

SUMMARY OF THE SPRING COUNCIL MEETING
April 2, 2005

BARBLESS HOOK

Notes regarding Option Three (Friends of the BH/Museum)

- ❖ A two year feasibility study was proposed, to investigate other museums, and how ours might work.
- ❖ Operation a museum here would be a zoning violation.
- ❖ A museum or educational facility appears to be part of George and Peri's initial intent.

Paul Young Chapter moved to sell the property, taking bids over a two-year period. Proceeds to be directed to an endowment for the executive director. Discussion began. The question was called after a short amount of time (10 minutes?) This passed 18 to 9. The motion passed 23 to 8. (I think everyone had their mind made up anyway, so the discussion would probably not have persuaded anyone to change their vote.)

NATIONAL UPDATE

A questionnaire was sent out to chapter presidents by National. Some chapters took offense, stating that this appeared to be a tool which will be used against them in the future. The purpose stated for doing this was to improve new member retention. By assigning new members by zip code, many were being placed into non-active "paper" chapters. National would like to get new members into active chapters, and try to retain them. Part of this questionnaire involves filling out a survey, which results in a "Chapter Effectiveness Index". In formulating this index, values were placed on certain activities. Since many of the chapters function like a fishing club, these valuations were felt to be judgmental. It appeared to them that there is only one approved operational style for an TU chapter, in National's eyes. Carl urged all presidents to fill out the form on time, and to funnel feedback to him. He said that he appreciates the balance that we have in the State's council, and will communicate this to National.

TREATY/FISHING REGS UPDATE

(See bottom for a detailed overview of what this is about) A couple of points:

- ❖ These proceedings will cost each participant organization about \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year—a total of \$500,000 or so, over the next 10 to 15 years.
- ❖ The State's participation in this is \$1 million per year, and includes two full-time people in Lansing.
- ❖ MUCC is not involved!
- ❖ This case is going to take a long time to resolve, but cannot be left to chance.

BOARDMAN DAM

The overall plan is to remove all dams except for the Union Street dam. This will be retained to provide an upstream barrier for lampreys. FERC is concerned about safety, after recent dam failures. The choice is to make safety improvements, or remove the dams. Repairs to Brown Bridge dam alone would be over \$1 million. TCL&P has chosen to abandon/remove, rather than upgrade. The plan will take many years to implement. The feasibility study alone will take until January 2007, and cost over \$500,000. There is a push to get "Home River" designation from TU National, to funnel money and talent to this project. An info packet is being sent out to chapter Presidents (from Council) shortly.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

A plan was sent to the chapter Presidents. Expenses all around are increasing. The George Griffith challenge fund is drawing to a close. We are drawing on our reserves at a rate of \$60,000 per year. Objective is to create a \$1.5 million endowment for funding the executive director. Carl's plan is to bring this to a vote at the September or January meeting. We should discuss the plan amongst the members, and e-mail Carl with ideas. There may be a separate meeting on this topic, since we cannot devote enough time on it at a regular Council meeting.

GRAYLING LIBRARY

Grayling's Devereaux Memorial Library has a newly reopened section which is dedicated to fly fishing. It is an extensive collection, which includes many rare books. On the evening before the trout season opener, there will be a celebration to mark the reopening of this section of the library. Donations will be accepted, which will be used to further expand their collection. All are invited.

VOLUNTARY TROUT STAMP

Vice Chairperson Pat Kochanny is heading up a team to investigate the idea of introducing a trout stamp. The ideas would be that this would be offered at the point of purchase-- for an additional \$5 you could purchase the stamp. All proceeds would go to stream conservation. If interested in helping to bring this forward, contact Pat at pkochanny@mctu.org

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ At the past two Council meetings, we have been served Ice Mountain bottled water. (!) I moved that we buy filtered water for future meetings. This was voted down.
- ❖ A complaint was raised that Council acted without permission, when they joined the amicus brief for the lawsuit with Nestle. Our by-laws require a vote of the chapters, in order for Council to do this. It was discussed that an e-mail vote could be established for timely needs such as this one. This will be considered, as well as the legality of an e-mail vote. (According to Michigan law, mail in voting must be unanimous.)

MISCELLANEOUS

- ❖ Attendance at the fly fishing school appears to be down again this year. Encourage people to sign up.
- ❖ The dates for the 2006 fly fishing expo are March 18th and 19th.

RICH BOWMAN'S REPORT

1. SULFIDE ORE MINING

DEQ has appointed a rules committee, which has been meeting in St. Ignace. They will write the rules, review it to the director, the Attorney General, the Legislative Services Bureau, and then to the legislature. Somewhere in the latter part of this process, the legislature has line item veto opportunities. The more strict that a line item rule would be, the more likely it is to be vetoed out. Rich Bowman has been attending these meetings, to provide MCTU's input. Nickel is at an all-time high. If the price drops, the interest in this expensive sort of mining will wane. At the present time, two companies are interested, and preparing studies.

2. SAVOY MEETING IN CADILLAC

A meeting was called in Cadillac, which had no real purpose or outcome. The final decision will be made in Milwaukee within 30 days, but several other levels of appeal are left. Two points were very interesting:

1. One of our concerns was noise, but noise concerns do not fall within our mission statement. (Members from the floor brought this to our attention.
2. Savoy will need to drill a water well as part of the plan, but the DNR missed this.

OVERVIEW OF THE TREATY/FISHING REGS ISSUE

Back in the 1830's, most of the state was undeveloped, except for the southern lower peninsula and a few towns up north. Most of the native Americans living east of the Mississippi were displaced to reservations west of the Mississippi, in actions such as the "Trail of Tears". Our Michigan tribes reached an agreement with the State, which stated that they could "hunt, fish, gather, and __?__, in northern Michigan until such time as the land is settled". Reservations were not established until several decades later. This allowed them to stay in their home area, and not be subjected to displacement. It was thought (by them) that within a few decades, they would be assimilated into the white man's culture. The key word in the treaty is "settled". The tribes now contend that land is settled when it is a primary residence, or the land is actively being farmed. According to this interpretation, the tribes would be allowed to hunt, fish, chop down trees, etc., without regard for State regulations on fallow fields, up north cabins which are secondary residences, and on State and Federal land. They could even pick fruit and vegetables out of your garden, if it was not your primary residence. The tribes contend that we are blowing it out of proportion, but this is the literal interpretation of the law.