

Southwestern Vermont Chapter of Trout Unlimited

9/12/2006 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Eric Rickstad
Doug Lyons via phone
Peter Bellamy
Frank Nelson

Bill Bullock
David Carmona

Kim Kolakowski
Alan Edmunds
Ed Vallerie
Meg Mayer

plus 2 guests

Brief chapter meeting to prepare for upcoming 9/21 public hearing.

Eric described his meeting w/ Wayne Laroche & Eric Palmer. They stressed this is a proposal/still a preliminary plan, thorwn out for the public's consideration and comment.

Wayne's recommendation -- don't have everyone just beat on the stocking issue, because this is more of an overall managemenr issue of the fishery, not just an isolated discussion about stocking,

Wayne says he "personally doesn't care" one way or the other, whether the river is stocked or not. Perhaps just his way of showing he hasn't yet made up his mind or not is unclear. However, according to Wayne Laroche, it will be up to us to convince the other (pro-stocking) side of our position. As abackwards as this sounds...

We should challenge the other side to contribute to the restoration efforts, to volunteer, to join us on the restoration and tree-planting efforts, etc.

At the hearing, we should focus on the positives of what we've done in the past in terms of restoration project efforts, open it up and invite all to join us in actively aiding in the restoration & rehabilitation of the resource.

We need to get the maximum number of faces in front of the microphone for their 90 seconds. It woun't matter if the same points are being repeated, we just need to show strength of numbers behind our point of view.

Regarding the economic impact - Alan Edmunds will speak regarding those who come and stay at the BK Inn because of the wild trout fishery. Bill Bullock will email other inn-owners inviting them to attend re: the economic impact to their business.

We need to build a coalition/build partnership with other like-minded folk,

rather than pointing fingers at this point.

How can we draw as many people as possible from across the state and from the neighboring area come to join us and let their voice be heard?

Can we reach out to these groups to send written statements supporting science and habitat restoration over stocking hatchery fish?

Ask TU to post a prominent message or send an email requesting support. Peter Bellamy will contact TU about this.

Email adjoining TU chapters asking for letters of support to be entered into the record or join us at the meeting next Thursday...

Post to online bulletin boards regarding the upcoming meeting and ask for additional electronic signatures on our online petition.

Recap:

At the hearing, have everyone go up and voice our opposition one at a time.

Reach out to as many as individuals as possible and ask for their participation in the real habitat restoration efforts.

Join us for the hearing and/or send letters of position if not able to attend contacting different groups to join us.

9/12/2006

notes by pkbellamy