

Virginia Council Trout Unlimited

Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2020

Present: Joshua Hart (Shenandoah Valley), Richard Foust (Massanutten), Kyle Dingus (Rapidan), Tom Benzing (Shenandoah Valley), Eric Tichay (Smith River), Steve Romine (Skyline), Tony Hill (NOVA), Deidra Stultz (Roanoke), Bill Pierce (NOVA), Jim Wilson (NOVA)

Next meeting: April 25, 2020, Waynesboro, VA

1. Announcements

Bill Wills and Richmond chapters are currently inactive, and TU members in their areas will soon become At-Large members.

Kids Day on the Rapidan River is April 4th.

Riverfest on the South River in Waynesboro is April 25th.

Eric Tichay was elected to be the Virginia representative to the National Leadership Council (NLC).

2. Discussion

Virginia Legislative issues: is there any consideration of bills to change stream access in the Commonwealth? (For example, allowing access to parts of the Jackson River that now have restricted access.)

3. Decisions Reached

It was agreed that the \$300 that would have been rebated to the inactive chapters will be used to establish a chapter assistance fund.

Motion passed: Add Zoom and drop the previous provider that was used for Ex-Comm teleconferences. Zoom will now be used for all meetings and teleconferences.

Motion passed: VCTU endorses Trout Unlimited's national program, "Teens in Action" (now known as the Save Our Streams Club by the TIA Alliance) and encourages classes and/or clubs to follow the model initiated at James Madison High School and Thomas Jefferson High School in Northern Virginia. A weblink describing TIA can be found under the Education tab on the Virginia Council website.

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

4. Action Items

Josh will send the VTSSS sign-up table to At Large members and chapters to complete.

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Recruit someone to replace Tom Benzing on the Pure Water Forum board. Best candidates may be either Massanutten chapter or Shenandoah Chapter members.

Contact state legislators and tell them to support the VA Clean Economy Act, which is Senate Bill 851 and House Bill 1526. The legislative session ends March 7th.

Ask your Congressional representative to co-sponsor H.R. 763—the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Ask your senators to join the Climate Solutions Caucus and to support legislation to reduce carbon emissions.