

Draft: Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—June 4, 2020

TU Mission: To conserve, protect and restore North America's Coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Attendees: Ian, Charles, Bryan, Jamie, Nora, Ed, Bobby, Bob

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:30 PM):

- 1) Welcome and call to order
 - a) April Minutes... motion to approve with minor changes by Chuck: Ed, 2nd: Bryan. **<passed>**
 - b) Chair & officer reports – Chuck noted it's tricky to find the financial data in the Leaders Only section of the TU site; requested a good URL from Ed. Conservation chair looking actively for projects, or at least project planning for when Covid-19 has largely resolved. Fish & Boat does need help in July and August and is willing to accept volunteers. Has talked with Brady Porter, who will keep us in mind if things ease up. Much of this is in Conservation report, below. Many creeks have a “watershed plan” but none in the area have yet been formally surveyed. Bobby suggested that Pine Creek may very well have been extensively surveyed by the County Work Department due to flood control needs. Bryan will follow up with Bobby and Allison Park Sportsmen. Bryan is looking at building cooperative relationships with other local chapters. Bobby mentioned Pine Creek Watershed Coalition and wondered if they still exist; Bryan indicated he was aware of them via the Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD) to try to figure out if they (and others) are still active. Ed mentioned that we had funded work with them in the past (2010). Bryan will follow up but indicated that working through the ACCD is key.
- 2) Old Business
 - a) Art Raffle – Charles Cantella is willing to expand the prizes and limit the sales to February.
 - b) 50-50 Raffle at Cabin Fever – questions about whether we should be commissioning folks to sell tickets. We might need a 2nd license to allow the 50-50 and might need to 1099 anyone we commissioned at year end. Board generally felt that there was no need to commission anyone to sell 50-50 tickets and that it's certainly worth looking at for the next Cabin Fever.
 - c) Check in on some topics
 - i) COI forms – not sure that Ron has the form.
 - ii) Youth Protection Clearances – need hard or e-mail copies of the forms from Ron, Jamie and Bobby.
 - iii) Hours reported to Bob Bukk – most have sent hours, so Bob and Ed can get things done on the annual report.
 - iv) Speaker ideas to Christian – please let him know if you have any.

- d) Student Scholarships – Bob is working on this. Thinking perhaps an essay prize with local outdoor writers as judges, but this is open. National suggests that we give money to a college and have the college (likely Chatham, Rachael Carson’s alma mater, or Duquesne) administer it. Still in progress.
 - e) Tee Shirts -- deferred
 - f) Banquet and Fund Raiser in the fall – compiling information to survey the membership as to the type of banquet since the goal is to make it the members’ banquet. Given Covid, this is *highly* unlikely this calendar year.
 - g) Retreat – will likely do this in the autumn.
- 3) New Business
- a) Autumn meetings and Covid-19 – still up in the air. Quite likely we’ll be doing it via Zoom.
 - b) Update on Cabin Fever 2021 – report below; looks outstanding. Bryan would like to invite Kelly Galloup, per the report, and get a pre-event set up as well. Board approved the broad outlines that Bryan has laid out. Chuck is willing to give Gunnar an honorarium in addition to a table. Bob observed that the hotel might comp the room, he also raised some other observations relating to big-draw speakers. There was also some reservation about too many speaker – if we’re getting someone like Kelly in as a speaker, then they really should be the primary focus of the event.
 - c) Integration of TU’s strategic plan with our programs – Chuck suggested that he will send ideas to the board about how to integrate things better.

Chuck moved, Nora 2nd. Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:55 PM

Important Dates: (most are listed on the PATU website)

Committee Reports

Penn’s Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For Month of May Year: 2020

Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

Committee: Conservation

Chair Report:

2020 PWWTU Conservation Update, June 4, 2020

In talking with partners, all projects for 2020 have been either postponed or cancelled until 2021

- Local Watershed groups have cancelled all clean ups, on stream projects until further notice

- Allegheny County Conservation District has cancelled all projects this year and will focus on 20201
 - PATU has postponed Coldwater Conservation efforts across the state
- 1) There are still select activities going on if you find them and an opportunity to create our own plan
 - a) Focus on building 4 Pillars to create the 2020 program
 - i) PAFB cooperation, Stream Surveys, Conservation presentations, Stream monitoring program
 - b) I am working with PAFB biologists to plan several sessions to help them survey streams
 - i) Trying to work with them on stream close (SW PA) to do fish counts in July, August and September. More to come
 - ii) This Pillar would include any future work with PAFB and working with local universities like Duquesne and Dr. Bradley Porter
 - c) Allegheny County has a need for Stream Surveys
 - i) We have watershed plans, we have the problems, what we don't have is a survey of the streams and what we need to do to put the plans in action
 - ii) Opportunity to get 10-20 PWWTU people certified Stream Surveyors including culvert assessments – requires training class and field training of 20 culvert assessment. I have certified teacher lined up but need interest from the chapter
 - iii) This work will allow us to build implementation plans for any local streams we want to work on
 - iv) Also will help Local conservation districts, Western PA Conservancy and PAFB to map and survey. They have identified it as a gap they need filled
 - d) Conservation presentations bring awareness and drive interest in future programs
 - i) American Watershed group – finds funding to remove dams/culverts and connect waters to allow for free migration of fish species
 - ii) Conservation efforts for Erie Steelhead
 - e) Watershed Monitoring Program – Alex Ciocca, Geologist
 - i) Empowering Alex to run a program to teach PWWTU members how stream monitoring works, process and standards
 - ii) Slippery Rock has a program where they monitor the stream with a device and collect the data monthly to upload
 - iii) Exploring the cost of this device and setting up a program on Pine Creek to learn and invest in our local watershed
 - iv) Opportunity to grow from success of initial program
 - f) When projects come back on-line in 2021 I am having conversations with Allegheny County Conservation district on Watershed groups that have local projects on streams in our county: Pine, 9 Mile, Chartiers, Montour, Big Sewickely and Little Sewickely, Bull Run, Deer Run
 - i) When we complete our stream surveys we will have the details we need to identify projects we feel are worth our efforts and start to drive our own projects

Cabin Fever 2021 Update & Preliminary agenda

- 1) Space has been reserved for a speaker event on Saturday night, Cabin Fever Sunday, a Sunday session side room as well as a side room for volunteers stuff and break (side rooms are cheap BTW). Discussing Saturday dinner options, cash bar.
- 2) Kelly Galloup has agreed to attend our show and an evening event the night prior:
 - a) Private dinner, fly tying techniques and stories with Kelly Saturday night
 - i) Priced it out and setting attendance at 60 people max @ \$99 per ticket (due to COVID-19) – 40 people priced out at \$140 and that is too high, more than 60 it becomes too generic and not special
 - ii) True cost is \$104 so we take a slight loss = <\$300>
 - iii) Plan for Kelly to do 2 presentations at the show PLUS a private tying session for select group at a \$30 per ticket cost/reduced price if you attended Saturday night. His cost per day is the same. 30 people x \$30 = 900 to learn to tie a couple of flies including the Zoo Cougar
 - iv) Increased attendance, price of Saturday event plus \$30 per ticket cost to tie with Kelly (limited number) will make money over his costs including travel
 - v) Kelly's cost is \$1,800 a day no matter how many sessions you book and he is giving us a discount for Saturday as it is an evening session
 - vi) Most likely splitting travel with another show in Syracuse – so we will only have to pay half
- 3) Other presenters/topics
 - a) Destination: Fishing the Driftless Area – interviewing 3 speakers to get the right dynamic and speaker. Talking to Local TU chapters, Driftless Angler fly shop and 2 local experts to determine who I want and their cost
 - b) Muskie Fishing on the fly – I have calls out to recommended speakers. Appeals to younger audience and warm water anglers. Opens up a whole new vendor for us as well
 - c) Kelly 1st session: Streamer fishing
 - d) Kelly 2nd session: Demo of streamer tactics OR Nymph fishing (open to boards feedback)
 - e) Giving Gunner Bremmer a table for free as opposed to paying him to come. I am priming him for 2022 as speaker. Want to check him out and see if people are into him and he presents well. He is a friend with Kelly and guided for him out in Montana
- 4) Moving Flea Market out of the hall – DoubleTree has agreed at no extra charge as long as we leave appropriate lanes for fire code
- 5) Freeing up space for another 6 booths @\$150 = \$900 or \$750 + equal value donation to raffle table
 - a) Encouraging Water Shed groups and Allegheny Conservation District to come to the show
 - b) Creating conservation Corner to help drive education – looking for children's activities. If successful might move out of hall next year to give it more room and drive engagement
 - c) Trying to build our conservation efforts and talk with groups on how to engage attendees and educate
 - d) Montour already shows
 - e) Asking Slippery Rock, Chartiers, Pine Creek, Peters Creek, Buffalo creek, Neshannock Creek to attend

Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

Committee: Women & Diversity

Chair Report:

Had 2 virtual fly tying happy hours (5/13 and 5/27) opened to all of the women's group and Barflies folks. 10 to 12 folks each time. Did a Walt's worm, Josh Miller's caddis, bluegill spider and brim reaper.

Had the first of 2 virtual 101 fly fishing (5/11 - basic rod info and the 2 basic knots) had 8 folks besides Jodi and I. The 2nd virtual 101 is on 6/8.

Scheduled first socially distancing fishing for 6/13 in the laurel highlands (either Loyalhanna or 7 Springs)

Committee Chair: Jamie Schroder

Committee: Membership

Chair Report:

Continue to promote our PWWTU group and have spoken with a number of people while out fishing and discussed our conservation efforts, approximately how many members we have, Cabin Fever, etc. to gain interest.

Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

Committee: Education

Chair Report:

BarFlies remains inactive until Sept 28th - Will be considering a move to a new venue as suggested by Nora.

President: Chuck Buffington

I've been busy working on the website. Thanks to those of you who have forwarded ideas for posts. We need to focus more on conservation and will discuss better alignment of Chapter programs with the National TU strategic plan. [Click Here](#) for the plan. COVID19 has put a dent in our activities but the plan is to schedule meetings and speakers for the Fall and hope that meetings are permitted by then.

Vice President: Bob Bukk

Would like to submit the Youth Policy document that was worked on by Bob Heil, Christian, Bryan and me for approval by the Board.

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

Bob Bukk and I will be wrapping up the volunteer hours for the TU report in the next few weeks (Continuation form last month). Report this year is due July 15. TU National will file our IRS form 990N

for us based on the information reported therein. I STILL would like the rest of you officers to take a look at the financial report draft for this reporting year, located in the Leaders Only section of the national TU website. As I noted last month, I would like some help filling out the entries to items 72 through 93 in the report. Please e-mail me regarding entries to any of these items or to provide corrections to anything that I guessed at.

Financial standing:

Checking Balance on May 1: \$51,886.54

Current Checking Balance (as of June 1): \$51,994.10

Transactions for May:

Deposits

- Payroll Contribution from Chapter member through Target Co.: \$10.00
- Refund of payment to Wilkins School for cancelled Intro to Fly Fishing - \$140

Expenses:

- Connex International - Conference calling for April Board Meeting: \$42.44

Ex-officio: Dale Fogg