

PANHANDLE CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2025

East Bonner County Library

Attendance:

In person: Chip Corsi, Dave Gillmor, John Hastings, Bill Love, Ron Mamajek, Cathy Gidley, David Heberer, Laura Forsberg, Ron Forsberg

Via Zoom: Bob Holman, Amy Anderson

Chip called the meeting to order at 5:30. The minutes from the March 12, 2025 meeting were approved as written.

2025 Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T):

Bill handed out and reviewed a financial summary of this year's F3T event at the Panida. The chapter netted \$7,085.47. Ticket sales have steadily increased, going from \$2,528 in 2023 to \$3,700 in 2024 to \$4,745 this year. Total revenue has also increased each year, going from \$8,470 to \$9,100 to \$10,149. Expenses have been \$2,363, then \$3,027, and now \$3,063. Net each year has been \$6,107 the first year, then \$6,073 last year, and \$7,085 this year.

Discussion was held concerning planning for next year's event. Laura suggested March 6, 2026 and all agreed. (Note: The Panida informed Laura after the meeting that The Follies may have already reserved that date. Laura then asked about February 27. As of May 8, the Panida has yet to commit to this date.)

In further discussion about this year's event, Ron F. suggested that we emphasize the offer of free memberships to TU to a greater extent in our pre-event advertising.

A question was raised as to how many new members did sign up this year. Chip is to follow up on this.

Chip brought to our attention a request from the TU National Leadership Council's Native Trout Workgroup for funding of a Bull Trout poster. This would be part of the "Get to Know Your Native Trout" series of educational posters. The artist will be Joe Tomelleri. Following discussion, Laura made a motion, seconded by John, that the chapter donate \$350. All I favor.

Fly Fishing Instructional Program Update:

As of April 9 only five people had signed up for these classes. (Note: By the time of the first session, it was essentially sold out.) Bill volunteered to both write an article for the Daily Bee and to send out an email to our chapter members notifying them of these classes.

Cathy provided an update from TU staff concerning this year's planned projects. She stated that due to the current political and funding instabilities everything is on hold for now. She reported that of three planned projects, none are proceeding as of this date.

Chip stated that he plans to attend an upcoming trail user forum.

Upcoming Events:

Laura reported that the Master Naturalists' annual Fly Fishing Program for Kids is scheduled for Saturday, June 6.

Amy stated that the Pend Oreille Water Festival is scheduled for Thursday, May 29. She added that she still needs volunteers.

Development of New Committees:

Chip reviewed his initial recommendations for the development of new committees and potential membership of each. They are as follows:

Fund Raising: John, Don, Ron F., Laura

Education/Outreach: Tom, Amy, Bob, Ron M., Dave

Conservation: Eric, Francine, Chip, Bill

Membership: Walt, Bob, Julie

He encouraged everyone to give thought to this and we will discuss further at next month's board meeting.

Chip presented his thoughts concerning the need to develop a strategic plan for the chapter. A short discussion was held. He suggested that a committee be formed to pursue this and proposed Bob, John, Bill, and Ron F. as members of that committee. Further discussion to occur at next month's meeting.

Bill reported that additional funding is needed for a third scholarship from Idaho state TU. After discussion, it was agreed that our chapter will send \$250.

Chip adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.