

Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—September 2, 2021

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

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

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:14 PM):

- 1) Welcome and call to order
- 2) Minutes approved; Ed proposed / Bryan seconded **<passed>**
- 3) Discussion of the retreat. Board held a retreat on 7/10/21 to discuss how to move the chapter forward post-Covid. Formal discussions resulting from the retreat will be dealt with in normal board meetings moving forward.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Conflict of interest forms due from Board members not at retreat.
 - b) Grant Administration Policy 21-01
 - i) This policy is for projects that we, as a chapter, apply for and bring money into the chapter to administer some potentially large and specific projects as laid out in the grant application.
 - ii) Comments incorporated in the policy. Bryan noted that there is a danger that the process might become unduly burdensome. Chuck noted that the policy can be revised at any time, should we choose. Main concern expressed is that we're new at this and will need to look at this policy regularly until we're satisfied that it is functioning as desired.
 - iii) Motion to approve, Bob; second Ed. **<passed>**
 - c) Acceptance of Equitrans donation
 - i) Equitrans Mid-stream made a large, employee-directed, no-strings donation to the chapter in the summer. Bryan indicates that the vote at Equitrans was hugely popular and that it is something that they, as a company, do on an annual basis. The Board had an extended discussion at the retreat on this that revolved around this but saw nothing to indicate this to be anything other than a company's charitable arm directing funds as their employees wished.
 - ii) Motion to formal approve, Bryan; second, Jamie. **<passed unanimously>**
 - iii) Ed has provided a draft letter to Chuck
 - d) Reactivation of Bar Flies
 - i) See Education Chair's report. Likely to move to Howard's Tavern, West View.
 - ii) Ron received a large donation of fly-tying materials, books, and fly-fishing gear from Jim Linton by way of his daughter. Jim has decided to hang up the rods and would rather they be used by others than gather dust.
 - e) Sportsman's Show

- i) Week before Cabin Fever. Similar set up and such to last time. Believe we have funds in the budget.
- 5) New Business
- a) Forbes Trail Funding request (Trout Trail)
 - i) Bryan has been trying to develop a regional approach to TU in SWPA. We, as a chapter, have resources that many other chapters don't have (a thriving Women's initiative and finances for example) but we lack quality trout water. Bryan would like to foster more cooperation with other chapters and help them to grow their activities.
 - ii) Bob would be much happier if the application was aimed at improving trout water rather than marketing the trout trail. Bryan agreed that this, technically, is above and beyond our strategic initiative.
 - iii) Ian motioned to **table**, Jamie seconded **<passed with abstentions>**
 - iv) Additional discussion about other chapters and how this can be done. Do we go to chapters or to we have them come to us and foster that? Bryan indicates that other local chapters have plans in the works to emulate the Forbes Trail request. He's also been in touch with several watershed associations in the county.
 - v) Revisit in October
 - b) Governance Structure – Add Advocacy Committee (paperwork).
 - c) Opportunity for board members to be committee chairs.
 - i) Some discussion of chair positions
 - d) Website revision/upgrade
 - i) Under development
 - e) Masks at September meeting
 - i) Speaker is concerned about taking Covid home and would like masking and social distancing.
 - ii) Board agrees and suggests that we should mask at Bar Flies as well.
 - iii) Need a box of masks at the door (Nora will handle).
 - iv) Nora noted that CCGF might be considered a school and, therefore, fall under the new state mandate.
 - f) New TIC site
 - i) Two sites from Christian that fall under the existing budget for TIC.
 - ii) Ed will coordinate.
 - g) Publicizing TIC funding opportunities
 - i) Members should be advised that money is available to fund TIC classes in schools. Bob suggests we advertise it better. Maybe a story about TIC from John Hayes? Refer to chair to determine how many TIC we might support and how we might want to grow it over time, perhaps with other partners.
 - h) "Pet Project" initiative
 - i) Bob would like board members to think about pet projects that they'd like to see done in 2022. Example: gaping hole in RR bridge over Pine Creek, could we work with RR to get it fixed?
 - i) PATU Meeting 9/18 outside Bedford. Board members encouraged to attend.

- j) Ron Bennett rods. Chapter has a number of these bamboo rods available, and the gift intention was for the chapter to make money. Some discussion of how to go about it.
- k) Cabin Fever – Kelly Galloup has cancelled all speaking engagements for 8 months. Bryan has been lining up other speakers.

Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:38 PM

Important Dates:

9/13/21 – Return to in person meetings at The Barn

9/18/21 – PA Trout Annual Membership Meeting

Committee Reports

Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For Summer Year: 2021

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

1.

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

Women's group did a beginners' session at North Park 8/21 - 9 women. Jamie and Mary Ann assisted Jodie and me.

September will be either Neshannock Creek or the Yough. Weather/conditions TBD 9/18

October will be a shared event with the Spring Creek Women's group 10/16 and 17th

Membership Committee Chair: Jamie Schroder

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

It has been 18 months since BarFlies met. I would like to start meeting again in September, same day, 4th Mondays. I would like to get your opinion about meeting.

I am considering a new venue. The Perrytowne Drafthouse was adequate but for lighting and parking. I attended a fund raiser for Project Healing Waters before Covid shut things down at Howard's Tavern in West View. They have a similar set-up as the Perrytowne with a bar and dining room. They are located at 98 Center Ave. West View, PA 15229. This is a short ways off the Perry Highway exit of the Parkway North I-279. I have an inquiry pending.

Two questions:

1. Would you like to resume BarFlies ties? (Masks optional/required???)
2. Would you attend at Howard's or prefer to remain at the Perrytowne?

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Chuck Buffington

Glad to see September arrive largely free of the Covid restrictions of last year. Our first face-to-face meeting will be September 13 in the Barn at CCGF. We need to consider whether or not to wear masks inside the building. We voted ourselves another year's term as Board members but now need to do some succession planning. Annual meeting coming up in January. We need to expand our committee

membership and get people moving on the Strategic Plan. A call for volunteers netted a few whom we need to deploy.

Vice President: Bob Bukk

-

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

We currently have \$74395.51 in account.

Donations over the report period include \$20 and \$25 periodic donations through the Target Employee Giving Campaign. a \$250 grant from National TU in honor of Bryan being one of the winners of the Spirit of TU award for new organization volunteers, and the \$25,000 gift from Equitrans Midstream Corp.

Expenses over the period include \$305.49 to Charles, reimbursing him for paying for our annual email hosting, and \$45.95, also to Charles for expenses for the officer's retreat in July.

I have included the June, July, and August QUICKEN reconciliations for review by board members indicating how we balance with bank records.

I also included a draft letter to send to Equitrans Midstream acknowledging and thanking them for their generous donation to PWWTU. Please feel free to hack it up, add to, or delete from it. Please provide your edits as you see fit back to me. For this generous of a contribution, I believe that the thank you should come from our president. I will forward a final draft to all of you prior to giving it to Chuck for his signature and issue. We can get this mailed later this month. I had hoped to get this letter draft to you before my vacation earlier last month, but obviously failed miserably in achieving that goal.

Ex-officio: Dale Fogg