

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

June 21, 2014

5:00 PM

**Broken Bow Public Library
404 North Broadway
Broken Bow, OK 74728**

Board Members Present:

**Pat Waters, Chairman
Tom Atwood, Treasurer
Jim Kelly, Secretary / Membership
Mike Love
Bill Leinberger
Mike Emerson
Chris Schatte
Mark Lewis**

Advisor Board Members Present:

Jesse King

Members Present:

**Frank Rust
Pam Waters
Linda King
Nyle Morris**

Guests Present:

**Jim Miller, Park Ranger
Mike Carter, Park Ranger
Frank Griffith, Park Ranger
Mark Hannah, Game Warden
Don Groom, ODWC
Drew Troyer**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM by Chairman Pat Waters.

A copy of the minutes for the February meeting was distributed to all. Pat Waters pointed out that one item, the decision on limiting philanthropic funds and the distribution of same, had been omitted. Based on adding this item Mike Emerson made a motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Bill Leinberger and approved by all.

Tom Atwood gave a financial report. In rounded numbers we have 2014 income to date of \$8,000.00 and expenses of \$21,000.00 resulting in a deficit of \$13,000.00. Our cash balance is \$116,000.00. Exact amounts and specific line items are available upon request.

Jim Kelly reported that we currently have 33 lifetime members and 49 paid annual members for a total of 82 members. This is 2 more than at the same time last year.

Mark Hannah spoke on behalf of the game wardens and touched on these topics:

- Violations are down thanks to information on kiosks.
- All Oklahoma hunting and fishing regulations will now be in one booklet.
- The state has eight (8) new game wardens, distribution to be determined.
- Jim Gilliam is a new game warden in Choctaw County and assisting some on the LMFR.
- The driver of a black Ford Explorer or Sportrac is thought to be taking excessive amounts of fish from below the Cold Hole. Be on the lookout for this person or vehicle.
- Pat Waters requested that a certain guide on the river be watched as he was advising clients that soft plastics were acceptable in the Red Zones.
- This led to a discussion of the current regulations re: soft plastic baits and what the new regulations should state. Don Groom interjected at this point that he would work on a more specific definition of "bait" and get it in the new regulations.
- An extension of this topic was the question are "pegged eggs" legal. These are the hard plastic eggs with the hook suspended several inches under the egg. No definitive answer was available since this was new to Mark.
- Discussed the current state of zone 3. It seems to be much safer and is getting used more frequently since no overnight camping and no alcohol is allowed.
- Addressed questions about the danger of large power boats on the lower section of the LMFR below the Highway 70 bridge.

The Park Rangers then took their turn and discussed:

- The status of the GPS trail marking project was reviewed and two very positive recent experiences were told.

- Pat Waters then presented seven (7) new state of the art GPS units to the Park Rangers from the LMFRF.
- Jim Miller commended the LMFRF for being a unique organization. He said most organizations come asking for help, our foundation comes asking to help.
- Mike Carter confirmed Mark Hannah's observation that violations are down. He thinks this is partly due to the sophisticated electronic equipment furnished by the LMFRF.
- Frank Griffith brought us up to date on the new Nature Center. All construction is complete and the exhibits will be installed in the next few weeks. He has done research on a cold water aquarium to display trout and found this to be a very expensive project, \$14,000 for a 300 gallon unit. More research will follow with other potential vendors and a determination of appropriate size. It is generally agreed that the LMFRF wants to be a part of this project but no commitments have been made.

Don Groom of ODWC then took the floor to bring us up to date and field questions:

- He expressed concern over the current status at ODWC and likely future changes. He expects Jay Barfield will be transferred to another unit and not be replaced. Don will then have only two (2) regional helpers for his entire region.
- The bubble diffuser project is officially dead and the equipment will be removed.
- He has requested extra money for trout.
- A long discussion followed on adding gravel to the trail along the Evening Hole. Don said this was in the works but he had no cost estimate at this time. This work may occur before our next meeting so the group came up with a best guess number for material and labor. Mike Love made a motion that we approve an amount, not to exceed \$5,000.00, for this work. This was seconded by Chris Schatte and approved by all.
- The corrective work required for Lost Creek is still in the future with no firm date. It could occur in conjunction with the Evening Hole gravel project.
- Additional boot washing stations are in the works.
- Jay Barfield will furnish supplies to both fly shops so volunteers can replenish the boot washing station (s).
- A discussion then followed about trout stocking and the recent disaster when virtually all trout died in transit prior to stocking. The hatchery will provide a replacement load at no cost. Don explained the difference between purchased trout and mitigation trout and where they come from. He said he could put trout in Zone 2 but they would not be additional fish, they would come from Zone 1. Don said if the LMFRF bought additional fish he would distribute them as directed.
- A motion was made by Mike Love that we purchase \$8,500.00 in two (2) pound trout to be stocked in Zone 2 as soon as possible. This is predicated on these fish being available. This was seconded by Bill Leinberger and approved by all. The vendor is to be determined.

- The next subject was purchasing large spawning pairs, if available, for stocking in January in the Red Zones as we did last year. A motion was made by Mike Love that we purchase 2,000 pounds of 3-5 pound fish for \$8,500.00. This was seconded by Mike Emerson and approved by all.

Pat Waters brought us up to date on the rumored hatchery closings and how it might change the trout we receive, both through the state purchasing contract and the mitigation trout. This is an old story that has found new legs without many facts according to Pat.

Pat Waters then spoke about Project Healing Waters since Lew Duckwall was not in attendance. PHW just completed another very successful retreat last month at Broken Bow and will return again in September and December. These are partially funded by a grant from the LMFRF. Volunteers are always needed.

Linda King expressed the great support local cabin owners are showing by volunteering the use of their cabins to PHW. She reminded us we need to support the cabin rental agencies who make this possible. Linda will distribute a list of these rental agencies. She also told of the first Project Healing Waters retreat for lady veterans which will be held in October.

Mike Emerson then spoke briefly about Reel Recovery and thanked the Board for their continued support. He reviewed the just completed retreat at Broken Bow in May and the next retreat in October. Volunteers are always needed.

Jim Kelly then offered a volunteer's perspective on both PHW and Reel Recovery. He reviewed the recent retreats and the large number of volunteers who are LMFRF members. He encouraged other members to join in these very special experiences.

Pat Waters then reviewed the just completed Oklahoma Forestry Service Youth Camp. Our volunteers served a record number of fly casters and fly fishers with some great stories of success. He issued a call for more volunteers for the program in early June of 2015.

Chris Schatte then presented a plan to supply trash bags to outlets (fly shops, park office, nature center, license sellers, etc.) for free distribution to LMFR fishers as a part of our Stream Watch program. This program has been in effect in Missouri for six (6) years and thought to be very successful. Samples of the Missouri bag were passed around. The discussion points included:

- It seems very expensive. A minimum quantity of 20,000 bags will cost \$5,800.00.
- Can we get co-sponsors to underwrite all or most of the cost?

- It seems to be much larger than necessary.
- What percentage will make it to the river as opposed to campsites, use on the lake or just taking a few for home?
- Could we have a similar program using plastic bags which should be far less expensive?
- It was decided additional research was necessary to determine printing plate cost for co-sponsors and the use of alternate materials.
- We agreed to have new Stream Watch regulation cards and name badges printed.

Pat Waters then addressed the Vibert Box program since Roger Turner was not in attendance. We are all set for another year with one caveat, the hatchery lost a key employee and cannot guarantee enough eggs will be available to fill our order. Mike Emerson made a motion that we fund \$500.00 for this program based on the eggs being available. Chris Schatte seconded this motion and all approved.

On the subject of old business, Jim Kelly brought up the subject of the lack of progress in improving our website. It was generally agreed that our past and present webmasters were not able or willing to move us forward and we should seek another option. We will attempt to get Pat Chapman, possibly with the help of Erica Elliot, to assist us with this project. A motion that we seek out Pat and explore what would be involved in time and cost was made by Mike Love and seconded by Tom Atwood. All approved.

No topics were presented as new business.

Chairman Waters adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.