



**Flathead Valley Trout Unlimited Board Meeting
Tuesday, 9/4/13**

Attendees: Lucky Sultz, Glenn Anacker, Larry Timchak, Dan Olson, Jim Johnson, Dan Short,

Treasurers Report: Balance of approximately \$19,625. This includes the \$3,000 mini grant from MT TU for Swan Lake netting. With FVTU Swan Lake contribution of up to \$3,000 in the near future, our available balance will be closer to \$13,625. All banquet bills have been paid

Old Business:

1. Review Election of Officers- At the May 30, 2013 Board Meeting, the following board positions were nominated and approved:

President:	Larry Timchak
Vice-Chair:	Jim Johnson
Secretary:	Chris Schustrom
Treasurer:	Glenn Anacker (Greg LeTourneau in training)
Conservation Chair:	Lucky Sultz
Banquet Chair"	Dan Short

2. Flathead Lake DEIS- excellent outreach by FVTU and Montana TU resulted in 80% of the 362 commenters supporting maximum suppression Alternative D. Next step is approval of a specific alternative by the CSKT Tribal Council. FVTU may outreach to Tribal elders who have influence with the Council. FVTU currently working on an op-ed in response to letters and opinion pieces critical of lake trout suppression. Will recommend Montana TU update members statewide on status of EIS and thank those who commented on the DEIS.

3. Swan Lake netting project- note from MT FWP biologist Leo Rosenthal:

"Last Friday we wrapped up the 5th year of juvenile lake trout netting in Swan Lake. Once again the project went off without a hitch and resulted in 6,988 lake trout being removed. Lake trout captured were predominantly age-2 through age-4 fish, however a few older fish were encountered. Bycatch of other fish species was low with less than 200 bull trout captured. Mortality of inadvertently captured bull trout was similar to previous years, with greater than 60% being released live to the lake."

*"I also wanted to take a moment to recognize the efforts everyone has made to pull off a project of this magnitude. A special thanks are in order for all of the Trout Unlimited volunteers that assisted with fish cleaning over the past three weeks. **Every shift was staffed with at least one volunteer from either Montana TU, the Westslope Chapter TU out of Missoula, or the Flathead Valley TU chapter.** While it wasn't glamorous work, volunteers were enthusiastic and eager to learn more about what we were*

doing. I would also like to thank all of the USFWS, USFS, and FWP personnel for taking the time out of their schedules to assist with this important project.”

A big thanks to Chris Schustrom and Michael Gibson for helping organize this effort.

4. FVTU Public Service Announcement- Discussed effectiveness of PSA. Generally agreed it was well received and worth the investment of \$750. Will consider using same PSA or creating new ones in the future.

5. Whitefish Range Collaborative- meetings will commence once more on Monday, September 9. The collaborative group is working well together but the last issue to resolve is wilderness recommendations. As unanimous consent is required for recommendations to the Forest Service, Wilderness recommendations may be the most controversial issue to date.

New Business

1. Comments on 2014 Fishing Regulations- Lucky and Chris developed Chapter recommendations to submit to MT FWP. A copy of the letter is on the FVTU web page.

2. Montana TU State Council meeting- Dan Short, Chris Schustrom, and Dan Olson plan to attend the meeting in Lewistown on Saturday, September 14.

3. FVTU relationship with Cabelas Outpost- Larry has been invited to a Conservation Partner event prior to the grand opening of the new store in Kalispell. Through their Round up for Conservation program, Cabelas provides resources and goods to conservation organizations in the area. They also host seminars where TU can participate.

4. Board Meeting Location- Sportsmans Ski Haus has agreed to let us use their meeting room for our board meetings.

Fundraising

1. Pint Night- Micro brew mixer- Larry will look into FVTU hosting a pint night at one of our local breweries.

2013 Chapter Activities/Projects

1. Casting for Recovery- Dan Olson and Glenn Anacker will represent TU at the event scheduled for Sept 8.

2. US Forest Service Shepard Creek Brook Trout Suppression- scheduled for 9/23- 9/26, still looking for a few volunteers. Contact Larry Timchak at 250-7473..

3. Fish the Fish, Knotty Nymphs Event Benefit- September 14, Whitefish Mountain Resort- Lucky Sultz and Larry Timchak will represent the Chapter at this event. Fly tying,

4. Swan Lake Lake Trout Suppression, late October- Contact Chris Schustrom if you are able to volunteer.

6. Membership meeting program-

o **Tuesday, October 15-** Chris McReady, salt water tarpon and bonefish fly fishing

o **Tuesday, November 19-** Thompson Smith, “ Bull Trout and the Salish Kootenai Tribe” (invited)

o **Tuesday, December 17**, Christmas Social

Other program ideas: Fishing Glacier NP lakes, Self- Guided Trip to Alaska, Darwin Stoneman “Fly Fishing in Cuba”, MT FWP “State of the Fisheries”

Funding Projects/Requests

1. Montana TU request for Chapter support of radio telemetry work in Yellowstone NP- board agreed that it was a good project with potential ramifications for Flathead Lake. Glenn Anacker moved and Jim Johnson seconded motion to contribute \$500 toward this effort. Unanimously approved.

Next board meeting: October 1, 2013, 6:30 PM, Sportsmans Ski Haus Meeting Room, Kalispell