

# **Special Board and Members Meeting Minutes January 21, 2008**

**Present:** Mark Seymour, Sean Smith, Wendy Nixon, Tom Foley, Mark Geppert, Brigham Pendleton, Bob Devore, Brad Johnson, Kevin Thurston, Mitch Kalter, Rick Hutchins

**Absent:** Clay Ellis, Nick Richards, Ron Hudson, Jonathan Chorlian

Meeting Called to order at 6:30PM by Secretary Mitch Kalter

## **Introductions:**

The board members and chapter members in attendance introduced themselves. Mitch explained that this meeting is the result of failure to pass a budget strategy, and that feedback from members indicated that strategic planning was indeed necessary to give the membership and leadership a clear and consistent vision of the chapter and its mission. He introduced Bob Devore, a relatively new TU member to our chapter who does work in business organization and planning as a facilitator, and had volunteered his expertise to help the group with this process.

## **GBTU Vision, Mission**

Mr. Devore went through the presentation that he had given at a previous BOD meeting. In it he discussed the interrelationships and importance of an organizations vision, mission and operations being linked to the achievement of the mission, and long term strategic planning to work toward a common agreed upon vision. He discussed the problems that arise when organizations do not have a realistic mission. Budgets are the result of prioritizing your projects and operations and linking them to the mission. His presentation clearly defined vision, mission, operations, operational planning and strategic planning and their linkages.

## **GBTU Present Projects and Club History**

Secretary Mitch Kalter had been asked to prepare a presentation of GBTU's programs. He first presented the "ground rules" of being a TU chapter as defined in the bylaws, leadership handbook, as well as the new strategic plan. It was clear that conservation, education, service to members, and sound business practices were the TU cornerstones to successful chapters and achieving the TU National mission.

A linear history of the chapter was presented, starting with the initial chartering and extending through the resent rechartering process in 2007. The evolution of the stocking program, as well as the recent proliferation of education and conservation projects, were reviewed and explained. Particular detail was paid to the changes from FY 2005 through FY 2006 with respect to the projects and how they related to the chapters effectiveness index (CEI) rating for those years, and to the eventual successful rechartering of the chapter.

Tables were presented of GBTU programs from 2005, 2006 and 2007, with the different operational goals of each of the projects defined, and showing how they aligned with the mission of TU National, and GBTU.

## **Open Discussion**

All members and board members present then discussed the data presented and expressed their feelings regarding what they would like to see the mission and vision of GBTU be. Based on the New TU National 2008-2012 Strategic Plan and the Social Contract outlined therein regarding chapter responsibilities, the group felt that it was clear the TU National vision and mission was indeed the vision and mission that must be adopted. The chapter's historical course, has clearly followed divergent paths between recreational fishing and fish stocking and TU mission specific projects involving education, conservation, and collaboration with other conservation organizations.

Mark Geppert noted that he has been a long time supporter of the Fall Stocking Program and has contributed generously over the years. He enjoys the fall fishing and feels that this is important to continue. It has been a very important cornerstone to the chapter.

Once this consensus decision was made, Bob suggested that getting membership input regarding prioritization of present programs would be the next step. Doing this via a survey questionnaire included with a newsletter was suggested. Bob warned that there would be some members, but more likely non-member participants that would not support this change. Sean apprised the group that the Great Bay Stocking Association had been formed, and that they would raise money for the sole purpose of recreational stocking. Bob suggested that a donation to that group would be a magnanimous gesture, and might help to smooth the transition.

Brad Johnson, also new to our chapter, being a TU member in a western chapter prior to moving to our area, was asked by Mark Seymour if he would be willing to make a small presentation at the chapter meeting introducing this plan to align our vision with that of TU National as opposed to the historical course of the chapter. Mark felt that Brad was a new face and would be accepted as a more neutral presence by the membership.

It was decided that the newsletter should contain an article outlining the history of the chapter, which Sean volunteered to write. Short succinct blurbs outlining the 2007 programs would be included, and Mitch would work on a survey form which would show the mission consistent components and non-mission consistent components of the programs. An attempt would also be made to show the resources which are utilized to support each program in terms of volunteer hours and funds. Members would be asked to prioritize each program in order of importance to the chapter. Based on the results of this prioritization, a workable budget could be formulated and tied closely to the accomplishment of the mission.

Meeting adjourned @ 2040H

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitch Kalter, GBTU Secretary

*Approved February 11, 2008*