

## **Meeting Minutes of the Trout Committee of the Southern Division American Fisheries Society**

**Meeting was convened on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at the UMCES Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg, Maryland.**

Meeting was called to order by Alan Heft of the MDDNR on behalf of absent Chair Matt Sell (illness) at 8:05 AM.

### **Welcome to the Facility:**

A brief introduction to the facility and its mission was given by center Director Eric Davidson.

A quorum was established with 13 standing members in attendance (11 in person and two via phone). Five additional guests were in attendance.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Approval of 2018 Minutes:**

2018 Bull Shoals-White River State Park Meeting minutes were discussed. It was noted by Jim Habera that Tennessee's roundtable report was not included. It was agreed that there were written and submitted reports absent from the distributed minutes. It was charged to Matt Sell to investigate and circulate updated and thorough State reports. Otherwise, approval of the minutes was provisional pending distribution of these updates.

#### **Treasurer's Report – C. Graham:**

Treasurer Christy Graham reported on the TC financial status prior to the ECWT VI meeting. A balance of \$4859 was carried into the meeting and expenses of approximately \$10,000 for the meeting were expected (planning committee shirts, program printing, facility rental, band for the social, social dinner, break items, etc.). With 93 paid attendees at the meeting, it was estimated an income of approximately \$15,000 was expected. Christy expected a net profit of around \$2,000 - \$3,000. Jim Habera moved to accept treasurer's report, David Thorne seconded, and report was approved by voice vote.

#### **Membership List Update:**

A current members list was unavailable to circulate. M. Sell and D. Thorne will confer to update and distribute that list to members for confirmation via email. A final list will be submitted to J. Habera for posting on the website.

#### **New Business:**

#### **Election of Officers:**

No members volunteered to chair the committee for the 2020-2021 period. Jake Rash expressed openness to being chair again if no others were willing. Steve Reeser then nominated Justin Heflin for chair. Matt Kulp seconded. Justin agreed to serve and was approved by acclamation of the TC. Christy

Graham agreed to continue as Treasurer unless anyone else was interested. There was no expressed interest so she was approved by acclamation of the TC.

Officer's slate for the 2019-2020 period is as follows:

Chair: David Thorne (West Virginia)  
Chair-elect: Justin Heflin (Kentucky)  
Past-chair: Matt Sell (Maryland)  
Treasurer: Christy Graham (Arkansas)

### **2020 Meeting Location:**

Locations for the 2020 TC meeting were discussed. Little Rock, AR is hosting the Southern Division meeting, and was not regarded as a good option for the TC, particularly since the committee was just in Arkansas in 2018. Since we typically try to sync with the SD every few years, 2021 was considered, but that will be in Alexandria, VA, also regarded as a poor fit for the TC. It was the consensus of the TC to make an effort to join with the Southern Division meeting in 2022 in South Carolina, regardless of locale. Steve Reeser suggested consideration for a location in Virginia, including Hungry Mother State Park, Graves Mountain Lodge, and Meadow Lane Lodge. J. Habera endorsed Hungry Mother State Park, and the group agreed to that location. The meeting dates will be May 18-20, 2020 (first preference) or May 11-13, 2020 (second preference). S. Reeser wanted us to consider a theme to focus attendee's discussions, and an R-3 for Trout themed meeting was loosely agreed to; an effort will be made by members to get R3 specialists to attend to discuss fishing and trout-centric R3 initiatives.

### **Website Updates:**

J. Habera requested fresh information for the TC website: photos, minutes, etc. He will work with M. Sell to host the presentations from ECWT-VI on the TC website in pdf format.

- There are no nominations currently for the Distinguished Service Award from the TC, members should consider if there are folks worthy of consideration in the coming years.
- Jim requested commendation for Christy for the 2018 TC meeting at Gaston's; the committee agreed.
- Jim also requested commendation for Matt and Alan for their particular effort on the East Coast Wild Trout meeting; again, the committee agreed.

### **Q&A with Dave Kazyak about Brook Trout Genetics work**

There was good discussion following presentations earlier in the week. Some important points from these discussions:

- M. Kulp suggested a need to update the Trout Committee's Management Position Paper based on newer, more relevant information from the genetics work since the previous position (Fisheries 30:7 pp 10-20). An update would apply more across the range of eastern Brook Trout and express a more contemporary understanding of the greater genetic diversity in southern populations compared to northern groups and that there is less observed introgression of hatchery influenced genes than expected.

- Ecologically Significant Units (ESU's) are not clearly standardized across the eastern Brook Trout range. Due to the genetic diversity in southern populations, finer scales for restoration need to be considered than farther north. Decisions need to be based on local conditions and opportunities. In selecting source stock for translocation, repatriation, or captive breeding, it is suggested to consider populations of higher genetic diversity and spatial closeness to be the highest priority.
- A range-wide translocation study, to follow up with genetic metrics on introduced populations, was suggested by S. Reeser. A lengthy discussion followed and was agreed-to in principle by all present. S. Reeser agreed to lead the effort. Funding sources to be considered to aid USGS-Leetown in pursuing the study included Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and perhaps the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Research Fund.

#### **MicroFish Update:**

Jack VanDeventer gave an update on his work to improve MicroFish 4.0. He is able now to proceed full-time with the development of the software. There will be an added cost due to his increasing costs of payment processing and legal processes of taxation on the income. TC members will continue to reap the benefits of a 50% discount on the product. There will be an annual license fee or a substantially larger lifetime license fee. All fees are for a single user/machine license. He is working to produce a built-in reporting platform as well.

#### **TC Credit/Debit Card?:**

M. Sell and C. Graham had some minor issues purchasing some items for the ECWT-VI meeting and wanted the committee to consider the need/possibility of getting a credit card in the name of the Trout Committee. Christy purchased some items online for the meeting using her personal finances and credit card and wrote herself a check for reimbursement. It did not create a problem for her, but that may not hold true for others in similar circumstances in the future. The general consensus was against getting a card, mostly because of the dynamic nature of officers and the resultant difficulties of transfer of cards from one administration to the next. J. Habera suggested the purchase of pre-paid debit cards when the need arises for such purchases that cannot be invoiced (such as from some smaller online retailers).

#### **Future of East Coast Trout Meeting:**

There is consensus among members in the overwhelming positive response to continuing the event. In order to keep it timely, the committee is committed to elevating it to high priority 2-3 years ahead of the next planned event. Every five years is the agreed schedule, putting ECWT-VII on the calendar for 2024. The next foreseeable conflict with the Wild Trout Symposium would be in 2029, so an adjustment by a year or so either way would avoid a conflict between the two events. Trout Committee participants should plan to engage in discussions about the next East Coast meeting no later than the 2022 meeting (likely in South Carolina with SD mid-year meeting).

#### **Roundtable Discussions by States and Partners:**

Roundtable reviews were somewhat abbreviated owing to some travel plans, but all agreed to a thorough review of their programs for the written submissions to the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

**Attendee List:**

*Christy Graham	Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
*Jake Rash (phone)	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
*John Damer (phone)	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
*Justin Heflin	Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
Corey Jones	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Tyler Hern	USFWS – Erwin Hatchery
*Justin Spaulding	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Nathan Recktenwald	Missouri Department of Conservation
*Jack VanDeventer	MicroFish
*Steve Reeser	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
*Dan Rankin	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
*David Thorne	West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
*Matt Kulp	NPS – Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Sally Petre	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
*Dave Kazyak	USGS – Leetown Science Center
*Jim Habera	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
*Alan Heft	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Roger Bitz	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
*-- Trout Committee Member	

## Name

## Affiliation

✓ Christy Graham	AGFC
✓ Jake Rash (phone)	NC
✓ John Damer (phone)	GA DNR
✓ Justin Heflin	Ky
Corey Jones	TWRA
<del>Tyler HORN</del>	<del>USFWS</del>
✓ Justin Spaulding	TWRA
✓ Nathan Recktenwald	MDC
Jack VanDeventer	MicroFish
✓ Steve Reiser	UDGIF
✓ Dan Rankin	SCDNR
✓ DAVID THORNE	WVDNR
✓ Matt Kulp	NPS
✓ Sally Petre	TWRA
Dave Kazyak	USGS
✓ Jim Habera	TWRA
✓ Alan Heft	MD DNR
ROGER BITZ	TWRA