

## VCTU Council Meeting Notes – September 21, 2024

Date: May 11, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Graves Mountain Lodge

### **Attendees:**

In-Person: Jim Wilson (Chair, Northern VA), Burr Tupper (Vice Chair, Winchester), Scott Allen (Secretary, Northern Va), Jeff Deering (At-Large, Smith River), Amy Orr (At-Large/Rapidan), Paul Kearney (At-Large/Rapidan), Eric Tichay (NLC Rep, Smith River), Mike Makufka (TIC/Winchester), Graham Simmerman (Membership, Rapidan), Seth Coffman (TU National), Tony Hill (Northern Virginia), Richard Foust (Massanutten), Rodney Minor (Massanutten), Mike Taggart (Rapidan), Noel Mueller (Rapidan), Al Kittredge (Smith River), Jason Collins (Smith River), Tom Sadler (Speaker), *Jackson Dierberg (Winchester, Conservation Police Officer)*

### Zoom:

Tom Benzing (Conservation, Shenandoah), Ken Zadoyko (Thomas Jefferson),

**Meeting Called to Order at 9:05 A.M.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:06 P.M.**

### **Agenda:**

- **Opening remarks, introductions, and agenda review (Jim Wilson)**
- **Meeting Minutes (5.11.2024)-Review & Approve**
  - Reviewed and Approved
- **Featured Speaker: Tom Sadler - Conservation Advocate**
  - [[Attachment 1](#)]
- **Priority Waters: Stream Barrier Assessment Update (Rodney Minor)**
  - [[Attachment 2](#)]
- **VA TU Activities Review (Seth Coffman)**
  - Commended Council and Chapters for actions taken so far
  - Restoration projects (sample)
    - Smith Creek watershed – streambank restoration
    - Upper James and headwaters
    - Jeremy's Run - removing a concrete ford on private land
    - Furnace Branch – culvert to bridge
    - Jackson River culvert replacement
    - Piney Run – culvert replacement

Spruce Lick and Dry River – replace bridge

Wilson Creek - Dam removal

- Grants -- Lots of funding available through multiple sources

RCCP grant

\$1M over 5 years to implement conservation practices

\$480 allocated this year for implementation in 2025

National Forest Wildlife Foundation

\$900K grant

- Additional grant for WVA, VA, and MD farm conservation

Ag cost share program soil and water districts financial assistance state money

NRCS USDA conservation share money to farmers

Stream bank stabilization, removal of barriers, watering troughs

- VTSSS – Funding options discussed

### **- Awards Presentations**

-- [[Attachment 3](#)]

- Awards Presented to recipients, or proxy from chapter

### **- Elections**

- [[Attachment 4](#)]

- The following were nominated for leadership positions:

Vice Chair Burr Tupper (incumbent) / Nomination Accepted

NLC Rep Tom Benzing / Nomination Accepted

At Large (All) Amy Orr (incumbent), Stan Ikonen (incumbent), Paul Kearney (incumbent), and Jeff Deering (incumbent) / All Nominations Accepted

Appointment of Regional Vice President Eric Tichay / Appointment

- **Motion to accept the list of nominations and appointment (Jim)**

- **Motion Approved**

- Bill Pierce, Treasurer, is looking to step down. The Council is looking for a volunteer

### **- VTSS Funding – Option for continued sampling at NFS sites (Jim Wilson)**

- EPA feels the acid rain issue is resolved and has stopped funding

- Forest Service looking to continue some of the work

  - \$15K per year to fund UVA lab analysis

  - Grant options – Dominion, TC Energy, Virginia Environmental Endowment

- VTSSS Briefing Paper

[\[Attachment 5\]](#)

- VTSSS Short List

[\[Attachment 6\]](#)

- Next steps: Jim Wilson will work with Dawn Kirk to address the questions asked at this meeting and provide more information during the October Executive Committee Zoom call.

## **- Climate Coordinator Report: Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024 (Jim Wilson)**

- Federal: Congress in session, but with election and budget approval as priority, little chance of other Bills getting reviewed

- Senate Bill 4753--introduced over the summer by Manchin and Barasso-- is the “Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024”. This bill is trying to expedite permitting time, make it easier to add electricity transmission lines, and involve local stakeholders early in the review process. This bill also seeks to limit delays associated with judicial reviews. TU National is currently reviewing this bill and has not yet decided whether to support.

- Inflation Reduction Act – lots of homeowner incentives/tax credits for household energy efficiency actions.

## **- Community Committee (Burr Tupper)**

- Publish newsletter early November

- Collect articles
- Articles to date
  - Council Officers elected
  - Awards
  - Chairman & NLC updates
  - Priority Waters updates from Winchester, Shenandoah & Rapidan chapters
  - Call for action of volunteers from other chapters in support of current efforts
  - Chapter news
  - Alaska Trip
  - Other suggestions???

### Fund Raising

- Should the Council ask members for donations to support priority waters?
  - If yes, then we will need to decide on the message, modify website to enable donations and provide receipt for taxes
  - How will funds be dispersed to chapters involved in direct Priority Waters activity?
- Alaska Trip (promoted in Winchester area in 2 fly shops and newsletter)

### Fund Raising

- Pursue membership with 1 % for the Planet organization
  - It’s Mission - 1% for the Planet members commit to donating at least 1% of annual sales directly to environmental organizations.
  - Impact areas
    - Rights to Nature (Renewable energy, land & water rights, community conservation & nature access
    - Conservation & Restoration (biodiversity & wildlife, marine ecosystems, freshwater ecosystems & terrestrial ecosystems
    - Resilient Communities
    - Climate adaptation
    - Responsible Consumption & Production

- Just Economies
- Youth Education

**- Trout in the Classroom (Mike Makufka)**

- Eggs will be ready the week of September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The distribution is as follows:

- Roanoke and New River at Paint Blank hatchery
- NOVA and Winchester at Chuck Hoysa's house
- Capital and Virginia Beach at the DWR office in Virginia
- Massanutten, Skyline, Thomas Jefferson, and Shenandoah Valley at Verona hatchery.
- Dan River (Smith River) – picks up rainbows at a later date
- Mountain Empire (no idea)

- Total number of schools participating is 217 this year.

**TIC Manual:**

- I am writing the final 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 October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**TC Energy Grant:**

- Virginia Trout Unlimited *Trout in the Classroom* is happy to announce the program has received a grant from TC Energy to help the program move forward. The grant will be composed of two categories:

- Support TIC equipment replacement
- Partially alleviate transportation costs for schools to conduct a trout release field trip and other travel costs.

**Eligibility:**

Any school enrolled in the Virginia TIC program is eligible to apply for funding. Schools must contact their local TIC coordinator. The coordinator will apply for the funding on behalf of the TU Chapter. If a program is in the Virginia Beach area, the coordinator must submit a request to the Virginia State Council TIC coordinator for approval.

**What can be Funded:**

1. Equipment Replacement: Filters, Chillers, Hoses, Air Pump, Chemicals, and Test Kits
2. Partial Funding (1/2 the cost) of busing for field trips.
3. Mileage reimbursement for egg delivery travels. Reimbursed at the state rate at that time.

**What will not be funded:**

1. Any type of salaries or reimbursement for hours
2. Any equipment for new schools entering the program.
3. Any mileage other than what is listed above.

**Review Process:**

Once a Request for Funding form is filled out and sent to the Virginia State TIC Coordinator ([mmakufka@gmail.com](mailto:mmakufka@gmail.com)); the request will be reviewed by the state

coordinator and the Virginia Council Treasurer for approval. If approved, all funds will be sent to the TU chapter requesting those funds.

All funding request forms will be posted on the website, or they can be requested directly from myself.

**- Chapter Reports and Council Support Efforts**

- Virginia Capital – second complete turnover of leadership, they plan to renew chapter activities in October

    Invite to participate at VA FF & Wine Festival booth

- Thomas Jefferson – start meeting this Fall

- Lynchburg-Luke Malone is the local contact. TU is checking with Liberty University to see whether there is interest in joining the 5 Rivers program

Virginia TU Chapters Need Assistance (Eric Tichay)

- Three of 12, or 25% of Virginia TU Chapters most closely located near one of our three Priority Waters regions (Grayson Highlands) need revitalization – Mountain Empire, Little Stony, and New River.
- Little Stony Creek and New River Chapter presidents expressed no optimism when I announced the Brook Trout Fish Passage Project and AOP barrier survey training.
- On August 30, Blaine Emery and I had a Zoom conference with Quentin Collins and Maggie Heumann about reviving the Mountain Empire.

- Priority Waters Forum scheduled for Friday May 30 and Saturday 31 May. The purpose of the forum is twofold: first to renew and restore interest in the Mountain Empire, Little Stony Creek, and New River TU chapter members, and second to promote awareness of the region's priority waters. Details are in the works (Eric Tichay)

**- Treasurer’s report (Bill Pierce)**

Balance sheet - 9/17/2024			
Truist Bank			
	restricted	unrestricted	total
Checking		41,011.48	
Savings			
Garth Run Project	0.00		
Trout in the Classroom - Va	6,046.52		
Nat'l TU - travel for NLC rep	985.30		
Mtn. Empire-uncashed checks	641.45		
Skyline Chptr-chapter balance	7,325.85		
Youth Education & Conservation	15,480.53		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30,479.65</b>	<b>41,011.48</b>	<b>71,491.13</b>

	49,750.36		= balance in register	9/11/23
9/16/2023	-411.18		ck 1167	graves mtn lodge-annual meeting
9/20/2023	-77.86		ck 1168	graves mtn lodge-add'l balance due
	49,261.32		= balance in register	10/22/23
11/23/2023	-574.29		ck 1169	eric tichay-reimburse for tu nat'l conference
12/9/2023	-295.05		ck 1171	michael makufka-reimb for vais conf-richmond
12/19/2023	-267.12		ck 1172	scott allen-reimburse for tri-fold brochures
12/22/2023	9,930.00			from tu national - chapter rebates
	58,054.86		= balance in register	12/31/2023
2/3/2024	-191.25		ck 1173	mass. tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-1,018.75		ck 1174	va capital tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-153.75		ck 1175	new river tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-222.50		ck 1176	shenandoah valley tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-111.25		ck 1177	smith river tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-371.25		ck 1178	thom jefferson tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-480.00		ck 1179	rapidan tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-428.75		ck 1180	roanoke valley tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-1,376.25		ck 1181	nova tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-238.75		ck 1182	winchester tu - annual rebate
2/3/2024	-51.25		ck 1183	little stony tu - annual rebate
2/11/2024	-100.00		ck 1184	pure water forum - annual dues
2/11/2024	-581.52		ck 1185	mass. tu - 1/2 of landowners' dinner expense
	52,729.59		= balance in register	2/22/2024
3/4/2024	15,480.53			balance transferred from youth conserv & ff camp
3/8/2024	-600.00		ck 1186	tom berzing-reimb for regional meeting
3/14/2024	-516.75		ck 1187	deidra stultz - reimb for website & zoom exp
3/30/2024	-264.00		ck 1188	iweb results - work done on camp website
4/1/2024	-500.00		ck 1189	nova tu chptr - exp for bus for t-i-c release
4/1/2024	-400.00		ck 1190	tony hill - reimb for regional mtg
4/1/2024	-1,080.72		ck 1191	smith river tu chptr - t-i-c- equipment
4/20/2024	1,250.00			from nat'l tu - nlc travel exp
4/20/2024	-1,250.00		ck 1192	eric tichay - reimb for reg mtg travel exp
	64,848.65		= balance in register	5/10/2024
5/23/2024	-500.00		ck 1193	charles ramsey-attend youth seminar
5/27/2024	-27.20		ck 1194	bill pierce - reimb for stamps
5/27/2024	-372.01		ck 1195	asa dunnavant - reimb for buff crk l.o. dinner
6/14/2024	-100.00		ck 1196	vcn - membership dues
	63,849.44		= balance in register	6/14/2024
5/27/2024	-242.75		ck 1197	void
6/20/2024	-100.00		ck 1198	jim wilson - reimb for lunch at council mtg
8/9/2024	-63.01		ck 1199	graves mtn lodge - deposit for annual mtg
7/1/2024	96.80		ck 1200	mike makufka - reimb for t-i-c brochures
7/17/2024	96.80		net deposit from raffle	
8/7/2024	19.12		net deposit from raffle	related to raffle
8/12/2024	96.80		credit from stripe	
	63,753.20		net deposit from raffle	
			= balance in register	8/12/2024
8/29/2024	-384.00		ck 1201	valley restaurant repair-t-i-c tank compressor
9/3/2024	-191.96		ck 1202	new river engraving - awards for annual meeting
9/4/2024	-50.86		ck 1203	scott allen-reimburse for frames for awards
9/14/2024	-394.88		ck 1204	pxi-waterproof phone cases for water survey vols
9/14/2024	-1,427.87		ck 1205	pxi-safety vests for water survey volunteers
9/16/2024	10,187.50		9687.50+500	annual chptr rebate & chas. ramsey expedition ref
	71,491.13		= balance in register	9/17/2024

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)	youth conservation and education (until Feb 2029)	total	comments
8/15/2023	1500.00	8558.63	1,559.59	395.18				12,013.40	
9/10/23				-395.18					bal to capital chptr
9/10/23						7,325.85			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	1,500.00	8,720.09	985.30	0.00	641.45	7,325.85		19,172.69	
		-322.92							correct 161.46 addition
3/4/2024							15,480.53		from youth ff/cons camp
4/1/2024		-500.00							nova bus rental
4/1/2024		-1080.72							smith river-tic equipm
4/20/2024			1,250.00						rec'd from tu natl
4/20/2024			-1,250.00						ck to e tichay-nlc rep
5/1/2024	-1,500.00								move to gen budget
balance 5/10/24	0.00	6,816.45	985.30		641.45	7,325.85	15,480.53	31,249.58	
5/23/2024							-500.00		youth seminar-c ramsey
8/7/2024		-83.01							t-i-c brochures
balance 8/12/24	0.00	6,753.44	985.30		641.45	7,325.85	14,980.53		
8/29/2024		-384.00							t-i-c tank compressor
8/30/2024		-161.46							fr 2/22/24 entry; s/b
8/30/2024		-161.46							subtraction
9/16/2024							500.00		this is correct entry for
9/16/2024									2/22/24
balance 9/17/24	0.00	6,046.52	985.30		641.45	7,325.85	15,480.53	30,479.65	refund of ramsey camp fee

## Comments related to Treasurer's Report for VCTU Annual meeting on 9/21/2024

### 1. Balance sheet

- a. Balance in account - \$71,491.13
- b. Of this amount, \$30,479.65 is restricted and \$41,011.48 is in the general funds category.
- c. Notice that there is a new category – Youth Education & Conservation
  - i. These funds came from the closing balance in the Youth FF and Conservation Camp and Council voted to set those aside as restricted funds to be used for needs/projects that fit a similar role to what the Camp would have.

### 2. List of Transactions

- a. This is a list of transactions since the last annual meeting
- b. Items of note:
  - i. Much of the activity is related to the annual rebate received on 12/22/23 (\$9,930) and the checks written to the chapters for their share of this rebate (Feb 2024).
  - ii. We have received 4 deposits related to the Alaska trip sweepstakes
    1. July and August 2024
  - iii. Council is assisting with a stream monitoring survey organized by Tom Benzing. Checks to PXI are for safety vests and phone cases. I believe they will have the TU or the Council logo.
  - iv. Charles Ramsey, a young person, was going to participate in a Youth Conservation Seminar organized by TU National. We paid for his enrollment fee (May 2024), but it was refunded (Sept 2024) due to the Seminar being cancelled.

- v. 2024 Annual Rebate of \$9,687.50 was received 9/16/2024. Checks to chapters will go out in late Sept or first of October.

### 3. Restricted Funds

- a. Provides breakdown of totals on balance sheet
- b. Notice that the Youth Conservation and Education fund was added in March 2024 and that the \$500 for Charles Ramsey came from this fund, but was subsequently refunded and re-deposited.

Note: \$15K TC Energy Grant not included in this report-awaiting deposit of funds from TU National. (Mike Makufka)

### - NLC report (Eric Tichay)

#### National Leadership Council Annual Meeting

- The NLC Business Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. Eastern via live video conference. This is the same night as the Trout Unlimited Annual Meeting, which is at 8 p.m.
- *Information to join the meeting will be released later.*

#### TU Annual Meeting

- 65th Annual Meeting of the TU members will be held on Wed., Oct. 16 at 8 p.m. Eastern via live video conference to elect and re-elect trustees and to take up any other business that comes up properly before the meeting.
- *Get tickets online at the Trout Unlimited Events Cent*

#### Redrafting National Conservation Agenda (NCA)

- September 13, NLC New Initiative Workgroup (NIWG) submitted three alternatives to the NCA to Rich Thomas, NLC Chair and the NLC steering committee.
- The alternative NCA favored and recommended by the NIWG improves the process of how the NCA is determined and keeps the conservation focus Protect, Reconnect, Restore and Sustain.

#### Communicate - Stay Connected

- Trout Unlimited Community (Select Community – 8 forums)
  - Leaders Forum
  - National Leadership Council Forum
  - Southeast Region
- Trout Weekly – TU President message, news, and fishing
- Lines to Leaders – monthly email on TU National, Councils, and Chapters

#### AOP Barrier Assessment Training

- Completed AOP barrier survey training with CATT September 18.
- Next training is planned for November.

**End**