

Board Meeting—March 9, 2023

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

Attendees: Ian, Bryan, Chuck, Ed, Nick, Andy, Alex, Jamie, Ron, Dale

Topics (Meeting Opened 7:00 PM):

Call to order

Quorum

****We still need a volunteer to serve as Secretary**** Chuck offered to make some inquiries among members who volunteered for Cabin Fever to see if they might have interest.

Board members (minus Ian) agreed that we want to keep Ian as President and Jamie agreed to take notes for tonight.

Committees, etc., still tbd though largely a continuation of prior year.

Review of February 2022 Minutes. Ed moved to approve; Andy seconded. **<passed>**

Officers and committee chair reports: see below

Old Business:

- 1) **Cabin Fever Wrap-up** - Good observations, some issues, may also be due to our lack of CF for 3 years.
 - Branding, advertising, create a buzz much earlier as suggested by Nick
 - Agreed that we'd have a group meeting to go over feedback and ideas in detail. Ian to coordinate a meeting day/time/place.
 - Rocky Mtn Elk group: Bryan suggested we link with them to be sure they know we're there at the venue the day after their annual event. Likely overlap interest for fishing.
 - Room at hotel for 2 nights for Treasurer to count and store money in security of private room and the room has a safe. Agreed among the Board, no vote taken.
 - Ed/Ian suggested that the Treasurer should have a laptop, Ian offered that he and Jodie could donate this.
 - Bryan – great response from conservation partners for location. They were free this year, maybe charge next year. Wants them to have an impact on our attendees, looking at ideas.
 - Great feedback from vendors, loved the 3 doors for traffic flow
 - Negative comments:
 - Flea market –

- some vendors complained that it was separated from the rest of CF because they wanted to buy. Maybe resell – not our plan.
- Optics of some first in line clear the tables of rods, packs, do we need to do a sign “**First come, first served**”?
- T-shirts will move to membership table for easier accounting of those sold and give more room on tables in Flea Market area
- We can expand it by one or two tables towards conservation tables
- No food or drinks or anywhere to easily purchase. Hotel only offered kiosk behind the front desk. Very limited and expensive. Bryan looking at getting them to agree to offering food – what is the cost?
- Noise for speaker hall, vendor outside is too loud. Chuck suggested a hallway entrance for attendees to speaker and close the door. Other ideas from Alex, better AV to ensure that the audio is better for speaker. Nick said provide our own laptop, more reliable.

Ian word of thanks that every Board Member was present volunteering

- 2) Status of Virtual TiC at Chatham: Bryan said that Chatham altered language around Tom Walsh scholarship and reporting to Roy Wetzel. Chatham disagreed to new wording from TU for accountability. Bryan to share new wording for review by Board before sending to Chatham.
- 3) Trout Trail update: Soft launch of website other than White’s Creek. Nick pulled some stats that are freely available. Most views look at home page and then ‘suggested gear’. Many are accessing directly via desktop, brochure, QR code, etc.
- 2) Free Fly-Fishing class: March 25-26 Wilkins School Community Center, Ed reports that we have 20-25 signed up. He’ll need a laptop for this event.
- 3) Service Award— Rob Reeder, Nora to provide feedback.
- 4) Clearances: Reminder to complete clearances and once completed, send to Ian. Those still needed: Ian, Dale, Chuck, Nick, Alex.
- 5) Stream Keepers 2023: 4/29 Stream keepers via Jodie. Looking for participation from other chapters. Hoping Equitrans will participate as well. Ian sending an EventBrite sign up. June 3, June 10 will be our PWWTU event in North Park.
- 6) Upcoming events:
 - a) Nick suggests Google Sheet is used to capture the dates for all these events.
 - b) Board members will send to Nick any event they are involved with.
 - c) Chuck clarified that he is no longer involved with input to the website.
 - d) Mail list: Chuck reported that our TU subscription mailing list needs to be renewed. We agreed that we’ll renew while Nick and Alex come up with new list option.
- 7) Tim Flagler, Sept 18: in person at PWWTU meeting. Ian or Bryan to tell Bob Phillips that Tim is here for very short visit to OUR meeting. Does he want to advertise this? Help Sponsor? Etc.
- 8) Banquet: Bryan asked if there is reason for a banquet – Ian and I said no, Dale said not to judge banquets to how Kelly Galloup’s event did not work. For further consideration.

New Business

- PAWA funding request (under Women & Diversity budget): Jodie submitted a request for subsidy for Women's Angler retreat - \$500-. We agree that the budget covers this already.
- Chuck sent an email with 2 new candidates for Rivers. Funding @ \$550- per person. Moved Ian, seconded by Dale. No discussion, all in favor. <Passed>.
- APSC Funding Request: Allison Park request – same as last year and we budgeted \$2K for it. Jamie moved, Ron seconded. <Passed>. ** How can we expand this opportunity to others – communications committee may come up with ideas to get word out. Ron suggests speaking with Rich Simmons first so the group is not too large to manage.
- Christian texted with another TIC, under his budget, no approval needed.
- Andy: Outdoor Adventures Club. May 18-22 for Pine Creek; June 1-6 for Spring Creek; Oct 12-17 for Kettle Creek.
- Plastic bags – Andy is pushing to get away from plastic bags for Cabin Fever. Maybe use paper bags. Nick mentioned the conservation group: Peter Graham's.
- Are we going to work again this year with Allegheny Cleanways? Bryan - There was little participation by Board and members. Will we fund this sponsorship of \$5K for three clean ups? Ed pointed out that do we want to be spending this amount of our funds? Chuck suggested that we go back to Equitrans for more money. Bryan pointed out that we have asked multiple times for \$\$ but we have not gotten them involved or provided feedback on what their funding has done = ROI. We haven't provided anything they can trumpet.
 - Thousands of tires pulled out of waterways. Chuck suggests that rather than having tire providers charge discarding of old tires, have them build into the purchase price. Chuck to further consider how best approach for this. Already emailed Lenny Likvar (sp?)

Adjourned

Meeting closed 8:30 PM

Important Dates:

4/10/23, 5/8/23 – Monthly meetings

3/27/23, 4/24/23, 5/22/23 – Bar flies

3/25 & 3/26/2023—Free fly-fishing school (PWWTU & Days on the Water)

4/1/2023 – Trout opening day (state-wide)

4/29/2023 – Stream Keepers Volunteer Training/North Park

6/3/23 & 6/10/23 – Stream Keepers, North Park

Committee Reports

Penn's Woods West Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Officers and Committee Chair Reports

For February Year: 2023

Conservation Committee Chair: Bryan Mathie

Women & Diversity Committee Chair: Nora Cline/Jodie Minor

Membership Committee Chair: Charles Buffington

Education Committee Chair: Ron Milavec

Program Committee Chair: Christian Shane

President: Ian Brown

Vice President: open

Secretary: open

Outdoor Adventures: Andy Andrews

Officer: Treasurer: Ed Barger

Ex-officio: Charles Buffington

Communications Committee: Nick Cobler