

Draft: Penn's Woods West Trout Unlimited

Board Meeting—March 3, 2022

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

Attendees: Ian, Bryan, Dale, Nick, Nora, Ed, Jamie, Chuck, Ron

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:00 PM):

Welcome, especially new member Alani Taylor and Nick Cobler

Review of February Minutes. Bryan proposed accepting, Nora seconded **<passed>**

Officers and committee chair reports: See below.

Old Business:

- 1) Shift Tom Walsh award to support Virtual TiC. Chuck has suggested this but has yet to hear back.
- 2) Scientific projects – Discussion complete. Bryan is happy with the feedback; looks like we're aiming at "community science".
- 3) Service award for Bukk, Heil. Nora has this in progress. Bryan raised Christian as an additional recipient. Board agreed. We should also recognize them on the web site.
- 4) Annual Meeting—missing elements
 - a) Treasurer's Report
 - b) Review of proposed FY2023 budget
 - i) Nora asked for some money (already in budget) to support women's retreat in the spring
 - ii) Reduced Bar Flies line item to \$200
 - c) Chuck plans to combine both, send to members, as for comments, and vote on it at the April meeting. Board agreed. Ed will send up to date information to Chuck.
- 5) Clearances. Waiting on new board members & Chuck.
- 6) COI for new Board Members. Please send to Ian.
- 7) Volunteer Hours. Nora is still waiting on hours from some board members; due by 3/12/22.

New Business:

- 1) Face-to-face meetings?
 - a) New CDC guidance has Allegheny County in green/low risk. Board is in favor of going back to face to face. CDC no longer requires masks, but members who feel unsafe should be permitted to mask as they see fit. CDC doesn't even require social distancing in a green/low risk county. No need now for proof of vaccination. A large percentage of the population now has some

resistance to Covid and unless the CDC changes guidance, we appear to be moving towards post-pandemic.

- b) Chuck moved we return to face-to-face meetings with no requirements and masks optional. Bryan seconded. **<passed unanimously>**
- 2) Executive Committee
 - a) President—Chuck Buffington until his term ends in 2023
 - b) VP—Ian Brown
 - c) Treasurer—Ed Barger
 - d) Secretary—Ian Brown (acting)
 - e) Ian proposes slate above, Nora seconds. **<passed>**
- 3) APSC Funding Application
 - a) Fish prices (all prices) went up a great deal this year and this is reflected in the increased ask.
 - b) One event for opening day, second for an event on Little Pine Creek.
 - c) We've supported this in the past
 - d) Ed moved we approve, Ron seconds **<passed>**
- 4) PWWTU will be supporting the Carnegie Museum's "Monster Fish" exhibit on 3/19/22.
 - a) Other events through Franklin Regional on 3/24/22 and 4/13/22. Ed will send information.
- 5) Membership initiative: lapel pins "Ask me about TU".
 - a) Jamie is looking for ideas on how to engage people more – brochures, etc.
 - b) Nick asked for information on our Facebook page. Bryan said we should consider leveraging other local groups (Allegheny Cleanways, Three Rivers Waterkeeper, etc) as sources for our Facebook page.
 - c) Chuck also needs more content for the web site. Considerable discussion on how to approach doing more.
- 6) Name tags for new board members.
 - a) Chuck will see to it.
 - b) Bryan asked about business cards. Consensus is we can print our own.
 - c) Chuck will get the Board members set up on the National site
- 7) Three Rivers Waterkeeper – we should get involved with them.
- 8) Cabin Fever (2/25 & 2/26/2023) deposit needed. Nora motions, Ed seconds. **<passed>**
- 9) Events partnership for Allegheny Cleanways. Bryan looking for comments on proposal. Raised several other possibilities.
- 10) Reimbursement for Bryan. Ian moves, Nora seconds. **<passed>**
 - a) Ed suggested a write up for the web site.
- 11) Retreat in the summer? Board is in favor.

Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:20 PM

Important Dates:

- Opening Day (Trout): April 2, 2022 (First Saturday in April, now state-wide)

Committee Reports

Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For February Year: 2022

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

- 1) Updated Allegheny Cleanway agreement for \$5,000 distributed to members for discussion and suggestions. Not looking for approval at this stage
- 2) Coldwater conference was educational and allowed me to connect with many conservation partners. Learned more about funding sources and help with applications through a consulting firm, Riparian buffer planting processes and sources for live stakes and other plants, scientific research done on many of our local watersheds and desire to use eDNA to identify Native Brook trout populations within Allegheny County watersheds. Working to get training on Culvert assessment and to become certified to train others allowing PWWTU to add to the GIS database of Culverts and aid Allegheny County Conservation District plan culvert replacements that stop AOP. Trying to find a way to work with the Watershed Stewards program to enhance their live stake nursery in Allegheny County allowing us to utilize those plants for many of our own projects
- 3) New TIC classroom - Urban Pathways Charter School 6-12 in Downtown Pittsburgh is interested in becoming a TIC classroom. After I approached them and helped them understand the curriculum, they are interested in hosting an aquarium and will be engaging in the funding process now. This is an inner city all minority school here in Pittsburgh and a great demographic for outdoor education.
- 4) Virtual TIC - Continue to meet with Roy Weitzell to get the aquarium going and technology set up. Due to personal complications Roy has not been able to focus on this project in time for this year's curriculum but it allows us time to set it up, work out the bugs and still be able to stream live when we have the fish in place. Receiving fry from PFBC shortly to fill the aquarium. We will be ready and promoting Virtual TIC to PFBC and many school districts throughout 2022 to prepare them for the start of the TIC curriculum in January 2023
- 5) Cabin Fever - Received new contract from DoubleTree for February 25th and 26th of 2023. Planning on a featured speaker and have reached back out to Kelly Galloup again to express interest and if his calendar works, he is willing.

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

PWWTU Women's Report/Carnegie Museum and Women's Retreat

Carnegie Museum of Natural History Opportunity:

The Carnegie reached out to Forbes Trail Chapter to ask for TU representation at the Super Science Saturday on March 19th. The Carnegie currently has a Monster Fish Exhibit and is looking for conservation-minded organizations to participate in the Saturday Event. This event is targeting families with children aged 7-12. The Forbes Trail Women and Diversity coordinator is partnering with the PWWTU Women and Diversity coordinators to provide TU representation and activities from 10AM to 5PM on March 19th. The Carnegie also hopes this will be the beginning of a longer-term relationship

between the Museum and Trout Unlimited. We are awaiting a few answers to some questions about details, but we can have two or three tables with electricity and also will have wifi available.

We would like for members of both chapters to volunteer for 2-hour slots on the day to help with the following:

- Macroinvertebrate discussions especially as it is tied to fly tying (match-the-hatch)
- Local waters discussion
- Coloring and Fish and Boat materials on local fisheries
- Flyfishing discussions—casting demonstrations with practice casters
- Activities and discussions around conservation and climate change

We will be leveraging Fish and Boat materials and also some Stream Girl materials. More information and a call next week to finalize a plan. Clearances are not needed but encouraged.

Women's Retreat

In 2020, PWWTU had approved a grant for \$500 for the PATU/Fish and Boat Women and Diversity retreat to be held in May. This event has been delayed because of COVID and will be held in May of 2022. The event will include a public conservation-oriented event for the public. We would like to request that PWWTU provide a grant of between \$500 and \$750 for the event. We also have space available for representation from PWWTU. The event is May 13-15. Door prizes including flies for the women attending the public event would be welcome.

STREAM Girls

We would like to plan to hold STREAM Girls/STREAM Kids this Summer (at last). Provided that the Board agrees, we will begin planning for a Summer event of two consecutive Saturdays. Location is still TBD but could include Pine Creek or North Park. Our hope is that the relationship we may begin with the Carnegie will give us opportunities in the city.

Outdoor Inclusion Coalition:

We are currently exploring the Outdoor Inclusion Coalition which is a local organization supported by the Carnegie, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, and Venture Outdoors.

<https://www.ventureoutdoors.org/outdoorinclusioncoalition/>

Membership Committee Chair: Jamie Schroder

I continue to introduce PWWTU and the Women and Diversity group to anyone I meet who has interest in angling.

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Chuck Buffington

Short month; happy to greet new Board Members and that Christian will continue to arrange meeting speakers for us. Quick annual meeting last month, skimmed on Treasurer's report and proposed Budget (FY-23). Need input from members on the proposed Budget before it's brought us for a vote by the Board. Will send query to members and plan to discuss it at the April Board meeting. Will send Treasurer's report also for a frame of reference..

Vice President: Ian Brown

Outdoor Adventures: Andy Andrews

I'm with the family at Disney World and my concerns currently is the May Adventures trip. I'm starting the process of looking towards a July and September / October Adventure's trip and that's all I have on my plate at the moment.

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

Expenses last month consisted of \$110.17 reimbursing Christian Shane for TIC supplies, \$1125.50 to In-House Graphics for the web site redesign, and \$250 speaker fee to Carol Morris for our February ZOOM meeting.

Donations totaling \$30 from workplace contributions were received. As a board member, I also participated in two ZOOM meetings regarding the effort to re-establish the Laurel Highlands Trout Trail and present it as a TU-sponsored entity, being led by the Forbes Trail TU chapter, with participation by other chapters, including PWW, in the TU Southwest PA region. I also attended virtual training by the PA Fish Commission to qualify as a PFBC Fishing Skills Instructor, to help me better assist in our chapter's youth education activities. Loaner fishing equipment is available for these activities from the Fish Commission at various locations. I will send out a slightly revised budget Wednesday, to board members, noting the increased expenses (increasing from \$1200 to~\$2400) associated with our participation in stocking fish for various kids' events in partnership with several other local sportsmen's organizations and community groups.

Ex-officio: Dale Fogg

Communications Committee