

## **Bellevue-Issaquah Chapter TU Board Meeting, 2/6/19**

Attendees: Brad, Kevin, Steve M, Steve L, Sasha, Denis, Shawn, Dave, Bill, Duane, John S, Jeff Norman, and Austin

Meeting was called to order by VP Shawn. Mark was in Washington DC for a national TU meeting.

FT3 will be held in two weeks – 2/21, at the North Bend Theater. Ticket sales slow, but typical for this early. Most tickets usually sold in the last two weeks prior to show.

Fly Caster Brewing will be providing the beer.

Still awaiting donated fly rod from Orvis. Sasha says her contact there has left and is now with REI.

Need 4-6 volunteers to help set up and coordinate things the night of the event. Kevin Shawn, and Dave offered to help. Duane may also be available since he lives in NB. It was suggested we set up a table with a laptop up front to take new member applications on-site.

Meghan Barker with Alaska TU will be in Seattle area on a campaign to generate more awareness and opposition to the Pebble Mine in the headwaters of Bristol Bay. Once thought defeated, the permitting process has been fast-tracked by the Trump Administration. She will be attending the Fly Fishing Show in Kirkland, with 2 volunteers each day from TU-BI helping out. Brad will be working Friday, Mark and John S. on Saturday, and Denis and Steve L. on Sunday. Meghan will also conduct a presentation on 2/19 at Fly Caster Brewing from 7-8 pm.

Steve M reported that Legislative Day has been cancelled. It was too late in the legislative session for input and comments to influence legislative decisions for this year.

The TU Western Regional Meeting will be in Olympia 3/14-16. Brad encouraged all members to attend, if possible.

Response from the statewide mailing brought in \$4,000, which is about how much it cost.

Dave noted that they are attempting to set the fry trapping schedule to match the timing of hatches from the Kokanee redds observed this past fall. It is hoped this will improve the chances of finding fry in the creeks. There were only 118 returning Kokanee observed this year. Very disappointing, especially when it was 8,000 just 3 years ago.

John S reported he has been hosting fly tying sessions at Creekside on Sunday afternoons. They are tying flies for Project Healing Waters – 40 cups with two flies each. He will be hosting four more tying sessions this winter. He invites any members who want to participate to drop in.

PHW will be held at Lake Langlois on Saturday, 4/20. It was noted that Duane is still working with his WDFW contact to secure the permitting for this event, which is held a week before the regular trout season opens and is for PHW veterans only. Bruce Tyson at JBLM is coordinating it

for the veterans. Daughters of the Revolution will provide breakfast and coffee, with a barbecue to follow the event. Dave noted he could bring his large grill like he did last year. Denis will be shooting some video, and Austin will be taking still photos.

Denis suggested that we introduce a Q & A component at our monthly member meetings, asking members to request what they want to know more about – issues, fly-tying, knot tying, whatever it is. A discussion followed with Brad suggesting that we ask members to provide questions prior to the meetings so we could address some at the beginning of each meeting. Another suggestion was to invite those with questions to come 30 minutes early to have a short pre-meeting roundtable to hear and answer questions.

Sasha requested that we use the PA system at the next Salmon, Science & Suds event so that everyone can hear the presenter. It was noted that we have one, but it was not available for the last event. Additionally, it was suggested that we put the presenters towards the bar so they are speaking away from the noise, as was done at the Candidates' Forum.

Kevin reported the Chapter has \$44,333 in its back account at BECU. He will be closing the Chase account upon Mark's return.

Steve M reported that the Advocacy Council has been involved in the Suction Dredge issue and legislation. Brad attended the hearing and says there was good representation from TU. Lisa Welben (?), is the chair of the legislative committee overseeing this issue.

WDFW put forth a recommendation to eliminate smallmouth bass, walleye and largemouth bass from the game fish list to encourage greater catches and reduce populations and predation of salmon eggs, fry and smolts. Bass anglers are not happy, so discussions continue on where this might be most effective without a statewide change.

The Issaquah Hatchery is the only hatchery in the state that did not make its escapement count or state goal this past year. Brad pointed out that releasing all of the hatchery fish at one time invited predators to feast on fry, that spreading out the release over a long period of time might reduce the predation. It was also pointed out that it has gotten the attention of the state and local leaders that Lake Sammamish might be the issue and that immediate action needs to be taken.

Steve M also reported and he and Nick Chambers, TU staff member, met with the WDFW Wildlife Commission to discuss a statewide strategic plan, and that they will be going back on Friday 2/8 to continue the dialogue. They are hoping to shift the focus to decisions based on individual watersheds, or watershed to watershed, instead of blanket recommendations applied statewide.

Brad added that he wished they focused more on using current science in their decision making – and recognized the importance of restoring habitats, and shutting down hatcheries in places where wild fish have a chance of rebounding.

WDFW revenues are dwindling due to decreased license sales. With improved habitat to enhance the fisheries, it is anticipated license sales and revenues would increase.

John mentioned he has already had two inquiries into the outboard motor being offered by the chapter.

It was also mentioned that the State of Oregon is working to eliminate gill netting in the Columbia.

Dave noted that he has submitted a grant proposal for \$50,000 for UW Research Funding, outreach and website.

He also heard whispering about bringing 65,000 Baker Lake sockeye to the Issaquah Hatchery. For what reason and other details he does not know, but this is very concerning. It appears the Muckleshoot are involved, despite no historical use of Lake Sammamish. The Snoqualmie were not recognized until later, after fisheries treaties were already negotiated.

The Kokanee film official trailer is nearly completed. Dave showed a preliminary copy on his laptop. It is hoped it will be done and ready for showing at the FT3 movie night, then hopefully blasted out online after April 1.

The evening concluded with a discussion about communicating with current membership and maintaining an up-to-date database. Is it worth the cost of trying to maintain current members' contact information, or should we just be spending our time and resources on recruiting new members?