

VCTU Council Meeting Notes – May 11, 2024

Date: May 11, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Wing Boss, 6499 Williamson Rd, Hollins, VA 24019

Meeting hosted by the Roanoke Valley Chapter and via ZOOM

Attendees:

In-Person: Jim Wilson (Chair, Northern VA), Burr Tupper (Vice Chair, Winchester), Scott Allen (Secretary, Northern Va), Eric Tichay (NLC Rep, Smith River), Jeff Deering (At-Large, Smith River), Tom Benzing (Conservation, Shenandoah), Deidra Stultz (Communications, Roanoke), Jeff Cutright (Roanoke), John Loope (Roanoke), Brenda Willis (Roanoke), Ken Zadoyko (Thomas Jefferson), Chuck Connor (Thomas Jefferson), Blaine Emery (Mountain Empire), Tanner Harron (CATT)

Zoom: Beverly Smith (TU, VP VolOps), Richard Faust (Massanutten), Tony Hill (Northern Virginia), Graham Simmerman (Membership, Rapidan), Jake Burton (Shenandoah)

Meeting Called to Order at 10:05 A.M.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:17 P.M.

Agenda:

- **Opening remarks and agenda review (Jim Wilson)**
- **Meeting Minutes (2.24.2024)-Review & Approve**
 - Reviewed and Approved
- **Roundtable Discussion of Chapter Leadership Issues (Beverly Smith)**
 - Virginia Capital Chapter
 - Restart of chapter last year
 - Officer churn and resignations--lack of support from chapter members noted
 - Bob Call has expressed interest in being the new president
 - **[ACTION] Set up meeting or weekend event in June with the Council's support (Jim)**
 - Suggested option for quarterly versus monthly meetings
 - Due to location, it would be nice to have a representative from the chapter attend government and DWR meetings (Jim)
 - (Amy Orr – via email) I spoke with a father and son who are members of the VA Capital Chapter in Richmond. They would be interested in more fishing with chapter members and youth activities. The son participates in TFO kids and on Instagram they generate a lot of excitement about fishing. They mentioned the Current Culture shop as a good place to connect with other anglers. The man is Tad Hewitt, and his email is thhewit@gmail.com if you would like to reach out to him.
- Thomas Jefferson
 - Temporary president in place, following resignation of elected president
 - Chapter moving forward with elections scheduled for September
 - Ongoing activities: stocking, meetings, and Fall programs for adaptive angler

-- Mountain Empire

- No response from Chapter leadership
- Blaine Emory, present at this meeting, volunteered to help with leadership
 - Blaine added to chapter leader list by Beverly Smith

-- Little Stony Creek

- No response from Chapter leadership
- Eric has reached out to both Little Stony and Mountain Empire, but has no response
 - Both chapters are geographically with the Grayson Highlands Priority Waters area
- Annual report not filed--Eric is willing to help with report
- **[Action]: Draft plan for Spring (April 2025) meeting for all the Southern VA chapters (Eric)**
 - **Hungry Mother state park as a possible location**
 - **Potential timing and location with the Council April meeting**

- Skyline

- Unlikely to restart as one chapter--Investigating possibility of two chapters: one in Lynchburg and one in Lexington
- Jake Burton expressed interest in leading effort in Lexington; however, there was little interest
 - Jake will move to and engage with the Shenandoah chapter
 - Jake will attend Shenandoah meeting and engage with local Veterans and VMI
- Luke Malloy is a potential contact for starting a chapter in Lynchburg

- Beverly Smith (Beverly. Smith@tu.org)

- Chapter churn is not new
 - Try to find one leader that will be the spark
 - Find a mission that is appropriate for the chapter
 - Potential for joint Chapters with Fly Fishers International Clubs
 - The TU Constant Contact email system is not fully accurate, try other email methods to
 - Engage with 5 Rivers clubs
 - POC: www.tu.org/service / Clifford.Watson@tu.org – 5 Rives staff person
- Contact Beverly (Beverly. Smith@tu.org) for help with chapter reinvigoration or anything else.

- **Report from Priority Waters sub-committees (Blue Ridge & Shenandoah)**

- Tom Benzing provided update:
 - Regular meetings for both PW areas ongoing
 - Massanutten and Shenandoah are only participating chapters
 - Engaging DWR, Forestry Service, and SE aquatic resource partnership
 - Blue Ridge
 - Shenandoah has adopted Upper South River watershed
 - Upper James/Shenandoah
 - Shenandoah has adopted the Upper Cowpasture River
 - Massanutten has adopted the Dry River

- Winchester activities (Burr)

- Slides [\[Attachment 1\]](#)

- Need to get an update from Paul Kearney on work in the SNP (Jim)
- Looking to get other chapters involved that are outside the PW boundaries (Jim)

- Upcoming trout stream barrier training (Tom Benzing)

- Slides [\[Attachment 2\]](#)

- Treasurer Report (Bill Pierce)

Balance sheet - 5/10/2024			
Truist Bank			
	restricted	unrestricted	total
Checking		49,079.60	
Savings			
Garth Run Project	0.00		
Trout in the Classroom - Va	6,816.45		
Nat'l TU - travel for NLC rep	985.30		
Mtn. Empire-uncashed checks	641.45		
Skyline Chptr-chapter balance	7,325.85		
Totals	15,769.05	49,079.60	64,848.65

restricted funds reconciliation (after 8/15/23)									
date	garth run	tic-va	nlc rep travel	rebate escrow bill wills	uncashed cks mt. empire chptr	skyline chptr (until 9/10/25)	total	comments	
8/15/2023	1500.00	8558.63	1559.59	395.18			12,013.40		
9/10/23				-395.18				bal to capital chptr	
9/10/23						7325.85		from skyline chptr	
9/10/23					512.70				
balance 9/11/23	1,500.00	8,558.63	1,559.59	0.00	512.70	7,325.85	19,456.77		
11/23/23			-574.29					to eric tichay	
balance 12/31/23	1,500.00	8,558.63	985.30	0.00	512.70	7,325.85	18,882.48		
2/22/24		161.46						ck 1156 fr tic-va	
2/22/24					128.75			annual rebate	
balance 2/22/24	1500.00	8,720.09	985.30	0.00	641.45	7,325.85	19,172.69		
		-322.92						correct 161.46 addition	
4/1/24		-500.00						nova bus rental	
4/1/2024		-1080.72						smith river-tic equipm	
4/20/2024			1250.00					rec'd from tu natl	
4/20/2024			-1250.00					ck to e tichay-nlc rep	
5/1/2024	-1500.00							move to gen budget	
balance 5/10/24	0.00	6,816.45	985.30		641.45	7,325.85	15,769.05		

- There are still three chapters that need to file their annual report. Bill is actively working with them to complete the task.

- Community Committee Report (Burr Tupper)

- Newsletter
 - The Spring 2024 Newsletter went out to members, and I got several very positive comments on the content. One of the respondents, 90-year-old Ned Youst, thought that we ought to contact

an old college roommate based on the priority waters article. His old roommate has a farm south of Front Royal and there is a spring fed creek that runs through it and then runs into the Shenandoah River. The landowner is interested in having TU get involved in evaluating for a home waters project as there are brook trout in it.

- Burr will be trying to recruit members to help with the newsletter. We will need to get material from each of the chapters, edit and then publish. Hope to publish another newsletter in September.

- Burr is looking at adding sections: Introduction of council staff, Feature chapter, and Tackle box Highlight or Tips

- Grant Programs

- The Shenandoah Chapter has used the grant money that the Council provided them to purchase Data Loggers for their Buffalo Creek project and help with the landowner's recognition dinner.

- Will Ramsey has requested an educational grant for a TU college program in northern Wyoming. His request was forwarded to Stan Ikonen for evaluation and recommendations to the Council. Stan has agreed to be the education grant coordinator and all requests should be sent to him.

- Note: Wills grant for \$500 was reviewed and approved (Scott)

- Funding

- Fund raising for the Council's projects and programs that support the TU mission will need to be addressed in the future. The Council efforts should not conflict with the individual chapter effort.

- The Council should ask members for ideas that can be discussed in future meetings.

- **TIC Report (Mike Makufka)**

- Year to Date Progress:

- Most schools are in the process of either releasing their trout or will be releasing them soon. There are eleven schools that have asked to join the program for next year. I will be asking the chapter coordinators for their feedback so that I can prepare the final report for DWR. Overall, it was a very good year.

- TIC Manual:

- I am writing the first draft of the updated TIC state manual. I should have that completed by month's end and then I will be sending it out to be proofread. The manual should be completed by next school year's TIC programs.

- DWR Photos and Videos:

- Meghan Marchetti, who is the Creative Content Producer at the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, emailed me to request videos or photos that show TIC activities with students. I did send several to her. I have not heard anything more about the status of the project.

- TC Energy Grant Request:

- I had several talks with Rebecca McIlroy who coordinates the grant program for TC Energy. We talked about the needs for the TIC program, and I will be submitting a grant request by the end of May. I do not yet know the dollar amounts, but I am requesting funding for helping chapters

with initial costs and equipment replacement, including chemical reagents. A second component to the grant will be for offsetting bus transportation costs for the field trips to release the trout. I am thinking about a split of 33% grant, 33% chapter and 33% schools but those percentages could change depending on chapter needs.

- I will send the grant proposal to both Jim Wilson and Bill Pierce and anyone else that needs to read it for approval before submitting.
- Please send me any comments about the grant the Executive Committee may have.
- The question I have is whether the grant application needs a 1099 letter and 501c3 verification. Does the state council have these, or do we use National TU's numbers? I will check with TU to get their thoughts.

- It was noted that the cover letter that Mike put together takes care of getting individual special permits to release fish in national park waters (John)

- NLC Report (Eric Tichay)

- [\[Attachment 3\]](#)
- A new regular Council Chairs Forum has been established to allow Council Chairs to share best practices (Jim)
- It was noted that there is a lack of reports on projects by chapters (Eric)
- Note: Eric's final term as the NLC representative ends in February 2025
 - Need to hold election for a new Council NLC representative at September meeting

- Alaska Sweepstakes (Jim Wilson)

- Jeff Deering is putting the final touches on the sweepstakes registration page in Event Groove
 - The sweepstakes will begin as soon as complete and will run until January 15, 2025
 - A flyer with QR code will be sent to all chapters and will be included in the council newsletter

- Skyline De-charter-redistribution of zip codes Update (Scott Allen)

- Per email from Maggie Huemann, the zip codes were moved on April 27th and email notification pending.

- Climate change and its effects on VA fisheries (Jim Wilson)

- The Climate Change committee is preparing modules with info to be passed on at chapter meetings
 - Looking for feedback from the chapters on these modules
- VA General Assembly is voting on the state budget agreement this weekend, which excludes funding for VA's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
 - Article from Loudoun Times
 - https://www.loudountimes.com/0local-or-not/2state/warming-water-temperatures-in-virginia-are-changing-aquatic-life-as-we-know-it/article_1850cbd6-fb40-11ee-8c6e-cbcc39f25c84.html
- YouTube Channel
 - <https://www.youtube.com/@globalweirding>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5_zpjerQFo&t=191s
- Feedback from chapter representatives about presenting climate information to their members: focus on resilience and connectivity.

- Operating Plan--Review & Update (Scott Allen)

-- [\[Attachment 4\]](#)

- Open Discussion / Closing Remarks

- Next meeting, September, plan to invite Evan Childress (NPS) to get the results or update on eDNA study. (Jim)

End