

Snowy Mountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 3, 2022  
7pm, Elks Club

Present: Mike Chapman, Lance Dover, Craig and Cathy Roberts, Rich Johnson, Candy and Bruce Bowman, Mark McLendon, Chris Edgington, Dave Emmert, Glenn Elison, Mike Getman, Chad, Beckie and Landen Williams, Diane Derosier, Chris Merker, Brett Shelagowski, Clint Smith.

1. Door Prizes were given out.
2. Mike Chapman welcomed everyone. Notes from the March 26, 2022, meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Treasurer's Report. Candy Bowman reported that our current balance is \$4,869.43. Last fall's fundraising letter yielded \$1,930. We recently spent \$800 for fifty new hats. They are on sale tonight for \$25 each.
4. Project Healing Waters. Lance Dover made a short presentation about Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. (PHWFF). It is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings. Lance would like to create a PHWFF group in Lewistown and encouraged anyone interested to contact him at lance.dover@gmail.com
5. Updates:
  - Lake George Kids' Camp - Candy reported that the chapter has allocated funds for two campers at \$600, each, to attend Montana Trout Unlimited (MTU) Kids' Camp. We placed an article in the Lewistown News Argus encouraging applications. Currently, we have two.
  - Website - Mike Chapman reported that Garrett Strohm and Al Eggers have been working diligently to develop a website for our chapter and we hope to have it up by the end of the month. Many thanks to Garrett for volunteering his skills for us!
  - Junior High students' work on display - Brett Shelagowski, Junior High science teacher, brought samples of the flies tied by students in his ecology class. Our chapter has contributed funds towards this project.

- Watershed Council Watershed Restoration Plan - Clint Smith, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Fishery Biologist reported that the Big Spring Creek Watershed Council is taking initial steps to prepare a Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) for Big Spring Creek. This is an official document, approved by Department of Environmental Quality, which defines a pathway to address concerns in the watershed. Having a WRP also opens up opportunities to obtain grant funding to conduct needed improvements. BSCWC cannot do this alone; it needs buy-in and cooperation from many stakeholders, such as SMTU. Primary partners will be the Fergus Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service who have already expressed interest. Studies conducted in the past will provide a starting point. A working group has been formed that will develop a timeline for the process.

6. Election of officers and two board members - Glenn Elison conducted the election of officers and board members. Nominees were:

President: Mike Chapman

Vice-President: Dave Ballman

Secretary: Marita Valencia

Treasurer: Candy Bowman

Board member (3 years): Brett Shelagowski

Board member (1 year, to fill out Dave Ballman's term): Chad Williams

Glenn asked for any additional nominations. Hearing none, he moved that the slate be voted on as a whole. Slate was approved unanimously.

7. Program

Chris Edgington, Montana Trout Unlimited Project Manager: Update on Restoration of Middle Fork Judith River.

This long-needed, complex and remote, 5-phase, project is being conducted by Montana TU in cooperation with the US Forest Service and several other agencies and organizations, including SMTU. The project is progressing much more quickly than anticipated! The Phase 4 restoration treatment plan has been completed. Phase 4 is fully funded, permitted and scheduled for implementation September 8-23, 2022. It will rehabilitate duplicative entrances to the river upstream of Arch Coulee and improve the motorized jeep trail to the private in-holdings. Next week, a Future Fisheries grant request for \$40,000 will be submitted to match our DEQ-319 Non-Point Source Pollution grant. Phase 5 will decommission 2.5 miles of riparian road and restore 49 entrances to 17 fords. A quick rebound of hybrid Westslope Cutthroat Trout is expected when the project is complete.