

**MINUTES OF SCHEDULED BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE
LOWER MOUNTAIN FORK RIVER FOUNDATION**

February 28, 2015

5:00 PM

Nature Center

Beavers Bend State Park

Broken Bow, OK 74728

Board Members Present:

Pat Waters, Chairman

Tom Atwood, Treasurer

Jim Kelly, Secretary / Membership

Lew Duckwall

Mike Love

Martin Weaver

Dutch Baughman

David Dillow

Chris Schatte

Bill Leinberegger

Advisor Board Members Present:

Jesse King

Eddie Brister

Rob Woodruff

Members Present:

Roberta Brister

Chris Horsley

Phil O'Bryant

Main Hutcheson

Chris Murdock

Donny Carter

Linda Carter

Jenny Mayrell-Woodruff

Chris Bland

Ken Cantrell

**Mike Mendez
Mandy Mendez
Russell Sharp
Bruce Western
Linda King
Trey Brazil
Zach Hill
James Branch
Brian Weaver
Pam Jackson
Kurt Calender
Lynne Calender**

Guests Present:

**Mike Carter, Park Ranger
Danny Black, Park Ranger
Gary Hawkins, Park Ranger
Kevin Holden, Park Ranger
Frank Griffith, Park Naturalist
Bruce Shirey, Park Ranger
Drew Polk, Game Warden
Andy King
Michael Schatte
Lauren Montgomery
Eric Montgomery**

Dinner was served at 5:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chairman Pat Waters.

A copy of the minutes for the October meeting was distributed to all. There was no motion and no second to approve the minutes. Chairman Waters called for a vote and it passed without opposition.

Tom Atwood gave a financial report. This report includes the period since our last meeting on October 4th, 2014. In rounded numbers we had income for this period of \$45, 000.00 including the conversion of a \$41,000.00 CD. For this period we had expenses of \$17,000.00, resulting in a cash balance of \$81,000 which includes three CDs of \$20,000.00 each, \$18,500.00 checking account balance and \$2,500.00 in our PayPal balance. All details are available from Tom Atwood. No motion was made to approve the report, hence no second and no vote.

Chairman Waters brought up the subject of philanthropy and our 2015 intentions. We have previously supported Reel Recovery, Project Healing Waters and the Oklahoma Forestry Service Youth Camp. OFSYC was not supported in 2014. Based on our current financial status, Tom suggested total philanthropic donations not to exceed \$3,000.00 for 2015. The allocations are to be determined.

The results of the Mystery Fly were announced by Rob Tom Atwood. Despite less than ideal weather we had 36 entrants resulting in \$1,800.00 in entry fees and \$625.00 in mulligans for total income of \$2,425.00 before expenses. Doug Robichaux was the winner with 29 points. Main Hutcheson was the runner-up with 18 points.

No representative from the ODWC was present. Pat Waters brought us up to date based on recent conversations with Don Groom:

- Jay Barfield has returned to southeastern Oklahoma and will be in a slightly different role than his previous one. Jay is an ally of the LMFRF and we are happy he has returned.**
- One of Jay's first projects will involve maintenance work on the vehicle water crossing point above the former lower foot bridge to allow the stocking truck to return to crossing at this point.**
- Another project Jay will undertake is the long overdue maintenance work on Lost Creek. The scope of this project is not defined but we hope for repairing the washed out logs and removing silt from impacted areas.**
- The language for the new regulations re: the use of bait has been resolved and will become effective with the issuance of new printed regulation material, likely in August.**
- Five additional boot washing stations are under construction and will be installed when available.**
- Additional information kiosks, quantity unknown, are under construction and will be installed when available.**
- The tree planting project in the Cold Hole area is still planned. Chris Schatte is generously donating the trees but Don Groom is operating with a short staff and will have to work this into his schedule.**
- The new contract for stocking trout is now in effect with Crystal Lake Hatchery in Missouri. They will stock 2,100 pounds of trout on March 5th and another 2,100 pounds on March 19th, followed by stockings every two weeks. We will also receive 25,000 federal mitigation fish in the near future with 50% going to zone #1, 25% going to zone #2 and 25% going to zone #3.**

Mike Carter, speaking on behalf of the Park Rangers, shared:

- The radio repeater equipment continues to be a great asset. Thank again to the LMFRF.**
- The new and refurbished binoculars work great. Thanks again to the LMFRF.**
- To an unbelieving audience, Mike said they have no additional requests at this time.**
- Pat Waters inquired of Mike if some benches could be strategically located around parking areas. We have observed the our participants in the Project Healing Waters and Reel Recovery retreats sometime struggle with removing waders with a place to sit. Mike will discuss with Jim Miller and report back.**
- Pat Waters then inquired if the LMFRF could erect temporary signs in strategic locations on the river identifying spawning redds and asking people to avoid disturbing them. Mike will also discuss this with Jim Miller and report back.**
- Mike said that the majority of the GPS trail marking project was complete. They are evaluation the value of marking Spillway Creek with no decision made at this time.**
- A question was asked by Ken Cantrell about the condition of the Camp Host campsite in the Fern campground area. Mike was reluctant to comment but acknowledged that this has been a topic of conversation for several years. He offered no explanation, solution or reason but offered to take it to Jim Miller.**
- Member Phil O'Bryan offered his services (he owns a sign company) to design signs to delineate the spawning areas. Mike said he would check with Jim Miller on this also. Further discussion to follow.**
- Mike said to call him if needed. The number is 580-494-6300 which is the park office. Ask to be connected with a Park Ranger.**
- Pat then asked everyone to notice the new cold water aquarium the LMFRF recently donated to the Nature Center. He explained how long in the talking and planning stage it took for this to become a reality.**

Drew Polk spoke on behalf of the game wardens:

- Responding to a question from Kurt Calender he said that the game wardens could and did give tickets for littering. The fines could be as much as \$700.00.**
- The game wardens will be out in full force for Spring Break and will even conduct covert operations on the river.**
- Dru, acknowledging that they will never be on the river as much as we would like, reviewed their staffing and geographical coverage areas as well as scope of responsibility.**

- A question from the floor wanted to know what was going to happen to “Bucky”, the small whitetail buck that was dropped off in the park. He has become a real nuisance and could become dangerous. Drew would like to eliminate him but some animal lovers don’t want to hear of this solution. Drew will talk to his superiors and come up with a plan.
- Another question wanted to know if the wardens issued multiple tickets. Dru said they did and gave some insight into who gets a ticket, how many and for what.
- Drew gave his cell phone number for calls and texts to report violations and encouraged anyone to call him.
- Drew made a request for us to allow him to make a presentation on drones and their future role in law enforcement. This will include an actual demonstration. This is scheduled for the next LMFRF meeting on June 28, 2015 at the Forest Heritage Center in Beavers Bend State Park.

Jim Kelly reported on the search for volunteers from the board to fill the roles of secretary and membership. At the end of 2015 Martin Weaver will become the secretary and Chris Schatte will take over membership. Thank you to these willing volunteers.

Jim reported that we currently have 35 lifetime members and 56 paid annual members for a total of 91 members. This is 17 more than at the same time last year and only 3 short of our total for 2014.

Chris Schatte then brought us up to date on the Stream Watch program. He presented a dispenser product, designed to dispense bags for dog poop and containing a waste disposal unit. These would be modified to dispense bags for trash pick-up. These would be located in the place of the existing wooden boxes and replace these boxes. 6-7 of these units would be required. No action was taken. A question was asked about the availability of new Stream Watch badges and regulation cards. This is on hold until the new regulations are in effect.

David Dillow brought us up to date on the Vibert box program to place fertilized brown trout eggs in the river. He is now ready to seek authorization from ODWC for this year and expects no opposition. We agreed to seek 10,000 eggs if available in place of the 7,500 eggs we have previously requested. This will require a very minimal expenditure of funds and we have ample places in the river to utilize them.

Pat Waters then summarized the official business conducted by the board since our October meeting. These included:

- Final specifications and expenditure for the aquarium

- The election of Dutch Baughman to fill an open board of directors position
- The purchase of new and repair of existing binoculars for the Park Rangers
- The purchase of a spotting scope for the area game wardens
- The election of Diane Blair to fill an open board of directors position
- The decision not to buy \$8,500.00 worth of brood fish previously approved by the board
- The expenditure to purchase six “bear-proof” trash receptacles
- Authorized Chairman Waters to proceed with the website upgrade and associated costs.

Pat made us aware that director Mark Lewis has resigned his board position, leaving an open seat on the board. There is a meeting scheduled next week in Broken Bow with local business people and their elected officials. Representatives from the LMFRF will attend this meeting. One of the attendees will be Pam Jackson, a local property manager and LMFRF member. Would it be in the best interest of the LMFRF to have a member who is a local business person, even if not a fly fisher? We agreed it would. Tom Atwood made a motion to invite Pam to join our board, seconded by Bill Leinberger. The vote was 8-1 in favor with Mike Love voting no.

Lew Duckwall reported briefly on the Project Healing Waters activities and thanked all for the support the LMFRF has provided. He stated that the upcoming May retreat will mean more than 200 veterans have come to PHW retreats at Broken Bow. Lew announced that Linda King has been named regional and national “Volunteer of the Year” by Project Healing Waters. A generous round of applause followed.

Martin Weaver, thanked all for the support Reel Recovery has received from the LMFRF. Martin said the next Broken Bow retreat is May 3-5, 2015 and sixteen participants are already scheduled to participate.

Rob Woodruff conducted the Mystery Fly raffle. All who were paid MF participants and attendees at the meeting were eligible to win. Lew Duckwall was the lucky winner of a Simms wading staff.

No old business items were presented.

Under new business Donny Carter brought up the subject of the closure of trout hatcheries in Arkansas. This has been a topic of conversation for several years and could adversely impact our stockings. Most agree there has been more rumor than fact. Jim Kelly will be in Mountain Home at the end of March and offered to attempt to find some current information.

Chairman Waters adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.