

Montana Walleyes Unlimited
Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell
March 10, 2012

President Bob Klein called the meeting to order with 65 officers, directors, and members signed in. **Proxies** were presented by Steve Harada for Kris Keller; Kennie Williams for Crooked Creek Chapter; Steve Chvilicek for Fresno Chapter; and Mike Newton for Mon-Dak Chapter (Sidney).

Minutes from the September 24, 2011 held in Glasgow, as written by Tanja Fransen, substituting for Secretary Nora Grubb, were approved as moved by Mike Newton and seconded by Mike Butzlaff. Motion carried.

Brian Marotz, a fisheries biologist and hydropower mitigation coordinator from the MFWP discussed his ideas for the **St. Mary/Milk River Watershed Vision** regarding the development of pump storage and renewable energy. He is looking for support and welcomes any ideas. For more information email him at Bmarotz@mt.gov or call 406-751-4546.

Eric Roberts, also from the MFWP discussed the proposed fish cleaning station to be built near the **Silos Recreation Area on Canyon Ferry**. The estimated cost is \$240,000 for which grants will fund 75% but they must come up with the remaining \$60,000. \$41,000 in donations has been received to date. When questioned about this estimated cost versus the \$32,000 for the cost of a fish cleaning station recently built at Glasgow, it was explained that it was determined there must be a waste water treatment process included in this structure, which is very expensive to build. Other state fish station projects received exemptions concerning this process but this particular project has met opposition in Broadwater County.

Treasurer Mike Butzlaff presented his **treasurer's report** showing a current balance of \$71,554.54 in the checking and savings accounts, all of which has been budgeted, and \$16,031.30 in the WU Foundation account. Bob Gilbert moved the budget and report be accepted. Mike Newton seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Sedlock gave his **membership report** encouraging all chapters to promote membership using any tools available to them in their areas such as the media, banquets, kids' events, and mailings to past members, etc. There are currently 18 chapters but according to state bylaws a 'chapter' must have a minimum of 25 members, which 5 chapters do not have at this time. Other chapters are asked to help these five chapters in any way possible to get their membership back up to the required 25. Bob Klein will approach a Billings Chapter member who owns an advertising agency for suggestions for promoting membership throughout the state.

Dave Sedlock talked about the **website**, number of hits, etc. Currently the organization has "Montana walleyes unlimited.net" and "Montana walleyes unlimited.org" and now "Montana walleyes unlimited.com" has become available. Denny Mailey moved, Bill Ronning seconded that Dave go ahead and acquire this web address also. Carried. Cost is a one-time fee of \$300 for a two-year period, then \$19 per year to maintain. There were no webcam problems noted at this time and everyone is pleased with the functions and looks of the website as is.

Dave then discussed **membership options on the website**, new ideas such as blogging, advertising items on the website, selling banquet and raffle tickets via web using pay pal, etc. Membership lists will not be posted on the website in accordance with the bylaws. It was decided that members only will be allowed to advertise in a 'classified section' on the website and in "Fish Tales" but a disclaimer will be posted on both stating that "Montana Walleyes Unlimited is not responsible for the ad, payment, or anything related to these items and transactions and that MWU also reserves the right to refuse to post any items they so choose" or wording to this effect.

Executive Director Bob Gilbert gave his **legislative report** touching on the FWP Commission meetings; proposed fee to be charged for boats; proposed increase in fishing license fees; warm water stamp, gone after this year; and the Fresno spillway effort. The **Legislative Fish Fry** is scheduled for January 13, 2013 in Helena at the Jorgenson Inn. He invited everyone to attend this event. President Bob asked about **voting procedures** for today's elections. Bob G. stated that our current process is compliant with state law. Directors and officers are elected by the body of officers and directors, rather than members at large. He reminded all that MWU is *based on the number of chapters* and not the number of members in each chapter, thereby giving each chapter one vote.

Mike Sedlock and the Bylaw Committee had posted **proposed amendments to the current bylaws** dated 02/20/2010 on the website for review 60 days prior to this meeting. Roxanne Tubbs moved the five amendments proposed be accepted as written. An objection to the final part of the proposed 5th amendment was raised. This concerned Article XVI, Board Advisors. Mike Newton pointed out that board advisors are *appointed by the President* not the Board of Directors. Steve Harada amended the motion to exclude this portion of proposed Amendment 5. Kennie Williams seconded the motion with amendment. Amended motion carried, therefore no change was made to Article XVI.

"Fish Tales" editor Dean Rhyneer reported that all is going well. He thanked everyone for getting their chapter chatter, news items, and articles in on time. Next issue will be out in April, **deadline for which is March 16th**. If you would like extra copies of issues let Bob Klein know well in advance and he will order them for you.

Bob Klein discussed the format for applying for and choosing the **Jim Rettig Bronze individual and chapter recognition awards**. He stated that the individual award selection was no problem for the selection committee of Mike Newton, Mike Sedlock, Bob Hickey, John Kelley, and Don Pyrah. However three chapters were nominated for the chapter award and after much deliberating no decision was made. The selection committee felt all chapters should actually receive this award and questioned where most chapters would display their mini-bronze. Mike Newton moved that all chapters be listed by charter date on the stand of the large bronze displayed at the Fort Peck Hatchery and that no mini-bronze statues be awarded to any chapter. Mike Brumble seconded and the motion passed.

The Great Falls Chapter has offered to be the collector and selector of applications for the **Jim Rettig Scholarship**. Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded each year. **Deadline for applying is August 1st** with one application already received. Chapters are encouraged to promote this in their areas.

New green **Walleyes Unlimited of Montana pamphlets** have been printed and have been distributed. **THROW OUT THE OLD BLUE ONES**. Use these as a membership tool at your banquets, tournaments, kids' events, sporting goods stores, etc. Bob also had ANS (Aquatic Nuisance Species) packets from the FWP available – 50 per chapter.

The **fall meeting for 2012** will be held in? Miles City? Great Falls? Or the Upper Missouri Chapter area? About 50 rooms are needed so each chapter will check on availability in their areas and the site is to be announced. **2013 annual meeting & banquet – Glasgow; 2014 annual meeting & banquet – Helena; and 2015 annual meeting & banquet – Havre**. The annual meeting and banquet brings about 200 people into the area. Most of the proceeds go to the host chapter and \$4000-5000 goes back to the state WU.

Dale Gilbert then gave his **Walleyes Unlimited Tournament Circuit report** stating that things are going great. A lap top computer has been purchased and the 2012 circuit has signed on more sponsors. The **Angler Advisory Committee** is made up of five members, one from each region. Anyone interested in being on this committee contact him. He also had tournament posters ready for distribution. He will be presenting the circuit awards and scholarships at the banquet tonight. He thanked the Great Falls and Fresno Chapters for their contributions of \$500 each toward the scholarships.

Steve Harada reported on the **Fort Peck Tournament Series** consisting of Hell Creek, Rock Creek, and the Governor's Cup tournaments. This year will be the 25th annual Governor's Cup and he encouraged all to participate. He too is getting more sponsors and will be presenting awards at the banquet this evening.

Bob Klein and Dale then gave the **Missouri River/NO Limit update**. The bottom line was that the efforts of collecting over 780 petition signatures; collecting and presenting biological and scientific statistical data by qualified experts; writing letters to the commission members and the governor; and attending FWP Commission meetings "was all for naught!" As an organization Montana Walleyes Unlimited will continue to be involved in future attempts to rectify the NO limit regulation. Individuals can also continue to fight this senseless regulation. Steve Harada suggested contacting the Citizen Advisory Council, which he is a member of, and getting their help to get something done to reverse the NO limit for this area.

Donations were the next agenda item. Erv Klitzke moved, Dawn Curtiss seconded that \$2,000 be given to Camp Walleye, carried; Mike Newton moved, Steve Harada seconded \$1,500 go to Fishing for the Cure, carried; and Kennie Williams moved, Bob Hickey seconded \$1,000 be given to the Great Falls Chapter to be used for improvement needs at Bailey Reservoir and that the chapter put in writing exactly what those improvements are to be when presented to the FWP, who now owns this property. Motion carried with one vote against.

Webmaster David Sedlock currently receives \$200 per month. Travis Scott moved his payment be increased to \$400 per month. Frank Hartman seconded and the motion carried.

Denny Mailey, Region 3 Director, announced that the Region 3 chapters – Billings, Miles City, and Northern Wyoming - will be giving a monetary award for the **largest walleye caught and released in the circuit tournaments**. A replica of the walleye will also be made and presented.

Bob Klein spoke briefly on **HR 2942** which directs the Corps to maintain water levels upstream so that downstream states will not flood. This bill could prove disastrous to Fort Peck and needs to be watched to see where it goes.

Election of officers and directors followed and proved to be short and sweet. Nominations were: Erv Klitzke director for Region 2; Roy Ereaux director of Region 4; Tanja Fransen for Secretary; and Mike Butzlaff for Treasurer. Kennie Williams moved, Steve Harada seconded that these be unanimously elected. Carried.

The Gallatin/Madison chapter is working in their area with other organizations to start a **"Wounded Warrior Program."** They will let all know how this progresses.

Everyone was reminded to get their officer changes in to Mike Sedlock and to *please* answer emails when received, especially concerning WU business.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY submitted,

Nora Grubb, Past Secretary of possibly the *greatest organization ever!*

Thank you for the honor to serve with you.