armstrong.

Maine Trout Camp Report: - Greg Ponte

- The fourth session of camp was held successfully last June.
 - Kurt Nelson has produced an hour long DVD using professional equipment and authorized the Maine Council to copy and distribute it. Council agreed to further distribution as appropriate.
 - Kurt Nelson is in the process of completing a shorter DVD of the Emden Hatchery.
 - A proposal requesting support from LLBean for the 2008 Trout Camp has been submitted to LLBean. A decision is expected in January.
 - Next year campers from age 13 to 17 will be eligible to apply.
 - The Brochure for the 2008 camp needs to be ready for distribution February. Inquiries are already arriving.
 - Ponte requested that Council authorize recruitment of one Student Councilor to support the volunteer staff:
- **MOTION TO Accept Ponte's report and authorize a Student Councilor:**
Denis/Bowie – Passed unanimously.

Hydro update:

- The Town of Winslow Planning Board held a public hearing on the decommissioning of the Fort Halifax Dam. A site visit is scheduled for November 30th.
- At the Lockwood Dam, 15 Atlantic salmon were captured in the fish lift and transported to the upper Sandy River last spring.
- The Executive Committee will meet to review and consider comments on the Brassau Lake Draft Study Plans.

Legislative update:

- Bills submitted by Representative Ted Koffman for the 2008 Special Session have been excluded by the Legislative Council. There is a sense that fallout from proposed legislation in the last session contributed to this.
- The IF&W Wild Brook Trout working group met last week. TU continues to be frustrated by the lack of progress with particular concern expressed for the protection of Blueback Trout.

Sunkhaze Stream Chapter:

- Chair McCormick reported on multiple trips to Bangor to try to revive the Sunkhaze Stream Chapter. There has been no election of officers for the past 3 years. After mailing out a notice of a special chapter meeting to all Sunkhaze Stream chapter members, McCormick and Ponte went to Weathervane Restaurant and reported no members had arrived by the 6 PM announced meeting starting time. By 6:45 only three chapter members had arrived. Council Chair McCormick explained that the three members present did not constitute a quorum to elect officers. He informed the attendees that all assets of the Sunkhaze Stream Chapter would be assumed by the Maine State Council and that any assets held by the chapter could no longer be drawn upon by the local chapter. He then adjourned the meeting. Council discussed how to communicate further with Sunkhaze Stream Chapter members and agreed that the Chair would send out one more letter to all current Sunkhaze Stream Chapter members to urge that 12 members to step forward to elect officers. If this has not been done by January 1, 2008, the Council would take further action to request de-chartering of the Chapter.

- **MOTION: If the Sunkhaze Stream Chapter has not elected new officers by January 1, 2008, to recommend to the Trout Unlimited Board of Trustees that the Sunkhaze Stream Chapter of Trout Unlimited be de-chartered due to lack of interest at the local level; and further that any assets of the Sunkhaze Stream Chapter shall maintained in reserve by the Maine State Council for a period of two (2) years less any costs of special announcement mailings to Sunkhaze Stream Chapter Members, with the hope that a quorum of members would step forward to re-charter the chapter:**

Denis/Bowie – passed unanimously.

- There was further discussion regarding the State of Maine incorporation status of the Sunkhaze Stream Chapter, which Council understood had not been paid to the Secretary of State for several years. Treasurer Denis agreed to contact the Office of the Secretary of State to seek their guidance and to report to the Executive Committee on whether further actions were needed to dissolve the Sunkhaze Stream Chapter's State of Maine incorporated status.

Maine Sportsman's Show

- March 28 – 30 in Augusta
 - New hours – Friday 1-7
Saturday 9-9
Sunday 9-5
- Other shows the Chairman will consider
 - Orono – time to promote a new Bangor area chapter

- Presque Isle – time to show flag in Aroostook

Council Fund Raising:

McCormick & Daily have begun developing a plan modeled after the Wisconsin and Michigan council fundraising models – based on “Friends of TU” with donations solicited at two levels with premiums available for the donation. The concept is to raise the funds for both chapter and council sponsored activities. Premiums being considered include art by Daily.

- **MOTION: To support the chairman’s initiative - Brooke/Bowie passed unanimously.**

Council Elections:

Nominations:

Chairman: Sean McCormick
Vice Chair: Dan Daily
Treasurer: Craig Denis
Secretary: Steve Brooke
NLC Rep: Bill Oleszczuk
Bring Back the Brookie: Dave Bowie

- **MOTION: That Nominations Cease:** Brooke/Ponte - passed unanimously
- **MOTION: That the Chair cast a single vote for the slate of officers: Bowie/Denis** passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

Penobscot Restoration Project Update:

Reardon reported:

- Fundraising continues with \$10 million raised from private sources, \$5 million committed from federal sources and \$ 10 million in the proposed presidential budget.
- If all falls into place, acquisition is anticipated in the spring of 2008
- To be prepared to initiate decommissioning once acquisition is completed the public scoping meetings will be held in December.
- Reardon and others are available to make presentations to groups.

DEP is in the process of soliciting requests for Water Quality Classification changes on Maine’s Rivers. Interested parties should contact Susan Davis at MeDEP.

The Forest Society of Maine requested additional funding for the West Branch acquisition. Council has already met its commitment and paid \$4,000 over the past four years.

Council’s Atlantic Salmon Federation membership is up for renewal.

- **MOTION: That Council pay \$50 annual dues:** Ponte/Bowie - passed unanimously

The Maine Department of Agriculture is examining rules to govern the use of BT Corn. Chair McCormick is soliciting input for a response.

Council members will staff MPBN Television fundraising phones the evening on 12/19 in Bangor. Volunteers are needed – contact the Chairman.

Council participating State of Maine Strategic Boating Plan

Bill Oleszczuk reported as the Council delegate to this effort. He has submitted comments and input and is meeting with an advisory committee. He explained that the process will culminate in a ten year strategic operating plan that will set policy and strategies for the use of public funds to build boat launches in Maine.

Blueback Trout: McCormick expressed continuing concern for the loss of blueback char in Maine waters. The most recent survey of Big Reed found populations way down. Ponte note the most recent IF&W rules have placed the same regulations onto both bluebacks and brook trout and expressed concern that this fails to adequately protect blueback charr.

➤ **MOTION: That Council request assistance from TU National in examining the significance of blueback trout and help identifying alternative protection strategies for the protection of blueback charr** – Ponte/Brooke – passed unanimously

Great Pond Mountain Wildlands, Orland as potential EAS site: McCormick & Ponte visited the this conservation land and conducted a preliminary assessment for the potential of enhancing wild brook trout populations with an embrace a stream project. If chosen this site would become a Council sponsored EAS project because of lack of local chapter.

SAM Maine Fishing Initiative: Ponte reported on a new SAM FIC initiative to collaborate with fishing groups state wide to create measurable goals that will assess how effectively Maine's freshwater fisheries are being managed. By consensus the Council agreed to join this effort.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:50 pm.

Next Council Meeting;

Will be held in May, 2008 – at time and location to be determined

The Executive Committee is expected to conduct business in the interim