

Maine Council Trout Unlimited
September 14, 2011
IF&W Region B Headquarters, Sidney
Call to order 7:06 p.m.

In Attendance:

Kennebec: Bruce Bowman, Steve Brooke, Secretary; Gary Corson, Craig Denis, Treasurer; Carl Cote, Sean McCormick, Greg Ponte, Chairman,
Mollyocket: Dick Walthers
Sebago: David Bowie, Vice-Chair,

• **Treasurer's Report** – Denis:

MOTION – McCormick/Bowie: to release funds held on behalf of the former Sunhaze Chapter to Laura Rose-Day of the Penobscot Coalition on September 30, 2011. Passed Unanimously

MOTION - to accept report – Passed unanimously, with Corson abstaining.

• **Secretary's Reports** – Brooke:

MOTION: McCormick/Bowie: To accept as amended the Secretary's reports of March 9, 2011 and May 9, 2011. Passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS: reports and updates

- **Trout Camp:** Bowman: This was probably the best group of campers ever. There were 14 applications for 12 positions. No women applied this year. The camp was well planned, and Willie Grenier did an excellent job as camp Director. Water levels were the best in several years and fishing was good. Planning for next year is already underway with the brochure design. Some base supplies will need to be reordered this year – hats and emblems will be needed so more up-front expenses are expected.
- **Togus VA Hospital Project Healing Waters:** Ponte: While all recent trips have been a great success, staff changes at Togus spurred by retirements could dramatically change or eliminate the program despite the program's popularity with the vets.
- **IF&W – Maine Audubon – State Council un-surveyed bond initiative:** Despite staffing changes in mid-summer, 70 surveys have already been completed. So far, one of every three ponds produced caught brook trout. The program has a 2012 grant from the Horizon Foundation that will enable some actual surveying with permission of IF&W. The program has had good press exposure in the Portland Press Herald.
- **Council Web Site Up and Running!** The Council voiced its gratitude to Bill Oleszczuk for his dedication and work on this effort. All comments have been positive and the design is worthy of special note.
- **TU National and Regional updates:**
 - Annual Meeting September 16-18. Oleszczuk will be attending and reporting back at the next Council meeting.
 - Greg Ponte is stepping down from his position reviewing Embrace A Stream proposals for personal reasons. Sean McCormick has been nominated to serve in his place.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Maine Council Bylaws:** McCormick: Revisions to Council Bylaws are due this fall and will be presented after autumn activities have wound down.
- **Maine TU Council Fundraiser:** McCormick: Work is going well on a first every Maine Fly Fishing Show to be held Sunday, November 6th at the Maine Military Museum, 50 Peary Terrace, South Portland. Entrance will be \$5/person. All but two booths are already committed to outfitters, fly shops, bamboo rod makers, artists and industry professionals. There will be book signings at an authors table, fly tying by known artists, Maine IF&W biologists will be on hand to answer questions, and there will be a second hand store for gently used items. The decision to use this location was to keep the event relatively small for this first year.
- **Mollyocket Chapter sponsoring TU booth at Fryburg Fair:** Walthers: This is a week-long event and Dick would appreciate any help/support that other chapters can provide sending people up to help staff the booth. Fair rules prohibit raffles so other suggestions for fund raising will be appreciated.
- **Songo Locks – veterans fishing pier:** Bowie: Several Sebago and Mollyocket Chapter members are exploring the possibility of sponsoring a project to enable handicapped veterans access to fish at the Songo Locks. Council members urged the sponsors to develop a full proposal beginning with landowner permission. This is a potential ESA project if well presented.
- **Potential Fundraiser for Council – Granite base clamps for fly tying vices:** Ponte/McCormick. Have developed a prototype and located a source of granite that would make excellent fly tying vice bases. These would sell well and be more than competitive with what is already out there on the market.
MOTION: To provide up to \$1,000 for start up funding. Bowie/Denis – passed unanimously.
- **Maine Council Fall Elections – Call For Officers:** Ponte: Council will be holding elections at the November meeting. Chapters are notified that nominations are open. Greg Ponte, is stepping down effective this meeting as Council Chairman for personal reasons. He is replaced by Vice Chairman Dave Bowie until the November meeting elections.
- **IF&W is reconstituting the Coldwater Working Group:** Walthers/Ponte/Corson: This is the group that was constituted to assemble species-specific management plans. As part of legislative action last winter, IF&W was directed to reconvene this group. Walthers was notified by IF&W staff that the plan is to reconvene the group by E-Mail. Several Council members expressed concerns that using e-mail for a working group meeting was not appropriate for this type of working group. There is special need to address landlocked salmon management during these meetings.
- **New fishing regulations changes will be presented to the IF&W Advisory Council 9/28:** Corson: Council needs to pay special attention to the new rules and especially those proposed for blueback charr waters.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: McCormick/Brooke: 8:45PM - Passed unanimously.