

**BYLAWS OF THE
NORTH BEAR CHAPTER
OF TROUT UNLIMITED**

Revised and Adopted March 9, 2011

ARTICLE I. ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSES

- Section 1. The name of the organization shall be North Bear Chapter, Trout Unlimited.
- Section 2. The purpose of the Chapter shall be to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. The Chapter shall operate as a non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian organization. The Chapter shall function exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes.
- Section 3. The Chapter is a subsidiary organization of Trout Unlimited, Inc., a Michigan non-profit corporation and is under its authority. The Chapter shall carry out the aims and purposes of Trout Unlimited and all policies, objectives and activities pursued by the Chapter and its members shall be in conformity with the Bylaws and policies of Trout Unlimited. The Chapter's use of the TU name, logo and Chapter affiliation with other organizations and businesses shall conform to TU policies.
- Section 4. The Chapter and all members acting on its behalf shall not finance, promote or oppose the candidacy of any person seeking election to public office and shall not participate or intervene in any campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- Section 5. The Chapter shall not conduct or carry on any activities, including the expenditure of funds, not permitted to be conducted or carried on by a tax exempt organization under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Payment of annual dues to Trout Unlimited is the only requirement for membership in Trout Unlimited and the Chapter. The Chapter shall not assess any additional dues or fees and shall not establish classes of membership.
- Section 2. Payment of annual dues to Trout Unlimited shall automatically make one a member of the Chapter, if the member resides in the Chapter's geographical area. Any Trout Unlimited member in good standing from a different chapter's geographic area may elect to become a member of the Chapter.
- Section 3. The By-laws of Trout Unlimited shall govern the suspension or expulsion of chapter members.
- Section 4. No Chapter or chapter officer, director or member may transfer, sell, barter, or lease to any person or entity the membership list or the names, addresses, contact information or other personal information of the members.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Chapter shall be set by the Board of Directors to elect officers and Directors and conduct other business of the Chapter. The President and the Treasurer shall present annual reports to the members.
- Section 2. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be made available to each member at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. The meeting notice shall include the date, time, place and agenda of the Annual Meeting and the slate of candidates nominated for election. Notice may be in writing or by electronic communication, including fax, the chapter website, or electronic mail.
- Section 3. The Chapter shall hold regular meetings at a date, time and place chosen by the Board of Directors.
- Section 4. Special meetings may be called by the President or Board of Directors or upon the written request of the lesser of ten percent (10%) of the members or fifteen (15) members. Notice of all special meetings must be provided to members at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting and shall include the date, time, place and agenda for the special meeting. Notice may be in writing or by electronic communication, including fax, the chapter website, or electronic mail.
- Section 5. *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the meetings on all matters relating to order and procedure, including nominations and elections. Only current members of Trout Unlimited shall be permitted to vote at any meeting of the members and no proxy voting shall be allowed.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Section 1. The Board of Directors is responsible for the general supervision of the Chapter's affairs and finances.
- Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than three (3), and no more than six (6), non-officer members and the Chapter Officers elected pursuant to Article V, Section 1. Each non-officer Director shall serve a three-year term, with Directors' terms staggered to provide for continuity. The immediate past President shall have the option of serving as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for one (1) year following the conclusion of their term. All Directors shall be current members of Trout Unlimited.
- Section 3. The Board of Directors shall meet regularly, but no less than four (4) times per year. Upon notice, the meetings of the Board of Directors may be conducted by telephone, including voting. The Board of Directors may also act by email vote, provided all members of the Board of Directors are permitted the opportunity to participate and all votes are recorded, shown to all Directors and reported in the minutes of the Board of Directors.
- Section 4. A simple majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at all regular and special meetings. A simple majority vote of those present is required to approve any official action.
- Section 5. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or any three (3) members of the Board of Directors. Unless notice is waived by all members of the Board of Directors, notice of any special meeting, including date, time, place and agenda, must be given at least seven (7) days in advance. Notice may be in writing or by electronic communication, including fax or electronic mail.
- Section 6. If a director is unable to serve for any reason, the vacant director position shall, as soon as is feasible, be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term via appointment by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS AND DUTIES

- Section 1. The officers of the Chapter shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, all of whom shall be voting members of the Chapter's Board of Directors. All officers must be members in good standing of Trout Unlimited. No person shall hold more than one (1) chapter office at any time, except that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined. The officers shall be chosen and elected by the membership at the annual membership meeting.
- Section 2. The President shall serve as general executive officer and shall appoint the chairs of all Chapter committees. The President shall oversee all activities of the chapter and preside at all membership and board meetings. With majority approval of the Board of Directors, the President may sign and execute, in the name of the chapter, all contracts and other obligations necessary for the conduct of chapter business. The Board of Directors may impose such alternate authority or limitations of authority to execute contracts as the Board of Directors deems appropriate.
- Section 3. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President if the President is absent or unable to perform the President's duties. The Vice President shall perform the duties assigned by the Board of Directors and the President, including submission of a complete Annual Financial Report (AFR) for the chapter to Trout Unlimited prior to the deadline set by Trout Unlimited. The AFR will be in compliance with the policies and requirements of Trout Unlimited and will contain a complete and accurate accounting of all revenues, expenses, volunteer hours by members of the Chapter and any additional items prescribed within the AFR form.
- Section 4. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds and property of the Chapter. When necessary or proper, the Treasurer shall endorse for collection on behalf of the Chapter, all checks, notes, drafts and electronic credits and transfers and shall deposit same and all other revenues to the credit of the Chapter in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors designates. All checks for the disbursement of funds of the Chapter above \$500 shall be signed by the Treasurer and counter-signed by the President. The Board of Directors may impose such alternate authority or limitations of authority to sign checks or use other forms of payment as the Board of Directors deems appropriate, and may require that the Treasurer be bonded.

The Treasurer shall also keep full and accurate accounts of monies received and paid on account of the Chapter, give a financial report at each meeting of the Board of Directors, provide an annual accounting for the chapter AFR, and whenever required by the Board of Directors, render a statement of the Chapter's accounts and report to the membership. Upon request, the Treasurer shall permit access to the Chapter's books, records and accounts by any Chapter Officer, Director or designated representative of the State Council and/or Trout Unlimited.

The Treasurer will also make all necessary filings with the Internal Revenue Service, Trout Unlimited, and state and local authorities.

Section 5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the general membership, and keep an accurate and current record of all Chapter memberships. The Secretary shall assist the Vice-President in preparing the chapter AFR. The Secretary shall send all required notices to members of the Chapter, as required by these bylaws or otherwise. Notice may be in writing or by electronic communication, including fax, the chapter website, or electronic mail. The Secretary shall also maintain the correspondence of the Chapter.

Section 6. Officers of the chapter who are unable to serve and so notify the Board of Directors in writing, or who fail to appear at three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, shall be replaced in accordance with the provisions of Article VI, Section 2. The Board of Directors may make such exceptions to the attendance requirement as are warranted in medical emergencies or other special circumstances, and shall report any exceptions granted to the chapter at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTION, TERM, VACANCY

- Section 1. The Chapter officers shall be elected for one-year terms. No officer shall serve more than three (3) consecutive one-year terms in the same office, but an officer may again hold the same office after a one-year period out of office.
- Section 2. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Board of Directors shall appoint an individual to serve until the next regularly scheduled election.
- Section 3. A majority vote of those Chapter members in good standing present at the annual business meeting will be sufficient to elect all officers and directors.

ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES

- Section 1. The Chapter may establish standing committees, whose members shall be appointed by the chair of each committee:
- A. Communications: This committee is responsible for chapter newsletter, website and associated public outreach.
 - B. Membership: This committee is responsible for membership services, membership lists and efforts to recruit and retain members.
 - C. Education & Youth: This committee is responsible for education programs and youth activities.
 - D. Conservation: This committee is responsible for activities and projects that directly support Trout Unlimited's conservation agenda.
 - E. Financial Development: This committee is responsible for chapter fundraising.
- Section 2. Additional standing or ad hoc committees may be established from time to time by the President or the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The Chapter's fiscal year shall be the same as that of Trout Unlimited.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

Section 1. These Chapter bylaws may be amended at any Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Chapter if at least the lesser of 15 (fifteen) or 10% of the Chapter's members are present. Amendment of the bylaws shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Only current members of Trout Unlimited shall be permitted to vote. Any amendment to these bylaws shall be consistent with the bylaws of Trout Unlimited. All proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall require at least 30 days notice to the members, with the notice specifying the proposed amendment.

Section 2. If any amendment of these bylaws is required in order to make them consistent with the bylaws of Trout Unlimited, a vote of a majority of those present and permitted to vote shall be sufficient to pass the amendment.

ARTICLE X. ASSETS AND DISSOLUTION

Section 1. No part of the income, earnings or assets of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, any member, director or officer of the Chapter or any private individual, except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for the Chapter in effecting one or more of its purposes. Chapter members, officers and directors may be reimbursed for expenses incurred for or on behalf of the Chapter.

Section 2. All Chapter expenditures shall be broadly consistent with the mission of Trout Unlimited.

Section 3. The Chapter may not acquire or hold any new interest in real property, including easements, except with prior written approval from Trout Unlimited.

Section 4. Upon dissolution of the Chapter, all assets of the Chapter shall revert to the State Council. These assets will be held and/or redistributed in consultation with Trout Unlimited.