Board of Directors Meeting  
Best Western Country Cupboard  
Lewisburg, PA  
March 20, 2015

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Lewisburg, PA on March 21, 2015. The meeting was opened at 1:00 pm. The invocation was offered by Gary Lewis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Conservation Pledge.

The roll call of officers, board members, and all others are present unless noted otherwise.

President – Lowell Graybill  
1st Vice President – John Ord  
2nd Vice President – Denny Fillmore  
Treasurer – Ted Onufrak  
Immediate Past Pres. – Chuck Lombaerde  
Secretary – Mike Zenzel  
Member at Large – Mary Hosmer - Absent

DIVISION DIRECTORS:  
Southern – Ray Slothour  
Southwest – Dwight Weaver  
Southeast – Mike Topping  
Southcentral – Vacant  

Northwest – Mark Crabb  
Northcentral – Phil Labant  
Northeast – Ace Cuevas  
Central – Gary Lewis

STATE ORGANIZATIONS:  
PA Trappers –Brian Mohn - Absent  
PA NWTF – Jerry Nelson – Absent  

Untied Bow Hunters of PA – Wes Waldron  
PA Flyers – Bill Appel - Absent

STAFF:  
Office Manager – Susan Hughes  
On Target Editor/Consultant – Melody Schell - Absent  
Director of Government Affairs – John Kline

MINUTES: Motion was made by John Ord and seconded by Mark Crabb to approve the January 2015 minutes as written. Motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The treasurer’s report was given by Ted Onufrak. Income is down, as dues are slowly trickling in this year. Motion: made by Dwight Weaver and seconded by Ray Slothour to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion passed.
OLD BUSINESS:
Fundraising:
50/50 Cash Raffle winners will be drawn at the Saturday night banquet. Ticket sales so far $8,480

Joint Raffle with Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation tickets need continued push. Drawing and family fun day/picnic will be held June 20th, 2015 at Penns Cave in Centre Hall. Ticket sales at $9,200.

Russ Schleiden provided an update on the Great Outdoor picnic. He’s offering free camping the evening of the event at Penn’s Cave. Looking at Pepsi, Hatfield, Red Ryder, as well as PGC booth sponsors. (Trappers already bought 10 tickets.)

Great American Outdoor Show Update:
The NRA gave PFSC a free booth at the show again this year. PFSC is one of a very few organizations that are still given a free booth at the show, primarily because of our history with the show, and our relationship with the NRA as their approved organization for legislative affairs. However, the booth they gave us was in an area that received very little foot traffic. PFSC’s booth was in the “Outdoor Lifestyle Hall.” Booth 3229.

Rocco stated that part of the requirements for the NRA to host the show was to treat nonprofits favorably. NRA has five year contract in place. Chris O’Hara, show organizer not very cooperative with working with us.

NEW BUSINESS:
Conventions:
Fall 2015 board meeting/general session will be a one day event and held at the Camp Hill Radisson September 19th.

Spring 2016 convention will be hosted by the Southern Division. 2nd weekend - March 11-13th, at the Best Western in Harrisburg.

Division were reminded of their required $100 donation/year towards each spring and fall meeting/convention, to help cover overhead expenses for the events.

OTHER BUSINESS:
Endowment Foundation Report:
Discussed keeping our building off real estate market for now. Approved up to $5,000 expenditures on building upgrades to prepare to possibly rent second floor and move our office downstairs.

Spring cleanup at office slated for May 16th, 2015

PWF Report:
Mike Zenzel reported that PWF did not receive any new funding from the Jordan Foundation this year. He provided a brief update on recent projects:

- Riparian Land Project: Mike reported on that the 13.3 acres of the riparian land project were purchased. A sign acknowledging PWF’s participation in the purchase is being made. He also talked about the possibility in the future to make habitat improvements such as a bat boxes and parking lot development. He noted that anyone is welcome to visit the property which is off of I-80.
- Cans for Conservation: a 4th bin was placed in Columbia County. Cans are coming in at a regular basis in all locations. More bins can be made if anyone is interested in one for their area. Money from the cans sales go into the PFW account for youth conservation efforts.
- Kocher Park Progress: Talk about doing a disabled youth trout fishing day. Support for signage may be requested in the future.
- Grants Administration: PWF will continue to pay Melody Schell through the calendar year as PWF’s grant administrator.

New Projects:
- Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education’s Wildlife Leadership Academy: $1,000 for youth scholarships to the camps.
• Southern Allegheny Conservancy – Trailer & Tools for Conservation: $6,000 request for tools to support working with partners to implement habitat projects. Geographic Area includes Blair, Bedford, Cambria, Huntingdon, Fulton and Somerset Counties. The board approved $1000.
• Cambria and Somerset County Conservancy – Wilmore Property-Law Road Food Plot Establishment: $1,000 for site preparation, fencing and tube protection of plant materials for establishing a perennial plant food plot along Law Road. Geographic Area: Cambria County.
• Rolfe Beagle Club, Inc. – Erosion Stabilization and Buckthorn Control at Eroded Drainage Sites: $3,200.88 request for implementation of erosion control work. Geographic Area includes the tributary of Little Mill Creek in Elk County. Several questions were raised by the board. Once those questions are answered, the board will re-review the grant request via email.

Dwight Weaver from Cambria County reported back frustration from his club about the amount approved for the Daisytown Grant. The club requested $5,000 for shooting range upgrades and shooting equipment for a youth shooting program. The grant request was denied, but the club was sent a $200 donation towards youth activities from the Cans for Conservation fund. Mike reiterated the PWF Mission Statement and noted the grant funds are to be used for conservation education and wildlife conservation, not shooting events.

Governor’s Advisory Council Report:
The council and advisor are currently still in limbo. Governor Corbett nominee James Daley for the PGC seat is still awaiting official confirmation. Should be sworn in by April Commission meeting.

PGC Report and update:
Executive Director is still recuperating from open heart surgery, so he’s still on limited duty. PGC representative will be here for Saturday’s committee meetings. Lowell and John attended an SGL usages seminar hosted by the agency. They provided an update on game lands usage by non-hunters. A working group is to be put together to further study the issue.

PFBC Report and Update:
PFBC Commissioner Rocco Ali said the commission is considering some controversial changes in delayed harvest areas:
- Kids under the age of 16 would be allowed to use bait year-round in the DHALO areas. First launched in 1983, the DHALO program is designed to make more stocked trout available later in the season. The current regulations allow harvest only between June 15 and Labor Day, have a minimum size limit of nine inches, and a creel limit of three fish. The waters are open to fishing year-round. Under the new proposal, the harvest period would be moved to the Saturday before Memorial Day, the minimum size would be lowered to seven inches, and anglers could use bait or artificial lures during the harvest period. The creel limit would remain at three fish. (Note: This proposal was pulled from the upcoming commission agenda, so the regulations will remain as is for now.)
Rocco also reported on:
- 2 fish for fun days (Sat. before Memorial Day and June 4th)
- April 11th Early statewide youth day
- All lifetime holders must buy trout stamp (since Jan 1, 2015)

Legislative Report:
Representative Matt Gabler discussed his bill, HB 263 – would allow Air Rifles for hunting with PGC regulation.

John Kline provided a written legislative report. See attached.

Membership Report:
Club memberships are still slowly filtering in. All board members need to encourage individual and club memberships in their home counties/divisions.
Promotional Video/Recruitment Power Point:
Lowell provided an update on progress of having a promotional recruitment video produced. Lowell and John will be having another meeting with Sam Oddo in the next week. Northampton County Federation was thanked for committing $4000 to effort. The Power Point (by Clarion University) costs may be more reasonable ($75?), but not as user friendly. Ace questioned giving club alternate delegates free On Targets. It was pointed out that they would get a copy if they become a PFSC individual member.

Staff Reports:
John Kline encouraged everyone to attend the 2nd amendment rally May 12th
Recommended drafting a letter asking for clarity from the governor about executive and agency employees being banned from accepting gifts from anyone, even for snacks, lunch, coffee or soda at meetings/events, or things like hats with orgs logos, etc.

STATEWIDE ORGS REPORTS:
PA NWTF:  No report provide.
PA Trappers:  No report provided.
The 78th Pennsylvania Trappers Association Rendezvous will be June 18-20, 2015 at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds.

United Bow Hunters of PA:  Wes Waldron provided an update.
Bowhunters would like to see deer/bear season the last week of archery season, support Sunday hunting, support PALS doe licenses, support using .223 semis, support using air rifles. Oppose 24 hour game reporting, oppose increasing Payment in Lieu of Taxes being raised. Wes wants us to be aware that total crossbow harvest was up from 10% to 54% this year.

DIVISION REPORTS:
North West:  Will be attending Linesville PFSC open house April 4th
South West:  Want to address governor’s ban on agency/state employees from accepting meals at functions
Central:  Welcomed everyone to Lewisburg and were happy to host the weekend events
North East:  Chuck Lombaerde said they were looking for support to stop a name change at Delaware Water Gap National Rec. Area. Superintendent of park John Donahue wants it changed. Concern is the name change will result in us losing huntable land. A motion was made by Chuck L./Mike Topping to send a letter to oppose Superintendent John Donahue’s attempt to change name of park (passed with unanimous vote).
South East: Division having trouble retaining clubs (only 10 of 19 Northampton County clubs belong to PFSC)
Southern:  Sunday hunting issue concerns their membership. Denny Fillmore said PFSC will hold their annual Legislative Shoot on May 12th, the same day as the 2nd Amendment Rally, at the Mechanicsburg Sportsmen’s Club.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

ADJOURNMENT:
Motion to Adjourn: Denny Fillmore/Dwight Weaver
The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Mike Zenzel
Mike Zenzel, Secretary
Pennsylvania’s legislative session is well underway. The most pressing issue being worked on at the moment is Governor Wolf’s 2015-2016 budget proposal for the commonwealth. Appropriation committee hearings in both chambers are examining each executive branch office budget. These hearings will be completed by the first week of April. Further discussions and changes to the proposal will most definitely follow. The budget must be in place and signed by the governor no later than the end of the fiscal year which is June 30th. This is a constitutional requirement.

Several bills have been introduced and sent to the Game & Fisheries Committees of the house and senate. In the senate, bills addressing powers of WCO’s to enforce trespass laws, regulations for dog training, big game reporting requirements and the allocation of proceeds from Lake Erie fishing permits are all being considered. In the house there are proposals to allow use of semi-automatic rifles for hunting. One bill would limit use to specific species. Another bill is more general and would allow the Game Commission to permit use for any species they see fit. There is also a bill that would permit the use of air rifles in hunting. This proposal would not mandate use but would remove the prohibition. The Game Commission would make more detailed regulations as necessary. Federation delegates will be voicing their club’s position on several of these issues at the spring 2015 convention. Once these positions are heard and voted on, that becomes the policy of the Federation as the legislative session progresses. This is a clear example of how individual Federation member’s and individual club’s voices are heard in the halls of the capitol in Harrisburg. We are a true grass roots organization. Individuals and sportsmen’s clubs who do not belong to the Federation are at the mercy of other voices that may be heard in Harrisburg. Many of these voices and forces do not share our interest. Please remind your friends and neighboring clubs of this sobering fact. Federation members and clubs have been carrying the water for all of Pennsylvania’s sportsmen.

The Fish and Boat Commission is advocating a proposal that would allot a portion of a gas extraction tax go to PF&BC for law enforcement if such a tax is enacted. The commission’s logic is, since they are responsible for law enforcement as it relates to water, it is only logical that entities responsible for issues with water pay for the enforcement. This proposal will also be voted on at the PFSC spring, 2015 meeting.

There are a number of second amendment bills that we are tracking and will be advancing positions on. One would do away with Pennsylvania’s PICS system. Another would make a positive change to the castle doctrine. Others deal with transportation, carrying and selling firearms. We work alongside national and other state organizations to vigorously defend and support your second amendment rights. Most of these bills are in the house and senate judiciary committees. We have a number of allies inside both chambers but there are also a number of legislators who either don’t understand second amendment matters or have taken some popular position that would hurt citizens and violate the constitution without even an understanding of the issues. Again, our constant presence is a way to keep your interests in the forefront.

Please plan to attend the 2nd amendment rally in Harrisburg. It is scheduled for May 12th. More information will be forthcoming.

It is an honor to represent your interests at the state capitol. Thank you for your confidence and support. Please know that the Federation’s Board of Directors and the Executive Committee take their responsibilities very seriously and actively work to support our common causes whether they relate to hunting, fishing, trapping, second amendment or the environment.