

**Tarryall Fishing Club
Minutes from
2005 Annual Membership Meeting
10:30 a.m., May 14, 2005**

Location: Jefferson Community Center, Jefferson, CO

Board: Paul Grossnickle - President
Ken Black –Vice President
Theresa Pugh –Secretary/Treasurer
Chuck Schwalier At Large
Emery R. Hanson - At Large (not in attendance)

Call to Order: President, Paul Grossnickle, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Board members were introduced.

Minutes: Minutes from the May 15, 2004, Annual Membership Meeting were read. Maxine VanGundy moved to approve the minutes, Larry Peterson seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Theresa Pugh, gave the treasurer's report. The TFC Budget and major expense categories were reviewed. TFC has received \$12,422 from dues and guest passes has previous year carryover of \$600 for signs – bringing the income to date to \$13,022. TFC plans to spend \$9500 for stocking fish. Other expenses such as postage, printing, insurance, IREA bills, etc. will bring the projected expenditures to \$13,200 – a shortage of \$178 that is anticipated to be made up from sales of guest passes, etc.

An estimate of the upcoming legal expenses was given – If we have to file a quiet title action, attorney fees may be \$8,000, Court action retainer \$20,000 and incidental expenses \$250. Based on a 2 to 1 split between Stagestop and Lost Park, the expense for Stagestop would be \$18,645 and the expense for Lost Park would be \$9,605.00.

Lot 419 made a motion to accept the budget and Lot 231 seconded. The budget was accepted.

Rules: Paul Grossnickle reviewed the TFC rules.

- A new rule was added this year to outlawing cleaning for fish at the ponds or creek to prevent the spread of whirling disease.
- Paul stressed that guest passes must be filled out in ink. Guest passes can be purchased from a TFC board member.
- He asked that everyone be courteous when patrolling and when approached. Paul asked that everyone be especially courteous when approached while fishing on the river because landowner have a right to ask to see passes.
- If threatened by someone while patrolling, don't pursue the matter - get a license plate number and reporting it so we can pursue legal action. A board member must sign a complaint to go to the sheriff.

Discussion:

Bernie Petrone outlined some of the problems that were encountered by the fishing patrols last year. Lot owners sometimes give their guests a vehicle hangtag but no guest pass. Lot owners think that an older non-dependent child does not need a guest pass. Only the lot owners are entitled to use the membership cards. Non-dependents must use guest passes.

Question: Is there still an access point at the area where there are buffalo? Theresa Pugh stated that there was an access point but we feel that the buffalo present a personal safety hazard. Some people have gone into the area when the buffalo were grazing further downstream but we do not recommend walking through the buffalo. The Colorado Division of Wildlife Officer has told us that buffalo can be very aggressive during mating season, which coincides with fishing season, and some buffalo have just calved. This is an issue that we have not yet worked out.

Question: May a lot owner could assign a membership card to a non-dependent child if their spouse does not fish? The answer is no, not if the child is not on the deed. If the child is not on the deed, then guest passes must be used.

Theresa Pugh stated that some riverfront landowners have a concern about how we intend to control use of the river in the future. If we make exceptions and give membership cards to extended family members, the membership would mushroom. We have a bargain-basement fishing club so even if you bought a guest pass for every fishing day of the year (May through September), you would still be paying less than you would to join most other fishing clubs. Buy more guest passes to take your relatives fishing. We need to be able to give the landowners some assurance that we are trying to control river use. Chuck Schwalier stated that by purchasing more guest passes, you would be giving the TFC more purchasing power for more fish.

New Rules: Ken Black outlined three suggested new rules for input. After some discussion a motion was made, seconded, and a vote was taken on each of the first two rules. The first two rules were passed. The third suggested rule – no night fishing – was tabled.

1. No fishing on stocking days – fish become disoriented while being transported and are sent up from the hatchery hungry. A notice would be put on the Internet to alert people to the no fishing dates. **Passed**
2. One pole per person at a time. Although Colorado rules allow a second pole license, TFC patrol has no legal right to ask to see a license. This would also help keep the fish from being caught as fast and perhaps help stretch our money. **Passed**
3. No night fishing. There are liability issues if we allow night fishing, however, it is difficult to patrol at night. **Tabled**

Efforts and Accomplishments:

- Ken Black reported a Fly-Fishing Clinic was held and was well attended. Everyone who participated learned a lot. The owner of Two Guys Fly Shop in Lafayette gave the class. He would be willing to do it again but it would cost us considerable more money. We were only charged only gas money the first time.
- Ken arranged for the design and printing of TFC T-shirts. Only a few are left.
- Theresa Pugh can still get embroidered shirts and hats on a special order basis.
- Chuck Schwalier thanked Bernie Petrone for organizing the patrol effort. He then discussed the most predominant issues that the fishing patrol encountered.
 - Some people who fish the river do not display vehicle hangtags so the patrol has to walk down the river to find the people who are fishing and find out if they are supposed to be there.
 - Passes are not always filled out in ink or at all or have the wrong date.
 - Multiple people try to fish on one guest pass. Each guest must carry a pass
 - Parking at wrong place. We have identified places where it is legal to park but people do not always use them. (The curve right beside the stream gage is not a legal parking place.)
 - Unleashed dogs are a problem - it is against rules to bring a dog off lease.
 - Regardless of whether the patrolman knows an individual, everyone must still have a pass – it is part of setting standards and rules for everyone.
 - Hangtags do not substitute for guest passes
 - A note from the lot owner stating that a guest has permission to fish will not substitute for a guest pass.
- Due to patrols, a major improvement was seen in people abiding by the rules.

Legal Update: Theresa Pugh reported at the time of the 2004 Annual meeting, we had received a verbal commitment for title insurance but when we received the written commitment, it had too many exceptions to make it worthwhile. Instead we are working on the items that will help clarify our lease. We have held a joint meeting of the three boards – Lost Park Ranch, Stagesop, and Tarryall Fishing Club – to discuss our plan of action. We are trying to work out a more specific lease agreement with the riverfront landowners. Our attorney sent letter to each of the riverfront landowners inviting them to meet with us and we got responses from all but Bill Burris who did not get letter. The three newest landowners – Kelvin Rowlette, Topaz Mountain Ranch, and Observatory Rock Bison Ranch attended. We gave them copies of our lease and lease amendment and we discussed where we could park and access the river. We have taken into account landowner comments and we have sent the landowner a draft agreement that would clarify points such as whether landowners have fishing rights, that the lease follows the river, a way to renew the lease, a clarification of access points, a mechanism for arbitration of disputes, and an assurance that we are not going to bring some other organization into the fishing club. We may need to make some of the river catch and release or we may need to give up a few bends of the river in exchange for better access.

Fish Stocking/How to Stretch our Dollars: Ken Black reported that the cost of fish had increased to \$3.45 per pound for rainbows and \$4.15 for browns. As the cost of fish goes up, the number/amount that can be stocked goes down. A list of ideas to help the club manage include:

- a. Accept the number of fish stocked will decrease
- b. Increase dues or late fees
- c. Increase the cost of Guest Passes and/or hang tags
- d. Give expiration dates for Guest Passes and at some point declare all old guest passes void.
- e. Lower the catch limit
- f. Make all fishing catch and release
- g. Make all fishing flies and lures only
- h. Stop stocking the stream

Discussion:

LPR 26 Comment - All of these suggestions will shrink the fishing experience. We have said repeatedly that the fishing is a bargain. What we really are talking about is a need to raise the dues, not shrink the fishing experience.

LPR 83 – There seems to be a conglomeration of fly fishermen and bait fishermen who have differing philosophies and we have to serve both. A modest dues increase may be needed. Question: Do dues come out of the annual HOA fee? Answer: Yes, \$18.

LPR 231 – Comment Bernie Petrone - Patrolling observation that most river fishermen are catch and release, and most pond fishermen are not.

SS - Bill Burris - We should not raise dues until we have the lease settled.

LPR 15 – Ralph Strehler – Increasing the dues will be a headache for both HOAs. Legal assessment fund if any leftovers cannot be given to the TFC.

SS 264 Sanders - Question: - Does the TFC get any of the late fees from the owner's associations? Answer: No.

SS 264 Sanders - Question: - Do we stock an allotment of fish by the pound? Answer: No, we stock by the dollars available.

Question: Does a dues increase have to go through the HOAs for approval? Answer: No, but they must collect it.

A motion was made by lot 249 (SS or LP?) to increase the TFC annual dues by \$7. A second motion was made to increase dues by \$25. The first motion for increasing dues by \$7 was seconded by LP 142. The motion to raise dues by \$25 was later withdrawn. After discussion and amendment to \$3.60 the back to \$7, the motion passed.**

- - Wayne Reno said that a dues increase had to go through the HOAs for a vote or they were not being represented.
- - Theresa Pugh pointed out that everyone from both HOAs had been notified of the Tarryall Fishing Club meeting.
- - Virginia Skeffington said that she did not think the TFC could raise dues by more than 20 percent unless a ballot was sent out to the entire membership.
- - The motion was revised to \$3.60.
- - Theresa Pugh had a 1998 set of bylaws that did not say anything about the 20 percent limit. Theresa had never seen a signed copy of the 1999 version that Virginia was holding and said that she did not think the 1999 bylaws had been accepted.
- - The motion was revised again to \$7 and passed by a vote of 54 to 9.
- - Because Theresa Pugh had the wrong set of bylaws, and TFC does not want to send out a paper ballot to every member at this time, dues for 2005 will increase by \$3 based on a TFC Board decision.**

(**NOTE: After the TFC meeting, Theresa searched through some documents in the Lost Park Ranch files and found a signed copy of the 1999 TFC bylaws. Those bylaws do limit the amount of dues increase by the TFC to 20 percent unless a paper ballot is sent out to each member. The bylaws also state that the TFC board may decrease dues without a vote. In order to satisfy the requirement of keeping the dues under the 20 percent cap, the TFC Board decided to set the dues increase at \$3, bringing the annual dues for the TFC to \$21.)

Guest Pass and Hangtag Cost Increase: A motion was made by SS 229 to increase the cost of a 2-day guest pass from \$8 to \$10 and the cost of a vehicle hangtag from \$3 to \$4, effective July 1, 2005. The motion passed.

No Fishing Date: Fish will be stocked on May 23, 2005, so please do not fish on that date. There will be rainbows stocked in the ponds and browns in the river. Ken Black talked to a wildlife biologist who reported finding rainbow babies down in the state property. Ken agreed to give the State Wildlife Biologist a report of whatever we stock in the river.

Elections: Three board positions were up for election - those currently held by Chuck Schwalier and Theresa Pugh and the one vacated by Anna Keith when she moved from Stagestop. Theresa Pugh, Chuck Schwalier, and Bernie Petrone were nominated. Virginia Skeffington volunteered. New nominees, not currently on the board, were asked to tell what they would bring to the TFC. Bernie Petrone fishes a lot and thinks that the fishing rights are a tremendous asset and a tremendous bargain. Virginia Skeffington is not a fisherman and wants to represent the interest of non-fishermen.

The bylaws allow up to seven people on the board so nominees all were elected. Board will now consist of seven members.

Whirling Disease and Mud Snail: Chuck Schwalier gave a brief reminder on whirling disease and the Mud Snail. Whirling disease, is a parasite that infiltrates the spinal column and the brain of smaller fish – generally rainbow and cutbow trout. It multiplies rapidly; causing fish to swim erratically and in severe cases, die. When an infected fish dies, millions of tiny indestructible spores are released to the water where they can lie dormant for up to 30 years. Infected trout develop spinal deformities and decreased abilities for feed. They may have a darkened tail, twisted spine, and bent jaws. Young fish may also swim erratically or whirl.

Whirling disease is highly contagious and can be carried in a number of ways. You can help prevent its spread by following a few precautions when fishing the river and ponds:

- Clean waders and equipment with a chlorine mixture before going from one body of water to another. Hosing off mud and debris is a good practice for preventing transfer
- Clean fish away from the stream and ponds.

New Zealand Mud Snails came to the U.S. in the late 80s. They have recently been reported in the 11-mile canyon not far from here. They are tiny and only grow up to 1/8 inch but they are extremely prolific and hurt native species and the long-term health of the aquatic ecosystems. One snail can produce 700 offspring. More than 750,000 can live in a square meter. The mud snails have no natural predators in the United States. These snails are highly adaptable and reproduce in such great numbers that they can actually lock up the available nutrients in an ecosystem. In other words, they can partially cover the streambed and displace the other invertebrates that would normally be feeding on a large variety of aquatic wildlife. These snails are capable of leaping great distances by hitchhiking onboard anglers' waders and equipment. They can close the openings on their shells and live eight days out of water. By the same action, they can pass unscathed through trout digestive systems. Things you can do include:

- Clean gear is recommended after each use
- Leaving gear out during a hard freeze (the snail is susceptible to very hot or very cold temperatures)
- Report any sighting to the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the TFC.

River Access Points: Cliff reminded members that it is okay to park on National Forest Land up to 200 feet away from a Forest Service road and at least 35 feet from the centerline of County Road 77. Maps with a description of the access points were available after the meeting.

Door Prizes: A drawing was held for door prizes – 2 pairs of 2-day guest passes donated by TFC; and a TFC hat and TFC sweatshirt donated by Cliff & Theresa Pugh.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Theresa Pugh
Secretary