



Coulee Region TU Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on April 11, 2024.

Board directors present: Berger, Freund, Jester, Kyte, Muresan, Spademan, Townsell, Welter K.

Board directors absent: Hubbard, Jonson, Rees, Welter D.

Quorum is present.

The President called any discussion of the minutes of the prior meeting. There was no discussion and it was moved by Spademan to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Berger. The vote to accept to approve the minutes was unanimous. The President discussed the potential policy of publishing the minutes, but this discussion was tabled for later meeting.

President's Report

- General Call for Volunteers – Seeking a way to handle the announcement of opportunities to volunteer
- Next member meeting speaker (Chris Firkus) is on deck and ready to present

Treasurer's Report

Financials were presented by Muresan in the absence of the 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 still to be made. Also noted was the purchase of the temp loggers had been made, but the revenue from the sponsorships was yet to be deposited.

An expenditure for the re-stock of hats for the chapter was opened for discussion. The cost to re-stock 50 hats/caps for the chapter is \$700 including customization with logo patches. Motion was made by Freund and seconded by Townsell to approve the expenditure of up to \$700 for hat/caps. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Question from the floor about the annual reporting for the chapter to National was raised. Muresan reported that the Treasurer had indicated that he was nearly completed gathering information for the report and that it would be filed timely.

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

Committee Reports

- Membership Meetings – The planned meetings for September to April were reviewed by Muresan. Speakers and venues are set for September and October. November will be at the Student Union at UW-L pending availability. December is the holiday party and it was discussed that we should set it for December 11 to keep it in the holiday season, but not as close to Christmas as our regular third Wednesday would be. The site will be Christos. Still

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looking for ideas for January, March, and April. Perhaps a meeting with DNR in the spring. The February meeting will be the banquet on February 28.

- Valley Day – May 4 – Muresan reports that CRTU has booth space; a request was made from the organizers for stream-side volunteers to help with fishing
- TroutFest – June 22 – Berger and Muresan outlined the program as an expansion of the activities from prior years. We are going to need many volunteers and can accommodate morning and afternoon shifts so that it does not need to be an all-day volunteer. The budget for the entire event is approximately \$4,000 (\$1,000 has already been approved for the purchase of stock fish). Muresan requested the consent of the board to allow for fundraising via sponsorships to raise additional support. It was moved by Freund and seconded by Townsell that the board authorize Muresan to unilaterally seek to raise funds for the event and the chapter would match the amount raised up to \$1,500. There was no further discussion. The vote to authorize the fundraising effort was unanimous with the abstention of Muresan.
- Youth Outdoor Fest – July 13 – joint venture event with La Crosse Parks and Fish and Wildlife Service – need minimum of 3 people; 4-5 volunteers would be ideal. Berger, Freund and Spademan indicated interest.
- StreamGirls – August 10 – Berger reported that the venue at West Fork Sports Club has been secured. Nick Harnish of the Girl Scouts is handling promotion and registration. Volunteers will be needed (female anglers would be great). Berger will inventory supplies and present to the Board any needs for replenishment. Spademan indicated that he could assist with printing and binding of any booklet replenishment.

Old Business

- Temp loggers and Wise H₂O/Mobile H₂O phone app and test strips – Freund reported that the temp loggers have been offered for sponsorship on the CRTU website and response had been encouraging. Eight of the ten loggers have been sponsored. Freund graciously provided the casing and re-bar rods to hold the loggers in place and will work on placement locations.
- NRCS streambank stabilization project for Tainter Creek – This item was tabled to the May meeting and Freund will gather more information as to the specifics of the project. The project needs a financial commitment by the end of May (\$2,000).
- WDNR request for financial/workday assistance for tree cages – Motion was made by Townsell and seconded by Kyte to authorize expenditure of up to \$1,000 for purchase of supplies to build tree cages for newly planted trees by the WDNR. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Appeal for volunteers to cook for the 5 Rivers Event April 27th and 28th – Freund stated that the ask was to split the cost of food with the Clearwater Chapter of TU. Freund is confirming amount and will poll the board with new information.
- Provision of food/cooking for State Council Meeting – June 1 – Freund reported that it had been suggested the chapter could provide a lasagna dinner at the West Fork Sports Club facility – looking for volunteers or other menu suggestions. Freund will also check to see if the Council can reimburse for the cost of food and CRTU would provide the labor and effort.
- Request for publicity of new book about Norman Maclean – Welter K. reported that Welter D. is reviewing the book for Wisconsin Trout and perhaps CRTU could print the review on our website as publicity. Muresan was instructed to reply to request with this information.

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- Coon Valley Conservation Club request for financial assistance with trout tank repairs – Muresan reported the Club is looking for any amount to assist with needed repairs to their trout tanks for raising native strain Brook trout. Total repairs were reported at \$2,500. Motion was made by Townsell and seconded by Berger to authorize an expenditure of \$250 to assist with these repairs. There was no further discussion. The vote to authorize the expenditure was unanimous with the abstention of Freund. Muresan was instructed to obtain mailing information.
- IT Update for CRTU – There was a brief discussion by Spademan about updating to a domain email for CRTU officers and board and to look at document storage options in this effort. This subject was tabled until later in the year.

New Business

- Grant Funding availability – Paul Krahn forwarded information to the chapter regarding the availability of grant funding from the Coldwater Land Conservancy – 1:1 match up to \$10,000. Freund mentioned that he would like to see the chapter pursue more grant funding and have to rely less on fundraising efforts at the banquet. This item was tabled for future discussion
- Driftless Habitat Maintenance Project – a funding request from this project was made to the chapter – total program of cost is \$24,000 with a match from the Trout Stamp Fund of \$12,000. Lee Wulff and Elliot Donnelley chapters have pledged \$2,000 each. This item was tabled for future discussion. Muresan was instructed to gather additional information such as where this work is contemplated to be done.
- Monroe County Resilient Infrastructure Initiative – a request for a letter of support to Congress for this initiative. Freund volunteered to draft a letter of support for review of the board.
- Muresan reported that an additional 17 shirts were donated by Townsell and sent to embroidery. The cost was \$270 and payment approval was requested by Muresan. A motion was made by Townsell to approve payment of the embroidery and the motion was seconded by Freund. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
- Muresan reported that 187 letters were mailed to members of the chapter without email addresses. The letter requested they subscribe to the chapter email list using the form on the website. Response has been 12 subscribers at this date.
- Muresan also reported that all 4 CRTU events had been logged to the TU National Calendar of Events to participate in a National TU promotional campaign.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted:

Deborah Muresan, Chapter Secretary