



Coulee Region TU Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on July 11, 2024.

Board directors present: Berger, Freund, Muresan, Rees, Spademan, Welter D., Welter K., Jonson

Board directors absent: Hubbard, Jester, Kyte, Townsell

Quorum is present.

The President called for any discussion of the minutes of the May 9th meeting. There was no discussion and it was moved by Welter D. to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Rees. There was no discussion and the vote to approve the minutes was unanimous. There are no minutes of the June 13 meeting due to lack of quorum. Notes of the June meeting were filed for good form.

President's Report

- The President requested the agenda item pertaining to the publication of the board minutes on the Chapter's website be deferred to the next meeting in consideration of time to discuss STREAMGirls.
- General Call for Volunteers – It was suggested by Spademan that use of SignUp.com might be useful to track volunteer participation. Muresan was instructed by the Board to explore this possibility. It was also discussed that while tracking volunteers is needed, it is more of an issue to attract volunteers to track. This issue was deferred for further discussion.
- The President furthered the discussion of capacity building by using personal 'asks' to members who might be interested to increase the volunteer rate; it was also suggested that CRTU explore partnering with other clubs such as sports clubs, gun and rifle clubs, or conservation clubs as a potential source of volunteers.
- The President shared that Kirk Olson had reported that a fish barrier was unlikely to be installed as part of the dam decommissioning of Seas Branch. The NCRS states that fish barriers have not been proven effective in the Midwest. Mr. Olson also reported that the practice of raising and stocking of trout by various private entities has been ended by the WDNR. It was suggested that perhaps those entities could become involved in tree planting as an alternative conservation activity.

Treasurer's Report

Financials were presented by Rees as Chapter Treasurer. It was reported that the current bank balance is sufficient to support anticipated activities. It was noted that the pending distribution of \$5,000 for the matching contribution to the Friends of Wisconsin TU grant for the Mormon Coulee project is to be diverted to a project that can be funded this year. Mormon Coulee project is delayed.

Motion was made by Welter K. and seconded by Berger to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. There was no further discussion and the vote to accept the report was unanimous.

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Committee Reports

- Membership Meetings – Muresan reported that Shawna McDowell has accepted the invitation to speak at the March 2025 meeting. Rees mentioned that Lauren Genske would be willing to share her experience at the TU Expedition with the chapter. Muresan was instructed to reach out to Lauren and set up a date for either January or April. It was also suggested that Jason Randall would be a good candidate for the September 2025 meeting.
- TroutFest – June 22 – Berger and Muresan reported on the pivot for TroutFest since fishing was cancelled due to the flooding of Coon Creek and continued rain. The event was successful with many flies tied, tattoos applied and fishing stories discussed. Fifty (50) TroutFest shirts were given out (56% were distributed in sizes extra small and small which may indicate the target age group for fishing outreach was not obtained).
- Youth Outdoor Fest – July 13 – joint venture event with La Crosse Parks and Fish and Wildlife Service – location is changed from Pettibone Park to Veterans Freedom Park due to the river flooding. New booth location is an upgrade. There was enough indicated volunteers from the Board to cover the event. Steve Miller will be available for fly rod casting.
- STREAMGirls – August 10 – Berger and Muresan outlined the plan for this event and reported that GSA had 20 registrants and if CRTU could raise 10 more that 30 would be a good overall group. It was discussed to use the CRTU Gmail address for registration and Rees will monitor it for messages. Freund noted that West Fork Sports Club offered camping fee waivers for the weekend if needed. Three (3) ideas for the shirts reserved from TroutFest were presented. Consensus was in favor of design 3. Budget for the shirts and STREAMGirls notebook printing was over \$1,000 but this represents a multi-year supply. A motion was made by Rees to authorize a total budget of \$1,200 for STREAMGirls supplies recognizing this cost was for multiple year supply of shirts and notebooks. The motion was seconded by Freund. Discussion was that this event is part of the chapter's core mission and would be an appropriate expenditure. After no further discussion, the vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Old Business

- WDNR request for financial/workday assistance for tree cages – Freund reported that the project would commence in the fall.
- Film Festival – Driftless Angler – The Driftless Angler is interested in planning help from CRTU for a tighter collaboration in 2025.

New Business

- Request from Chris Veit for legal assistance on a dispute of access was discussed. The matter had been referred to legal representation by the President – no further word on actions or resolution.
- Welter D. requested consent of the Board to submit a grant application to Cabela's for fly rods. Cabela's has revised their policy on rod giveaways or low-cost acquisition of rods for non-profits. They prefer to contribute rods only for education purposes and request that a grant application be submitted. The Board instructed Welter D. to pursue a grant for fly rods for education.

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Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Spademan and seconded by Welter D. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted:

Deborah Muresan, Chapter Secretary