

Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—November 4, 2021

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

Attendees: Schroder, Mathie, Barger, Buffington, Milavec, Bukk

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:09 PM): (Buffington Minutes)

Review/approval of previous Board Meeting minutes: approved without change

Officers and committee chair reports: In addition to the form, Jamie Schroder reported a successful outing to Spring Creek with members of FTTU and a 3-day steelhead event this weekend in Erie that Ian Brown, Jodie Minor and Nora Cline are attending as coaches. Chuck asked for reports that could be posted on the PWWTU website.

Old Business:

- 1) Volunteers and deployment Buffington
 - a) Bryan has linked up with three volunteers for the conservation committee: Austin Price, Alie Taylor, and Scot Meunsch. Chuck has involved Austin Price, Nick Cobler and Jeremy Jones in the communications committee. Other volunteers need to be included. Chuck will urge further contacts.
- 2) Communications Committee -Website revision Buffington
 - a) Revision by Joe Birch has begun and the Board was generally happy with the early results. Nick Cobler will help. More “stories” are needed from members to present an active front that says: “come and join us”.
 - b) Paypal on website
 - c) Joe is nearly finished installing the widgets to allow payment through the website which will make Cabin Fever vendors very happy.
- 3) Arrowhead Funding Request Buffington
 - a) The project was reviewed by Bryan. The formal reviews were reviewed. The Board voted to approve the project with full funding. Chuck will write a funding letter.

New Business:

- 1) Add a committee? Outings Buffington
 - a) Glenn “Andy” Andrews from Portland
 - b) Andy Andrews comes to us as a volunteer from Oregon where he ran 4-6 fishing/camping outings per year and was on the board of the local TU chapter for at least 20 years. Creation of a new committee, probably titled the “Outdoor Adventure committee” was approved. Chuck will

appoint Andy chair, and board members will suggest venues in PA that have both fishing and camping opportunities such as Ole Bull on Kettle Creek.

- 2) Additional vendors for CF Schroder
 - a) Jamie suggested asking vendors of outdoorsy but not fly fishing related material to join the fun at Cabin Fever. Vendors such as those selling knives, pottery, beeswax candles will increase the diversity of offerings. Bob Bukk said "why not. If it doesn't work for them, they won't come back". Jamie and others will make suggestions to Bryan about potential vendors. General agreement that stuff with a fishing or outdoors theme would be preferable. Some discussion but no conclusion about including spin fishermen/vendors/talks.
- 3) Help for a high school program Jim Passarelli Buffington
 - a) Jim is a high school teacher who is starting a fly fishing club at Franklin Regional middle school. He has asked for help with equipment and fly tying material. Chuck will post this opportunity on the website and encourage Jim to submit a formal funding request to the Chapter. Ed has seen fly tying starter kits that cost \$5 or less on YouTube and will provide the link.
- 4) Stocking over wild trout - call to action Mathie
 - a) A current controversy in PA. PA Fish and Boat should have a comments period on this issue, and Bryan will alert Chuck to send out an email encouraging our members to contribute their views. Len Lichvar is on the "no stocking" side of the issue and we need to find someone to provide a counter view before the request for action goes out.
- 5) Allegheny Clean Ways Mathie
 - a) This is an established organization that cleans waterways from the water and from the shore. Bryan thinks we can partner with them to provide stream clean up opportunities for our members on a monthly basis. Bryan would like to develop a signature event for PWWTU such as a canoe clean up of lower Chartiers Creek...work in progress.
 - b) Chuck and Jamie suggested that the Chapter purchase lime green vests with PWWTU printed on the back for events so that those passing by will know who is involved. Approved. Likewise, a weather-proof banner for the donut tent was approved. Bryan will follow up.

Additional issues:

Bob Bukk brought up the fact that the current recipient of the Tom Walsh memorial scholarship has not written a personal thank you note to us and is not willing to pose for a picture with us to promote our efforts to help Chatham students. The Board found this unacceptable. Chuck will convey concerns to Dana Pasqualle after the message is cleared by the group.

Bob Bukk reported that a TU initiative to get fly rods into the hands of children has come to fruition in Pittsburgh. A woman wrote the chapter asking if we had spare equipment for her 6 year old son. Bob put this together with TU's program to get fly rods into the hands of children, got the rod and presented it to the mother and child. Nice work, all.

Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:42 PM

Important Dates:

Committee Reports

Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For October Year: 2021

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

Stream Cleanups:

Successful Montour Run Cleanup on October 23rd. 14 people, partnership with Montour Run Watershed association.

Really great conversation with Allegheny Cleanways tonight. Their land based coordinator, water based coordinator and head or their finance were on the call. Our objectives to clean our local watersheds, promote the good work our organizations are doing and bring as many people together to do this great work is shared between us. Though we haven't formalized anything as we are in initial discussions I wanted to bring 4 things to the board from my conversation with Allegheny Cleanways this evening.

1. Opportunity to partner with their organization and link up our calendars for a robust schedule of stream clean ups. We would be able to help influence their focus on certain watersheds but after talking to them, we wouldn't have to much. They are everywhere we want to be. We would advertise to our members and offer volunteers while their organization schedules the event and disposes of the trash.
2. Opportunity to sponsor a "Series" which would be a 2 month push of boat based stream clean ups along both the Monogahela and the Allegheny focused around the mouth of each tributary coming in. I will have more concrete numbers of what that sponsorship would cost by November 5th
3. Working on a "Signature" event we can partner on– I will have better idea if Lower Chartiers "Canoe and Cleanup" would be available by the 5th
4. Lastly, just a general discussion about supporting the organization overall – they will need another clean up boat and we might be able to help with a fundraiser to help them. Not sure how it would work or IF it would work. But it is a discussion. We might be able to find corporate money or help with a part of it for advertisement/naming rights.

No commitments have been made at this time. The goal of the conversation was to see if our organizations were compatible to work together and if we could find synergy to enhance both of our agendas. We did and we will continue the discussion to get some more concrete plans and costs to bring to the board.

Stream Projects:

1. Still working with Arrowhead on setting up dates for us to participate. More to come

2. Working with Engineering firm on Pine Creek project - they are now running the grant and we will sign on. I will bring proposal to board when I have completed grant proposal and know how we are involved. But we no longer have to run the grant which will be large
3. Working with Montour Run Watershed association and Allegheny Conservation district to identify key sights on watershed we can work on to support native trout populations and stream restoration
4. Discussing with Chestnut Ridge chapter what we might be able to do in partnership with them on Dunbar Creek

Science:

1. Talking to Mary Wilson with Penn State extension about holding seminar for our members on Citizen Science and how we can help Monitor watersheds.
2. Talking to PA TU about getting a class on Watershed Assessment Certification - Culvert assessment and water quality
3. Working with Chatham and Duquesne to identify possible opportunities to support grad student research projects that further TU's mission in Allegheny County

Advocacy:

1. Meeting with Jenn Orr-Green Thursday Nov 4th to discuss Next steps in Advocacy pilot in SW PA. PWWTU would have a member or two involved to follow established procedures on getting messages out to our membership based with information and action. More to come including what those procedures would be before we agree to them

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

Membership Committee Chair: Jamie Schroder

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Chuck Buffington

Making forward progress on the website revamp. Not so much on social media. Contacted by Andy Andrews from Portland, OR who has moved to the North Hills to be with grandchildren. Andy was a board member of his Portland TU chapter for 20+ years and ran 5-6 fishing/camping/eating outings each year as well as a Holiday Party for the Board. I've assigned him to a new committee: "Outings" and discussed our history with bus trips. Should be a good addition to the leadership group and bring new ideas to us from the West Coast.

Vice President: Bob Bukk

Free Fly outfit from National is being given to a six year old.

This might be a good time to start sending in volunteer hours for Ed's report at the end of the fiscal.

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

Expenses for the past month include the following:

Check #1590 to Sara Muller for her ZOOM presentation on her brook trout research project on September 13; Checks 1591 for \$1116.58 to "That Fish Place" and 1592 for \$1300 to Tradewind Chillers, both for supplies supporting two new TIC locations; Check 1593 for \$1040 to In-House Graphics for web site enhancements and upgrades; Check 1594 for \$300 to Skip Morris, speaker for our upcoming November meeting; Check 1595 to Bryan Mathie for supplies supporting the cleanup day on Montour Run; and Check 1596 for \$116.98, also to Bryan, reimbursing him for a ZOOM Pro license for the next 12 months. Our scheduled presentation of the \$3900 grant to Forbes Trail TU, supporting their efforts to update and expand the dormant Laurel Highlands Trout Trail as an outreach program from SWPA TU chapters, has been delayed until at least the FTTU December meeting, due to them changing their November 3 meeting to a virtual one on ZOOM. I deposited the two \$10 Target Workplace Giving checks mentioned last month during this period.

As of November 2, our checking account balance stands at \$70,169.05. A snapshot of the QUICKEN file listing showing recent transactions has been provided to board members via separate email for their review.

Ex-officio: Dale Fogg

Communications Committee