

Trout Unlimited-Panhandle Chapter Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
March 11, 2026

The meeting was held at the East Bonner County Library in Sandpoint Idaho and via Zoom and called to order at 5:00 pm by president Chip Corsi

Board members present: Bill Love, Chip Corsi, Walt Grows, Tom Whalen, John Hastings, Ron Mamajek, Dave Gillmor

Board members attending Zoom: Francine Mejia

Guests present: Cathy Gidley

Guests attending Zoom: None

Old Business/Updates-

The February minutes were approved. Walt will work with Erin to get them posted to the chapter web page.

Bill is still working with the bank to get a credit/debit card issued to the chapter. He mentioned it is a slow process, but he is making headway.

Chip and Bob met with the North Idaho Fly Casters (NIFC) in Coeur d' Lane (CDA). We are two different organizations with two different missions; however, we do have some overlap. Many of their members are also TU members. Several of our Board members also belong to the NIFC. We are hoping to capitalize on this and hopefully collaborate with NIFC on work projects and support other activities such as fly tying/fishing classes. Their next general meeting is April 16 in CDA. Chip and Bob plan to attend; hopefully additional Board members can attend their meeting.

Update from Erin/Cathy—Cathy gave a quick update. No real changes since the last meeting. Erin is busy with statewide TU issues. Cathy asked us to let Erin know of any upcoming education events and other information that could be included on the web page.

There may be an opportunity to have Cathy become involved with the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement. Presently, Bill is our assigned Board member for this effort. Bill and Cathy will flush out the details of her potential involvement as it may prove beneficial and may provide her with an opportunity to acquire unallocated funds for Bull Trout restoration projects in the Clark Fork drainage. Bill will also check with Bonner County Soil and Water Conservation District to find out if any projects are available through them.

Fundraising Committee-

F3T Update-- Bill gave an update regarding the F3T financial report. We sold 250 theater tickets and the Panida seats 500 people. It would be nice if we could sell more tickets. Preliminary estimate is that we made \$10,841.00, had \$3,092.00 in expenses and netted 7,748.65. As of 3/11/26 the Panida had not paid the sales tax on the tickets sold nor have we received funds from the Venmo raffle ticket sales. The final numbers will be available next month.

The Board decided to set the 2027 F3T date for February 19, 2027 as this was the only open date. Walt will notify the Panida of this date but will try to switch it to either February 26 or March 5 if either of those dates become available. We are not sure at this time of the number of new members who signed up at the event. A discussion ensued that we need to show on the ground progress with projects. It is evident that our general membership wants to see TU funds associated with on-the-groundwork. There will be some changes to working with the Panida next year such as increased cost of tickets, how tickets are sold, increased rental fees, etc. Walt will stay in touch with the Panida and let the Board know of how things are progressing.

Event Groove was on the agenda but not discussed because of time.

Tom gave an update on the 7B Gives program. This is a program where all the non-profits in an area get together to see how they can be more effective in the community. We are included in this group. 7B is a part of a larger organization Idaho Gives. One advantage to us is that individuals and businesses in the State can donate to organizations included in this program, and there is no cost to us. Another advantage is that it gives us exposure to a larger audience.

Conservation Committee-

The workday for the Kootenai River Walk Trail is September 19. Bill will coordinate a list of who will attend.

There is a weed pull day potentially planned for the Pack River. Currently, we don't know if there is a planned event. Some Board members will check and find out. Flowering rush is the target species. The date has yet to be determined.

The people organizing the 9B boat ramp have not gotten back to Chip on their project. Chip will follow up with them.

Walt gave an update on the St. Joe River boat access ramp. The private landowners do not wish to move forward with the project.

Chip gave an update with Prichard Creek boat access project proposed by NIFC. The Forest Service is not opposed to the idea of improving the ramp facility, but due to staff

cuts currently it is not a priority for them even though there is outside money available: including our chapters commitment of \$5,000. Chip will continue to work with NIFC, USFS, and IDFG as one avenue may to use “Good Neighbor Authority” approach on this project.

Chip gave updates on current legislation and ongoing issues. Included in the discussion were SJM 111, SB 1300, Fording River Mine, Trestle Creek and the Clark Fork Management Committee (CFMC). Chip will attend the next CFMC meeting.

There is a possibility for a beaver re-introduction project up in Boulder Creek. Chip and Bill will check it out with local District Conservation Officer Josh Stanley, who first suggested the idea.

Education Committee-

Bull Trout Education Program—Nothing new since our last meeting. Amy needs our help in cleaning out the storage unit we share with the Bull Trout folks. Several Board members volunteered to help with this. The date will be forth coming.

Ron reported that we are still on track with the master naturalist program scheduled for June 16. Ron will continue to follow up.

Ron also reported that we can probably do something simple with SOLE such as a one-day event. No date has been set yet. Ron will follow up.

The Clark Fork Library has asked us to participate in a fly-tying class. At this time, we are not sure of their expectations or if we would be able to help them out. If it is something extensive, we do not have the capability unless we have additional help from outside members.

Erin received a request from a student at Lake City High School to attend Earth Week Fair April 20-23. At this time, we do not know if we can accommodate this.

Membership/Board Committee-

Bill mentioned that the Elks Lodge in Sandpoint worked out well for our annual membership meeting. If we had a board member who belonged to the Elks, the rental cost for the Elks lodge would be less. There was discussion how we should recruit new members who can be active in the TU organization.

Tom and Bob are working on membership and board survey.

The Western Rendezvous of all the TU chapters in the west is in Missoula April 16-18. The chapter will fund expenses, and it would be nice if we could have someone attend. We need to let Chip know of our availability. Francine indicated she and Eric may be interested.

The Kootenai Gun and Horn show was discussed. Bill and Bob attended. We had some local folks from up in that area come by the table to discuss TU activities/mission. Bill mentioned this was new ground for us to attend a function up in Bonners Ferry.

Because of time the Board checklist was not discussed.

Communications/Social Media

The newsletter was not discussed because of time.

Future Meeting - Next meeting scheduled for April 8, 2026, at the East Bonner County Library in Sandpoint.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm Respectively submitted, Walt Grows, Secretary