

Maine Council Trout Unlimited
January 29, 2009
IF&W Region B Headquarters, Sidney
Call to order 7:04 p.m.

In Attendance:

Georges River: Dan Daly, Chairman
Kennebec: Steve Brooke, Secretary; Gary Corson; Greg Ponte
Sebago: Dave Bowie; Bill Oleszczuk, NLC Delegate
Somerset: Craig Denis, Vice-Chair; Jim Veilleux, Treasurer

Secretary's Report - Brooke

Minutes of Council Meeting 10/29/2008

- **MOTION to approve as amended** – Ponte/Corson – passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Denis

Denis will complete form 990 before turning over books to new treasurer

- **MOTION to approve as explained** – Brooke/Ponte – passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW OFFICERS:

Nominations received:

Vice Chairman – Craig Denis

Treasurer – Jim Veilleux

- **MOTION for the Chair to cast one vote for the vacant Council Officer positions** – Brooke/Bowie – passed unanimously.

Correspondence:

- 1) Chair Daly noted he has not has a response from the Forest Society of Maine and instructed Denis to follow-up as appropriate.
 - 2) Chair Daly noted Council has not responded to correspondence from Commissioner Martin regarding blue back char.
- **MOTION that Corson & Ponte are to draft a response from the Chair**
Denis/Brooke – Passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Daly, Ponte and Denis reported on a meeting with John Boland, IF&W
- 2) Ponte updated Council on legislation – only 275 of an anticipated 1000+ bills have been printed to date.
 - IF&W is seeking TU's support for bill to reclaim Big Reed – A Heritage Water. Council agreed to conditional support as long as the Department agrees:
 - 1- That the water be removed from the A list; and,
 - 2- That Big Reed can no longer be designated a “wild” water.
 - Ponte met with staff of the Fish & Wildlife Committee to clarify status existing legislation regarding blue back char as a heritage fish.

Legislation was passed in 2007 requiring IF&W to list the waters holding blue back char that were being considered for protection by adding them to Maine's Heritage Fish Legislation. IF&W offered legislation (the list) that did not pass. TU is seeking clarification of the status of the 2007 requirement which is still on the books. IF&W has indicated they are "moving on" and have no intent to revisit the issue despite the 2007 requirement that remains in the law. The 10 waters holding blue back char originally listed for Heritage Bill protection were down to 7 when IF&W presented the Legislation last year.

3) CULVERTS - Daly reported on culvert/fish passage issues seeking ways Maine TU can help.

- Project SHARE, The Nature Conservancy, and Me. Audubon have all been contacted and have expressed concern over the impact of road culverts on fish passage.
- When Council approached IF&W, John Boland said he wants to set up a committee to work on the issue. Some council wondered if yet another committee would have any impact given the track record of working with other committees set up by IF&W.
- Council is also exploring a joint initiative with the Conservation Law Foundation on the potential of enforcement action.

4) TROUT CAMP: Ponte reported:

- 2008's schedule will be basis for 2009
- Dates will be June 21 – 26, 2009
- Brochure is being updated & poster will be available soon
- Cost will be kept at \$275/camper but total costs are increasing as more volunteers participate.
- The call for Volunteers will go out in April.
- Location will be the same. All expressed strong support for the Evergreens as a location.
- Major supporters for 2009 will include LL Bean, Patagonia & Poland Spring
- Trout Camp will have a booth at the LL Bean Expo this spring.

5) MAINE FISHERIES INITIATIVE

A proposal to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund from SAM is requesting a letter of support from TU. Council discussed the program

- **MOTION to partner with SAM in the proposal** –Ponte/Corson – 7 in favor, 1 abstain

6) COMMUNICATIONS: Daly shared correspondence and recent discussions regarding the need for more communication to membership from Council.

Oleszczuk noted the limits of the current web host and volunteered revamp and update Council's web site with new pages for:

- Upcoming events
- List and links to legislation of interest including testimony presented on behalf of Council

- Council meeting minutes
 - **MOTION Trout Camp budget to include the cost of their own web site and separate it from Council's site** – Denis/Ponte – passed unanimously.
- 7) ATLANTIC SALMON POTENTIAL ESA LISTING
- Daly reported on a series of conference calls held with representatives of all Maine TU chapters, Council, and TU National representatives to gather chapter input for TU's comments. Initial drafts were circulated and edited to reflect concerns raised by Maine chapter leadership.
 - Corson, Ponte, Brooke and Reardon attended the Augusta public hearings.
 - Denis and Reardon attended the Bangor public hearings.
 - Reardon spoke at both hearings and written comments have been filed on behalf of Trout Unlimited, it's Maine Council and Chapters.
- 8) NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
- Oleszczuk reported the NLC conference will be held in Travers City Michigan. He noted that National's support would again be limited to \$750.
- **MOTION to reimburse NLC delegate for nominal appropriate expenses incurred above support from National** –Ponte/Denis – passed unanimously.
- 9) Daly reported on TU National's 50th Anniversary website. National is seeking chapter history and current Chapter project profiles to include on the site. Chapters urged to participate.
- **MOTION to ADJOURN** – Bowie/Ponte - passed unanimously 9:05 p.m.