

MEETING OF THE MCTU Saturday, September 25, 2004

NATIONAL MEETING IN DENVER

- ❖ MCTU received two awards:
 1. Council of the Year
 2. Conservationist of the Year

Pine River Chapter also received a Silver Trout award. **(Rich suggests that we submit our chapter for our work on the guidebooks.)**

National is ready to support the funding of some staff at the council levels. They're using Michigan as a model for this.

FINANCIAL

- ❖ Contributions from the chapters is down.
- ❖ They acquired the Barbless Hook
- ❖ Financial statements are due electronically by November 15th.
- ❖ Carl Hueter is asking for \$80 from each chapter. The intent is to buy a book for each legislator on groundwater extraction. He'd like to see each chapter meet a legislator (or more), and present the book in person. (He got the books at cost.)

MISC

- ❖ Next year's "Meet the Legislator" will move to February, to hit the new legislators early in their terms.
- ❖ Paul Adesko suggested that we get involved in "Trout in a classroom" program with DCDS. Cost is about \$600 or \$700.

ED ZEBROWSKI & MI TROUT

- ❖ A new magazine format is due out in the spring. Similar to MUCC's mag.
- ❖ Extra cost will be born by advertisements + reducing the # of free issues distributed to fly shops, etc.
- ❖ With this new format, the major magazine distributors will handle the product.
- ❖ He'll be looking for a "Chapter News" section, fed by our Chapter reports given at the Council meetings.
- ❖ A consolidated calendar of chapter activities will be added.
- ❖ Donate your photos directly to Ed—could become a cover photo!
- ❖ Might even be able to stitch in our Chapter's newsletter, into middle (stretch goal).
- ❖ We'll vote on these changes at the January meeting.

REACTIVE MINING

- ❖ The term refers to the type of material mined, not the mining process.
- ❖ The mining on the Yellowdog Plain is the first reactive mining in Michigan.
- ❖ We've requested the legislators to suspend mining until regulations can be set in place.
- ❖ Rich Bowman is on the work group for these regulations/guidelines. This process will take about 2 years.
- ❖ Public Act 451, Part 632 will be submitted on 9/29. It will authorize the DEQ to promulgate rules.
- ❖ This will not affect any existing iron mines in the state.
- ❖ Verbal commitment from the mining company, to wait on permit application for two years.
- ❖ THIS IS THE LARGEST NICKEL DEPOSIT IN THE WORLD!

DEAD RIVER

A broken U.P. dam—to replace or not to replace? That is the question.

- ❖ Originally it looked like the dam was going back in. Lost revenues from camping at the city's park. Warm water swimming in the U.P. (novel concept)
- ❖ Public opinion "might" be shifting. Hard to tell.
- ❖ Spawning habitat greatly improved, and people have noticed.
- ❖ See the handouts that I have on this subject.

CONTRIBUTION POLICY

As a result of the Ice Mountain contribution debacle, Council has decided to draft a contribution policy. I have a copy, if you 'd like to see it.

- ❖ The draft was presented and discussed. Much discussion
- ❖ Leo Landis (An Arbor Area Chapter) is a curator for The Henry Ford. Much experience in this genre.
- ❖ Carl Hueter will prepare a revised draft. Requesting comments by mid-December, via e-mail, for the January meeting.

THE BARBLESS HOOK

- ❖ Contents of the buildings, including many records, were donated by the family.
- ❖ Costs to the Council for the property are budgeted at \$5000/year.
- ❖ Curators of The Henry Ford are sifting through the documents and artifacts, to catalog and appraise.
- ❖ Mike Capron is putting together a cost/benefit summary.
- ❖ A committee met there to discuss actions. They recommended one of three, which we will vote on in January:
 1. Sell it
 2. Form a "Friends of The Barbless Hook" organization
 3. Lease it

TONDU

Manistee Lake electric generation facility.

- ❖ Cit denied permit in April, and Tondy sued. City can't afford this.
- ❖ Little river Band (Indians) have applied for intervener status on this matter.
- ❖ Council wants a full environmental impact statement.
- ❖ Progress is V-E-R-Y S-L-O-W.

RICH BOWMAN'S REPORT

SAVOY DRILLING

- ❖ Council is recommending Alternative 1 (do not drill). Yes, this is a reversal of opinion, BUT:
 1. we got what we wanted, written into the agreement.
 2. we can take a posture that represents some of our more conservative members now..
 3. The Feds can just say no, but the DNR didn't have this option.

ICE MOUNTAIN

- ❖ Have filed appeal briefs. Responses due mid-November. Have about 70% support. (I copied a website down, but it won't work.)
- ❖ The act of WITHDRAWING groundwater does the most damage to coldwater fisheries. Both proposed bill don't address this. The state of Wisconsin is one state that is close to having the correct law.
- ❖ Evert Products has significantly reduced water usage (by 5 times, as I recall). City of Evert is faced with having to raise water rates to keep afloat. Offered to SELL WATER TO ICE MOUNTAIN!

HB5784

I sent out a yahoogroups e-mail on this. Rich calls it a "stupid election-year bill". That is significant.

TROUT STAMP

Thought is to offer a voluntary stamp for fishermen. Funds would be earmarked 100% for habitat improvement. Many states already do this. DNR doesn't want to be bothered, but we would have a legislator introduce the bill for us.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Silsbe

