

OPTU Board mtg 9/22/2010
Viscount Suites, Tucson, AZ
Minutes

Attending

Steve Reiter
Mike Mehrer
Joe Fagan
Stan Vanagunas
Clay Hernandez
Roger McKee

The meeting was called to order by Roger McKee at 6:25PM

Roger asked for a volunteer to serve as Chapter Secretary. Stan Vanagunas was nominated by Mike Mehrer. Roger asked for discussion. There was none. Roger called for the vote. Stan was approved unanimously.

Conservation Chair

Roger nominated Clay Hernandez to serve as Conservation Chairman. Steve Reiter seconded. The nomination was discussed. Clay accepted the nomination. Roger called for a vote. Approval of the nomination was unanimous. Congratulations Clay.

Fishing bulletin boards

Clay and Steve will follow-up on the installation of a bulletin board at Dry Creek Outfitters. Mike will look into the purchase of a white board for use at the SK location.

Shirts and hats

The board agreed to table indefinitely action on the purchase of caps and shirts. We have an inventory of OPTU caps that can be used for a variety of incentives and promotions as requested, including the formerly approved incentives to new members.

Boy Scouts

The board discussed the request by an eagle scout for ideas for a project. Mike noted that we can get support from TU for such projects. Roger noted that we have at least one member who has been very involved with scouting and might be willing to serve as mentor for an eagle scout project. Roger will follow-up with the OPTU member.

Newsletter

Steve suggested that the cover email for the newsletter should provide teaser information about the contents of the newsletter. The board agreed and Roger volunteered follow-up with John Murphy.

Speakers

Steve reviewed speakers under consideration for future meetings. Roy Aiken(sp?) will be featured in the meeting on Oct 6.

Budget

Joe Fagan requested a budget of \$400 for TIC supplies. Roger moved to approve. Clay seconded. Brief discussion. Roger called for a vote. Approval was unanimous.

Steve Reiter requested a \$100 to pay for post cards to be sent to new members, monthly. Roger moved to approve. Stan seconded. Brief discussion. Approval by the board was unanimous.

Ash Creek project

The board reviewed a request recently received from AZG&F to host one or two camps for the renovation of Ash creek and removal of hybrid trout over a four day period from 10/25 to 10/28. We all agreed that this is a project of high interest to OPTU. However, with the deadline for commitment set at 9/20, the difficulty of rounding up members on short notice to spend four weekdays in the Penaleños, and the OPTU Halloween event taking place on 10/30 we cannot agree to the hosting request. We will, of course, advise members of the project and encourage them to participate. Clay will follow-up with Jason Kline to express our regrets.

Lee's Ferry

OPTU recently received a request from AZTU to take a position on a program underway by BLM to kill non native fish (Rainbow Trout) in the Colorado river/ Lee's Ferry fishery in favor of the native Humpback Chubb. Tribal objections to the killings have stopped the project and the Bureau of Reclamation is now preparing an environmental assessment that could lead to serious damage to the Lees Ferry recreational trout fishery. The board discussed this issue and concluded that the while OPTU mission is indeed restoration of native fish to the waterways of AZ, these native fish have always been understood to be trout (Apache and Gila). Rainbows are perhaps not native to the Colorado but they are trout nonetheless and their presence in the cold water area of Lee's Ferry does not threaten the existence of the Humpback Chubb in the warmer waters below. We also question whether the colder Lee's Ferry tail waters are hospitable to the chubb. There undoubtedly is much more to the biology of these species that our club does not understand, but at this time we will oppose continuing the eradication of rainbows in the Lees Ferry waterway. Clay Hernandez will communicate this position to the State Chapter.

Halloween on the Fly

Stan, Cathy Hill and Steve Reiter will work together on the preparation and mailing of a flier to our members.

Mike Mehrer will prepare a synopsis of the program to be incorporated into the flier. He will also prepare and email to be sent to members.

The board approved asking for a donation of five dollars per family for entrance to the event and a donation of \$50 per individual for up to ten people for fly casting instruction

from Gary Borger on the morning of the HOF. Three board members signed up for casting lessons.

December meeting

After considerable discussion the board decided not to hold a Christmas party this year. Last year's turnout was poor and the cost per individual was high. Instead we will hold our regular monthly meeting with a speaker to be announced. Annual elections for board and officers will be held at this meeting.

National TU Meeting-New Hampshire

Mike Mehrer submitted a two page report on the highlights of the TU meeting and banquet in New Hampshire. In brief, the meeting was long on information and networking contacts and short on fish. Rapport was established with our AZ state council and a number of very useful individuals at TU national.

New Board Member

Joe Fagan volunteered to serve on the OPTU Board of Directors. The board voted to accept him subject to final approval at the December OPTU board meeting. Welcome on board, Joe.

With no more business to undertake, Roger adjourned the meeting by unanimous acclaim at 8:00PM

Respectfully submitted by Mike Mehrer