

Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—January 7, 2021

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

Attendees: Ian, Nora, Jamie, Bryan, Bob Bukk, Ed, Chuck, Ron

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:00 PM):

- 1) Welcome and call to order
- 2) Old Business
 - a) December Minutes... motion to approve by Bryan, 2nd Chuck. **<passed>**
 - b) Annual Meeting and Election of Board.
 - i) Some discussion with how to proceed, given Covid. We had one (1) member who expressed an interest in the board – we need to get him involved. Bryan will reach out and get him involved in the conservation area with the goal of having him step onto the board in 2022.
 - (1) Proposal: Nora proposed, Jamie seconds: Due to the ongoing Covid pandemic and the resulting difficulties in successfully holding an annual meeting, the Board will postpone the annual meeting by 1 year and extend the terms of all current board members by 1 year. **<passed>**
 - c) Tom Walsh Scholarship update
 - i) Waiting on a recipient, then we'll do some publicity.
 - d) Zoom chapter meetings
 - i) Attendance – some discussion of best practices on boosting attendance through more announcements.
 - ii) Posting the “tape” – we'll make more of an effort to get the sessions posted (YouTube or similar). All SW chapters are struggling right now due to the pandemic. Getting the other chapters involved, pooling resources and getting others involved will be a positive thing. Working on setting up co-hosting ability in Zoom to ensure clean entry and minimize the chance of Zoom bombers.
- 3) New Business
 - a) How to thank Alex Ciocca for his substantial donation to the chapter? Ed has sent a thank-you note affirming the donation that will suffice for tax purposes.
 - b) Data and pictures needed for survey of youth activity. National would like us to fill out a survey. A lot of this was due to the Stream Girls program and Chuck would like some input on that. He'll send the survey to Nora and Jodie so they can see what National is after.
 - c) Annual budget – Ed presumes we have the requirement and will put something together for the Feb meeting (draft) and vote (March). Bob will send an e-mail regarding the volunteer hours for 2020.

- d) Ed brought up strategic planning – we really don't have one and ought to build one; this was broadly supported. This was on the retreat agenda, but never got looked at due to Covid. Bryan indicates this is particularly important for organizations and often overlooked. Ed recommends we all dig through the National web site (leader's toolbox) and see what's there, then discuss it more in the next meeting. Bob proposes that we block 20 minutes at the next couple board meetings to build a broad overview of where we might want to go with this at a high level. Board is in broad agreement – we need to really decide whether we want to do this or not.
- e) Planning a spring culvert removal with Little Sewickley watershed group. Also working with N Hills conservation group (Beth Dutton) and PSU Extension folks (Mary Wilson) regarding Pine Creek. Working on permitting at the moment. Bryan would like to get this set up and on the calendar soon.
- f) At the state level we've seen some good wins politically – Covid ironically helped keep a lot of conservation dollars in the budget due to numbers of anglers. PA TU has offered a number of comments on the State's approach to conservation of trout (both wild and native). SW Region TU Presidents broadly agreed that more involvement from PA TU would be a positive thing.
- g) Bob noted that Mike Homza passed away last year. Bob will put together something for the web site.
- h) Jamie noted that the web site is paying dividends in terms of inquiries and new members.

Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:45 PM

Important Dates:

- 1/12-1/14/21 – PA License site down for maintenance
- 3/27/21 – Mentored Youth Day
- 4/3/21 – Trout Opening Day (East, Regional)
- 4/10/21 – Mentored Youth Trout Day
- 4/17/21 – Trout Opening Day (remainder of state)
- 9/18/21 – PA Trout Annual Membership Meeting

Committee Reports

Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For December Year: 2020

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

Planning underway for 2021. Happy hour planned next week.

Membership Committee Chair: Jamie Schroder

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

BarFlies – meetings are cancelled until most of us get the vaccine, the Covid infection rate declines and we resume in-person meetings.

Monroeville Show – we are not manning a booth this year - Chris offered us a 'static' booth, but we do not have anything to display besides the TU banner.

Project Healing Waters – remains in limbo until later this year.

I have not tied a fly since the pandemic started last March.

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Chuck Buffington

Another quiet month. Several new members through TU who sound young and interested in conservation. Tom Walsh scholarship set up and funded. Waiting to have a recipient. Discussed low attendance at Zoom chapter meetings; will advertise them more aggressively via email. National has asked for details about our youth and outreach hours and activities because we are one of only a handful of chapters with more than 1,000 hours in this category. The slow covid vaccination roll out suggests that we'll be lucky to have face-to-face chapter meetings anytime soon.

Vice President: Bob Bukk

Discuss continuing on Zoom monthly meetings for the membership. I'm considering reviving my column "Leaky Waders" from the 90's when I was Editor of "Hatches and Rises."

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

Recently received and deposited donation for \$500 from Grizzly Outdoors contest won by member Alex Ciocca. The prize was to be a fishing trip in Montana - canceled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and shutdowns. Alex chose to have the money donated to us. I also received notification that a periodic \$10 donation from a Target employee's payroll donation program is on its way and will be deposited upon receipt.

A \$2500 check (#1522) was issued to Chatham University as our initial funding for the Tom Walsh Memorial grant.

I am working on retrieving over \$1100 in a dormant PayPal account created several years ago by former member Ken Crawford. I have submitted the requested paperwork to PayPal to enable me to access the account and have the funds deposited into our First National Bank account. I am waiting for a response

from them. We think that this money comes from previous Cabin Fever events, either as deposits from vendors or from early ticket purchases. I thank Walter Reineman and Dale Fogg for information that let us access the account to start this transfer.

Current Account balance, after these transactions, is \$50573.69. I will be sending the quarterly audit information to my reviewer, W. Reineman, after First National issues the January account summary. An account summary for the fiscal year to date (April 1, 2020 to January 6, 2021) was provided to board members in a separate email, along with listed transactions for the previous month.

Cash-flow YTD at bottom of Report.

Ex-officio: Dale Fogg

Banking Summary
4/1/2020 through 1/6/2021

Category	4/1/2020- 1/6/2021
INCOME	
41 - Return of Temporary Cash from ...	0.00
PWWTU-Income	
01 - Contributions	1,530.14
02 - Workplace Giving Campaigns	90.00
04 - Rebates from TU National Cou...	240.00
12 - Miscellaneous Income	647.15
TOTAL PWWTU-Income	2,507.29
TOTAL INCOME	2,507.29
EXPENSES	
PWWTU-Expenses	
15 - Grants to 501(C)3 Organizations	
Prog Services	2,500.00
TOTAL 15 - Grants to 501(C)3 O...	2,500.00
20 - Supplies + Materials	
Program Services	210.00
TOTAL 20 - Supplies + Materials	210.00
21 - Telephone	
Mgmt & General	95.59
TOTAL 21 - Telephone	95.59
25 -Conference, Convention, Meeti...	
Fund Raising	
Cabin Fever	625.00
TOTAL Fund Raising	625.00
Program Services	
Speaker Honorarium	275.00
TOTAL Program Services	275.00
TOTAL 25 -Conference, Convent...	900.00
31 - Contractors, Consultants, Desi...	545.99
36 - Miscellaneous Expenses	
36.4 - APSC Kids Events	560.00
TOTAL 36 - Miscellaneous Expe...	560.00
TOTAL PWWTU-Expenses	4,811.58
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,811.58
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,304.29