

Draft: Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—December 2, 2021

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

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

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:00 PM):

Review/approval of previous Board Meeting minutes: approved with change to Exploration Committee to "Outdoor Adventure" Committee.

Officers and committee chair reports: See below.

Old Business:

- 1) December chapter meeting. In person or not?
 - a) Would like to try to get the meeting in. We'll need to ensure that attendees mask and stay masked – how will we enforce masking? What is the liability for us if we hold it in person and we become, unintentionally, a spreader-event? Ian is on the fence and concerned about liability and leans against meeting in person. Chuck is working on live streaming but the bugs have yet to be worked out. We don't know the tax status of members. Speaker is comfortable with in-person.
 - b) What happens with Cabin Fever? We need to consider the possibility that it won't happen.
 - c) Nora proposes next meeting remains virtual. **Passes 5:2** Next meeting will be virtual and Bryan and Christian will work with the speaker.
- 2) Volunteers and deployment Buffington
 - a) Have committee chairs contacted volunteers? Chuck encouraged committee chairs to contact volunteers.
- 3) Communications Committee -Website revision Buffington
 - a) PayPal on website. PayPal is now available on the web site.
- 4) Help for a high school program (Jim Passarelli)
 - a) Jim is looking for materials. Request has gone to multiple chapters. Which chapter would his school belong to? Ed indicates likely "Forbes Trail by a hair". Nora suggested Fish & Boat. Bob has passed him fly tying material and book and thinks Jim could use some guidance. Bob also provided information about how Family Ties worked; advised him to start slow.
 - b) Ed indicates that Forbes Trail will be in touch with Jim; asked Chuck to mention it at the round-table. Could we ask our membership for donations? Can we get a contact with Forbes Trail through whom we can funnel donations? Ed will touch base with Forbes Trail.
- 5) Allegheny Cleanways Proposal

- a) Bryan provided a great deal of information on the program (brochures, etc.).
- b) They are an active group that cleans up many areas along the three rivers.
- c) Bryan would love to partner with a group that knows where to take river trash for disposal/recycling (tires, for example). Bob asked what the end product might be? Possibly more members, maybe a more activated membership. Board will investigate the demographics of our membership. Some concern that while we have large membership, it's not participating membership. Bryan hopes this might activate more of that membership.
- d) Board broadly in favor, is considering the various sponsor levels. Board is curious as to who their other sponsors are – how many, corporate or not, etc.?

New Business:

- 1) Chatham University Aquaponics Lab/Eden Hall
 - a) Tour date? Weekend in the new year is really best for multiple board members.
 - b) We have several opportunities to work with them
 - i) Virtual TIC proposal was submitted this week. Bryan & Christian working with Chatham and others to get this going. Board is very excited about this program's potential.
 - ii) Dr Wetzell is looking at a heritage brook trout program in conjunction with Fish & Boat to replenish native populations in restored habitat.
 - iii) Bryan will report more to the board next month.
- 2) Possible scientific projects
 - a) Bryan wants the board to start thinking seriously about what additional projects we might support – financially, time investments, etc.
 - b) Some discussion on where we might want to go with this.
- 3) Annual Meeting
 - a) Board succession planning. Three regular open positions this year:
 - i) Secretary (Brown), expires 2025
 - ii) Diversity Initiative (Cline), expires 2025
 - iii) Program Coordinator (Shane), expires 2025
 - b) In addition, we have two positions to fill following resignations:
 - i) At-large (Heil), expires 2024
 - ii) Vice President (Bukk), expires 2023
 - c) Need to determine how to run an election during Covid, likely virtually. Polls inside Zoom. Decision on quorum numbers and what to do if quorum is not met.
 - d) Need to publicize this.
- 4) Large check for photo-ops and promotion. Nora proposed, Ian seconded **<unanimous>**

Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:35 PM

Important Dates:

Committee Reports

Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For November Year: 2021

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

Membership Committee Chair: Jamie Schroder

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

BarFlies: Met November 22nd - 2 attendees plus myself - tied several variants of the Golden Retriever which was featured in Christian Shane's article in the July/August issue of the PA Angler & Boater. **NO December Tie** Next session will be January 24, 2022 - I hope to have a volunteer tier lead the next session.

Sportsman Show: February 18-20, 2022 at the Monroeville Convention Center – **I need to start scheduling volunteers** - I will send Charles/Jamie show booth details that I would like them to include in the next meeting's email blast - I plan on doing the Tie-A-Fly that we did at the last show in 2019 - aimed at the younger attendees but everyone can tie a simple fly - Cost to PWWTU will be for hooks, beads, tying materials - San Juan Worn, Green Weenie, Estaz Egg - I have access to vices and tools thru Project Healing Waters

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Chuck Buffington

Progress by the Communication Committee has slowed but the good news is that Joe Birch has added Paypal payment capability which will facilitate vendors' payments for Cabin Fever. Content for the website is needed badly. We need stories from our members that will encourage folks to join the fun. I've been working to be able to live stream our up-coming, in-person meetings via YouTube to members who are hesitant about being in a group but would still like to know what's going on. Congratulations to Bryan Mathie for submitting a grant application to fund a virtual TIC in collaboration with Chatham University's Eden Hall center. It's not an easy thing to do.

Vice President: Bob Bukk

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

Current Account Balance: \$70,194.05 (including large donation earlier this year from Equitrans Midstream). November expenses include speaker fee to Skip Morris for his November ZOOM presentation, reimbursement for supplies supporting the Montour Run Cleanup event to Bryan Mathie, and reimbursement of subscription fee for ZOOM Pro for the next year, also to Bryan. We received donations of \$25 during this period, from the Target Employee giving campaign. Our awarding of the \$3900 grant to Forbes Trail chapter, supporting their efforts to further develop the Laurel Highlands Trout Trail, will occur at their January 5 meeting.

An audit of 2021 Q2, Q3, and October 2021 transactions by former treasurer W. Reineman found no irregularities or issues. I supplied a more detailed listing of account transactions, along with Walter's email noting his audit results, to the other board members for information.

I also provided Joe Birch of In-House Graphics, the information he requested to set up a PayPal payment capability for our web site.

To facilitate my processing of checks for Cabin Fever and future events, I would like, with board approval, to procure an endorsement stamp, a less than \$20 expense.

Ex-officio: Dale Fogg

Communications Committee