

Draft: Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—February 4, 2021

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

Attendees: Ian, Bryan, Ed, Charles, Nora, Jamie, Ron

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:30 PM):

- 1) Welcome and call to order
- 2) Old Business
 - a) January Minutes... motion to approve by Ed, 2nd Bryan. <passed>
 - b) Retrieval of stranded Paypal account
 - i) This has been completed (see Treasurer's report).
 - c) Survey of youth activities
 - i) Chuck will let TU know we do not have additional information. Ian noted that much of our youth volunteer activity was planning and implementing two Stream Girls programs; if national TU does not know what that is, then there's a problem.
 - d) Steven Plut comments/observations – we will touch base once we can start face-to-face again.
 - e) Strategic Plan
 - i) Chuck forwarded notes on the TU plan with comments that we ought to wait and see what national TU comes up with. Ed noted Forbes Trail is actively working on their plan, some discussion of where and whether we want to emulate them. Bryan noted that we could do many things along the diversity, recruitment, and volunteer lines – we are likely already in line with national. Bryan would like to move ahead. Ian and Nora are opposed to doing it via Zoom/Webex, etc. Considerable discussion on where we want to take things like Stream Girls and come up with some interim things that will let us move forward somewhat until such time as herd immunity allows for face-to-face meetings again (hopefully September). Chuck raised the mentor program that the chapter used to have on a formal basis as something that might be do-able outdoors, but there was some discussion about how difficult teaching that basics can be without being hands-on. Jamie would be happy to work with Bryan & Chuck at getting the strategic planning work going (Jamie will chair).
 - f) Proposed Budget
 - i) Ed provided a proposed budget prior to the meeting, based on summary reports over the past year along with input from Bryan (and others) on things like next year's (2022) Cabin Fever. Chuck mentioned a couple funding request possibilities that might arrive in the next FY. Discussion circled back to a strategic plan as a guide for spending. Suggestions should be sent to Ed.

- g) Membership packet for new members
 - i) We have had a number of people reaching out via the web site, including Tom Walsh's daughter. Chuck will work to touch base with her and fill her in on the memorial. In summary, the site is getting visits and Jamie is getting inquiries through the site. Ed had mentioned the possibility of a membership packet/letter to new members in line with/based on what Forbes Trail currently does – he will send that information to Jamie. Ron inquired about how the public might get access to our meetings. Some suggestions about how folks like the Press or interested public might get access – we should be able to arrange an e-mail invite for them by getting them on the mailing list.
- 3) New Business
 - a) Volunteer hours – send to Bob Bukk. April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 hours.
 - b) Annual Report
 - i) Chuck would like to start publishing one to our current members. Board is generally supportive of this. Publish to web site and let members know it is there. We will look at doing this following the close of the FY and the basis of a strategic plan in place.
 - c) Conservation Initiatives
 - i) See details in Conservation Chair's report
 - ii) The natural local stream would be Little Sewickley Creek, as it has wild trout, but it also has issues with access so doing work there may be solely to the benefit of the landowners. As a result, Pine Creek may remain our local focus. Little Sewickley riparian buffer/culvert replacement will happen this year – we just need to provide boots & shovels.
 - d) Changes to PA Fish & Boat Calendar
 - i) Announced 1/25/2021
 - ii) Mentored youth day is now only on 3/27 and trout opens state-wide on 4/3.

Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:55 PM

Important Dates:

- 3/27/21 – Mentored Youth Day (now State-wide)
- 4/3/21 – Trout Opening Day (Now State-wide)
- ~~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 January Year: 2021

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

PAFB - notice about stocking and trout season. Update

- PAFB announced one day (April 3rd) for trout opener across the state
- They have shortened the extended season on open waters to allow for stocking. Fishing on extended season waters ends on February 15th now. Be careful you aren't out there after then.
- Stocking will take place early - starting in February 2-3 on Erie Tributaries and other undisclosed dates for other waters across the state
- They are soliciting help stocking this year but only from approved groups - does PWWTU wish to connect with them to offer stocking help?

Conservation opportunities: I am looking for feedback from the board if these are projects we wish to pursue

- In contact with Myrna Newman, executive director of Allegheny Cleanways who plan 2021 watershed cleanups across the county. She is going to share their cleanup schedule if we wish to participate. Makes stream clean ups super easy - they provide gear, bags, trash pick up - they just need labor. More to come as soon as I have the schedule. This does not preclude us scheduling our own clean ups or working with other watershed groups like Montour run.
- Pine Creek floodplain, stream bank stabilization and sediment retention project.
- Little Sewickley Culvert replacement and riparian buffer/bank stabilization project.
- Partnering with Arrowhead chapter on a few projects - Buffalo Creek/Dave Beal
 - In-Stream structures that help connect 2 parts of Buffalo Creek to provide more fishing opportunity
 - For Awareness - Arrowhead already has funding for in-stream structures in Racoon creek. Nothing for us to do, already funded and labored. I might be able to find trees for them through a friend who has acreage up there.
 - Dave floated an idea of reintroducing brook trout to a tributary of Patterson Run which connects to Buffalo creek - conservation district owns several hundred acres between the 2 and the headwaters is ideal for reintroduction. Some impaired water due to Agg on Patterson run that needs to be assessed and potentially a project that can include Audubon Society and Agg department up there to help remediate.
- Partnering with Forbes Trail chapter -
 - Stream Assessment, Macro capture/id with Powerdermill, electro shocking in May and September. Members first and then those of us at PWWTU if we wish to participate
 - Trout Trail - Interesting opportunity to help enhance ecotourism in the Laurel Highlands and test a process for engaging communities to protect watersheds if they find value in them through tourism. Forbes trail has an intern in the fall from the U of Cal marketing school and will be forming a committee to build the strategy and determine direction of project. Ed and I have both raised our hands to be involved
- Stream and culvert assessment training - Developing opportunity through Bob Volkmar to get "train the trainer" as well as culvert/stream assessment training for SW PA. Allows us to be able to drive our own assessments in our watersheds and gather the data we need to provide data that would validate any project we wish to do, provide data for funding sources. This is still in

the early phase, but I am hoping I can bring it to SW PA. Already talked to Greg Schle, Western PA Conservancy

PA TU update:

- Greg Malaska is interested in joining our Members meeting to talk about what PA TU is up to, updates on initiatives and answer any member questions. Would we like to shoot for March or April (or not at all) and we could pair a conservation project update with that meeting as well. Thoughts?f
- Region training has been moved to Zoom. It was going to be in Oil City at a college up there in May. Board has decided to move it to virtual 2 hour sessions over 2 Saturdays - topics cover riparian buffer 01, Advocacy update, benefits of large woody debris, emerging erosion control technology. Open to all members.
- PA Trout Management policy was released for public comments. There are some good changes proposed, some ridiculous issues surrounding legacy stocking over Class A waters and an interesting difference of opinion between chairs and rank/file about protecting Brook Trout. For more info on this go to:
<https://www.fishandboat.com/Regulations/Pages/ProposedRecentRegulations.aspx>

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

Membership Committee Chair: Jamie Schroder

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

Nothing new to report for BarFlies - hope we can resume in the Fall. The Allegheny Sport, Travel & Outdoor Show was officially canceled due to the states' occupation limits - Told Chris to sign us up for a booth next year.

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Chuck Buffington

Another quiet month. I'm disappointed that the COVID vaccination program in PA is moving at a snail's pace and that many "special" groups are receiving the shots before us old and decrepit TU members get access. Looks to me like Chapter Meetings and other in-person activities won't resume until Fall. Bryan Mathie has put together a list of possible conservation projects for discussion by the Board. Making good forward planning progress in this arena. I'm looking out the window at our flower bed which is currently covered with snow and rabbit tracks. I know that great plants with beautiful flowers will emerge in just a few months' time.

Vice President: Bob Bukk

Nothing to report.

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

Successfully received \$1163.40 in a dormant PayPal account evidently created several years ago for a Cabin Fever event.

Other processed transactions included

- contributions totaling \$510 from two donors
- expenses totaling \$222.25 for an honorarium for the January virtual meeting speaker, Tim Flagler, and for work performed on our website.

I will be providing the typical summary files for the board prior to the February meeting.

Next month will be the end of our fiscal year. Please report to Bob Bukk estimates of the volunteer hours that you have accumulated in the past year. Bob can provide details on how hours are to be broken down. This information is required for inclusion in our annual financial report that is typically due in the late April/early May time frame. We can include items such as attendance in our virtual meetings, work spent on chapter business and on conservation programs, interactions fostering organization sustainability and outreach, etc.

Current account balance is \$52,034.84 as of January 26.

Ex-officio: Dale Fogg

Banking Summary
4/1/2020 through 2/4/2021

2/4/2021

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4/1/2020- Category	2/4/2021
INCOME	
41 - Return of Temporary Cash from ...	0.00
PWWTU-Income	
01 - Contributions	2,030.14
02 - Workplace Giving Campaigns	100.00
04 - Rebates from TU National Cou...	240.00
07 - Meeting, banquet, Events, Raffle Cabin Fever - Booths	1,163.40
TOTAL 07 - Meeting, banquet, E...	1,163.40
12 - Miscellaneous Income	647.15
TOTAL PWWTU-Income	4,180.69
TOTAL INCOME	4,180.69
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	425.00
TOTAL Program Services	425.00
TOTAL 25 -Conference, Convent...	1,050.00
31 - Contractors, Consultants, Desi...	618.24
36 - Miscellaneous Expenses 36.4 - APSC Kids Events	560.00
TOTAL 36 - Miscellaneous Expe...	560.00
TOTAL PWWTU-Expenses	5,033.83
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,033.83
OVERALL TOTAL	-853.14