

VCTU Executive Committee Meeting Notes – January 6, 2025

Attendees: Jim Wilson, Burr Tupper, Bill Pierce Scott Allen, Tom Benzing, Amy Orr, Paul Kearney, Mike Makufka, Richard Foust, Tony Hill, Seth Coffman, Eric Tichay

Meeting Start: 7:33 p.m.

Meeting End: 9:06 p.m.

1. Review and Approve October 21, 2024, meeting minutes

Approved

2. UVA agreement (Jim Wilson)

Draft agreement that Jim worked out with the Forest Service and UVA to move forward with funding water sampling and analysis on 15 Forest Service streams next year. The intent is to keep this research going while finding an alternate funding source via grant applications during 2025. Folks provided feedback via email.

(Burr Tupper) Looks good to me.

(Tom Benzing) Looks good to me. Regarding the comment/question about publishing rights, I would only specify that the Virginia Council be acknowledged as a supporter on any publications that results from the data analysis including these samples

(Richard Foust) Is the sampling to be done quarterly, monthly, or some other frequency? What is the number of analyses that will be performed?

I agree with Tom's comment that the only restriction on publishing should be acknowledging the Virginia Council for financial support.

(Mike Makufka) Looks fine to me. I agree with Tom that Virginia TU should receive acknowledgement on any documents.

(Jeff Deering) With this additional detail I am in agreement and support this plan. Also agree VA TU should be acknowledged in any reporting, analyses, or publication as a supporting contributor. We should also have rights regarding sharing data or analysis published by VTSSS with chapters and allow chapters and council to publicize TU's role in supporting this program.

Motion: Approve the award of \$15K in accordance with the drafted agreement, with the changes requested.

Motion: Approved.

3. Fly Fishing and Wine Festival Plan

Friday 10 January	10:00 AM	6:00 PM	
Eric Tichay	10:00 AM	6:00 PM	Pass 1 of 4
Cathrine Tucker	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	Pass 2 of 4
Red Bourdage	2:00 PM	6:00 PM	-
	10:00 AM	6:00 PM	
	10:00 AM	6:00 PM	

Saturday 11 January	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	
Eric Tichay	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	
Jim Wilson	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	Pass 3 of 4
	1:00 PM	5:00 PM	Pass 4 of 4
	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	
	9:00 AM	5:00 PM	

Tony Hill to work Saturday

Jim to see if more Capital Chapter members will attend and work at the table

Action: Scott to send another email to TU operations staff for QR code

4. Next Council Meeting Agenda

February 22 / 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Host: Winchester Chapter

Shenandoah Lodge & Sports Athletic Club 180 Bald Eagle Drive

Lake Frederick, VA 22630

Evan Childress to make a presentation on eDNA results

5. Eastern Regional Rendezvous at Shepherdstown (Jim)

April 25-27, 2025

Awaiting agenda

Looking for possible presenters and topics (Jim)

Climate (Jim)

Priority Waters (Burr)

AOP Barrier Survey (Tom)

Hurricane Recovery (Eric)

Reimbursement options to be discussed at February Council Meeting

6. SW Virginia Session May 30-31

1) Guest Speakers

Friday, May 30, 2025, 7:30 p.m. Fishing Opportunities in Southwest Virginia,
Matt Reilly, Fishing Guide and Author –Confirmed

Saturday, May 31, 2025

8:30 a.m. Eastern Region Priority Waters Update – What should Virginia do next?

– Keith Curley, TU Vice President, Eastern Conservation, Eastern Region –
Confirmed

10:00 a.m. Virginia Priority Waters – Region Updates
-Blue Ridge – Seth Coffman, TU Chesapeake Bay Project manager – Confirmed
-Upper James – Samuel Vest, TU Upper James River Home Rivers Initiative Coordinator extended invitation 1/2/25
-Shenandoah – Seth Coffman, TU Chesapeake Bay Project Manager – Confirmed
-Grayson Highlands – Virginia Council to establish a leadership team

11:00 a.m. Virginia Fish Passage Program – Louise Finger, Stream Restoration Biologist,
Virginia DWR or alternate – extended an invitation 1/2/25

1:30 p.m. Virginia DWR Region 3 Trout Management Plan Update – Jeff Williams, Fisheries Biologist, Region 3, Virginia DWR – extended an invitation 1/2/25

8:00 p.m. (proposed topic) Mount Rogers Recreational National Recreation Area Hurricane Helene Recovery Update – Eric to contact the U.S. Forest Service on Monday 1/6/25

2) Hungry Mother State Park

May 30-31 dates are reserved, park officials to provide menu confirmation and contract. Eric will follow up with park officials this week.

Ryan Blevins
Assistant Park Manager
Hungry Mother State Park
Marion, VA 24354
Office: 276.781.7400 Cell: 276.780.3684|ryan.blevins@dcr.virginia.gov

3) Trout Unlimited Event Center – Eric will draft an announcement by 15 January.

4) Lodging Options – Eric will create a list of lodging options by 15 January.

5) Event Announcer – to be determined

7. Alaska Sweepstakes

Ends January 12, 2025
Drawing on January 17, 2025
Need to sell tickets at VA FF Show
10 tickets sold for a total of \$676.40

Issue with only having a QR code on advertisement and not having a clickable on link

8. Q list of chapters concerning de-chartering (Jim)

- 171 - Massanutten
- 360 - Northern Virginia
- 208 - Shenandoah Valley
- 308 - Roanoke Valley
- 307 - Rapidan
- 286 - Thomas Jefferson
- 638 - Winchester
- 184 - Virginia Capital
- 207 - New River
- 264 - Smith River
- 631 - Mountain Empire
- 652 - Little Stony Creek

- Mountain Empire still has not cashed checks, including a check sent in December 2024 (Bill)
- Blane Emory willing to take on responsibilities for ME, but no action has been Taken.
- Following the SW Virginia event, a decision will be made on the status of Mountain Empire and Little Stony Creek

9. General Assembly Session-Advocacy (Jim)

- 22 January is Conservation Lobby Day in Richmond
- Tom Benzing will talk about Wildlife Corridor Funding (Tom)
- Conservation lobby day registration handled through Virginia Conservation Network

10. Treasurer (Bill)

- \$80,814.93 Balance
- \$44,866.07 Restricted
- \$35,948.86 Unrestricted
- \$753 check to Mountain Empire - uncashed
- \$676.40 Sweepstakes

- Eric auditing the account
- Google account vctuinfo@gmail.com used to manage files.
- Looking at Google Workspace for Non-Profits
- *Action: Scott to work with Bill for a shared drive*

- New Treasurer hunt in the works

11. NLC (Eric Tichay)

- Eric Tichay, Chair NLC Native Trout Workgroup (NTWG) attended a Zoom meeting on Friday, January 3rd with Rich Thomas, NLC Chair and Paul McKay, NLC Secretary. Topics of discussion included the following.
- Native Trout Workgroup Future: Eric expressed his thoughts on the future of the workgroup, workgroup activity, trout posters, and NLC representative activity with Councils and Chapters. Future NTWG discussion topics include: (1) terrestrial insect and macroinvertebrate population decline, (2) TU net-pen aquaculture policy, and (3) barriers to aquatic organism passage assessments.
- Potential NTWG Chair Candidates: Eric's 5-year term as VA NLC Representative ends February 2025.
- As of April 2020, there were a total of 14 NLC workgroups: 5-Organization and 9-Conservation.
- The NLC will hold a Business Meeting on January 14, 2025, at 8PM EST on NLC Zoom. The agenda includes an official vote on an Embrace a Stream Representative for the
 - Midwestern States.
- In 2025 the NLC Leadership Team is looking to develop a set of conference calls with each NLC Representative and their Council Chair.

12. TIC (Mike Makufka)

- The TC Energy grant:
There have been inquiries about receiving funding and I have directed the Chapter Coordinators to the application process.

I have a question regarding the inactive chapters that still have TIC programs, New River, Skyline, and Capital Chapters. There are still people coordinating the egg delivery, the release, and other concerns. The question becomes: if any of these programs need funds, where does the check go? I am not allowed to send funds directly to the schools. I am looking for some thoughts from the council.

- The TIC contact person for the Rapidan Chapter, which is one of our biggest Chapter with 31 schools participating is still at large. The Chapter is trying to recruit someone (hopefully two people) to take over the program. In the interim, Chuck Hoysa is temporarily fielding the duties.

- The revised TIC manual is nearly complete. It has been put on my back burner while focusing my time on other TIC activities.
- I have been in meetings with several environmental education organizations brainstorming ways that TIC and these organizations can bring each group's expertise to design lesson plans for schools. These organizations are: Explore Nature by Nurture, Virginia Save Our Streams, Virginia Environmental Literacy Network, Virginia Association of Environmental Educators, Virginia Association of Science Teachers. My goal is to bring their ideas on ways of educating students using TIC as the vessel, and their goal is to supplement lesson plans through TIC. The overall partnership is to coordinate efforts between organizations and provide easily obtainable lesson plans for teachers.
- The VAAE (Virginia Assoc. of Environmental Educators) has invited me to attend their annual conference on the Feb. 9 and 10 and provide information and to talk about TIC. The cost is \$150, plus lodging. Will Council approve this expense for me to attend?

13. Community (Burr)

Latest newsletter sent

14. Open Discussion

Asa Dunnavant looking for funding for Buffalo Creek projects in 2025 (Jim)
Submit a grant proposal (Burr)

Next step for Priority Waters? (Jim)

Paul, working with Park authorities, the only thing done was the repair of old signage

Tom, analyzed data for 24 crossings from Upper South River watershed conducted by Shenandoah Valley Chapter-- 32% had significant barrier issues

Massanutten Chapter plans veys on the Dry River

Winchester has been doing monthly meetings barrier assessment in 19 sights, monitoring sites getting scheduled. Working on Mill Run and Little Passage Creek

Seth

Three, 3-year grants started in 2024

Work includes: water quality improvement, barrier removal, driveway removal, bank erosion

Some of the waters/rives include: James, Mossy Creek, Beaver Creek

Richard
Landowners' dinner for Massanutten chapter scheduled for
January 14

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