

## VCTU Executive Committee Meeting Notes – June 19, 2024

Attendees: Jim Wilson, Burr Tupper, Scott Allen, Bill Pierce, Eric Tichay, Amy Orr, Mike Makufka, Stan Ikonen, Paul Kearney

Meeting Start: 7:34 p.m.

Meeting End: 8:44 p.m.

Agenda:

### 1. Review and Approve March 18th meeting minutes

- Reviewed and Approved

### 2. Sept 21st Annual Meeting Plans

- (Jim) The meeting will be at Graves Mountain Lodge; Amy has made the arrangements
  - Jim invited Speaker: Evan Childress SNP, but has not had any luck
  - Evan may be overwhelmed at this time with his promotion and new duties
  - **[Action: Paul Kearney to try and contact Evan Childress]**
- Elections
  - (Jim) Nominating committee – Amy and Stan volunteered
  - NLC Representative candidates need to be identified (Eric's term ends February 2025)
- Awards
  - (Scott Letter went out to Presidents
  - **[Attachment 1 -Election List]**
  - **[Attachment 2 - Awards information to minutes]**

### 3. Chapter Leadership Action Items Follow-up

- VA Capital (Jim) Still no meeting, chapter having leadership challenges and finding meaning/purpose
  - (Paul) Anyone reached out to Fly Fishers of Virginia? Rob Thomas (not TU Rob)
  - (Burr) Suggested Project Healing Waters as an activity
- TJ (Jim) Participated at May council meeting
- Skyline/Lynchburg (Jim) will talk to Luke about developing ideas for moving forward
- Mountain Empire (Eric) Blaine Emory looking to organize a meeting to discuss moving forward.
- Little Stony Creek (Eric) Looking to get a table at the Appalachian Trail Days (May 2025) which may be a draw for locals
- Eric looking to put together a weekend event (Fri-Sun) for Mountain Empire and Little Stony at Hungry Mother State Park next Spring

#### 4. Priority Waters Updates

- (Jim) Blue Ridge meeting – Rapidan focus on inside the park; TJ focus on a section of the Moorman's that is stocked trout waters -- Note: All agreed that stocked waters should be considered Home Waters; Winchester focus on Little Passage Creek and Mill Run.
- (Jim) Will set up a late July zoom meeting
- (Jim) Upper James – Tom organizing trainings for passage/drainage

#### 5. Sweepstakes Fundraiser

- (Jim) The Sweepstakes is live
- (Jim) Need to send Flyer to fly shops; need to develop social media plan
- [[Attachment 3 – Sweepstakes Flyer](#)]

#### 6. TIC

- This year has wrapped up and I will be sending out the year-end questionnaire and finishing up the final report for DWR.
- The final tally of number of schools participating this year is 208 not counting Mountain Empire Chapter which never provides any information or even feedback.
- Developed a TIC informational brochure that can be distributed at chapter events. If a chapter wants some of these and fact sheets let me know.
- [[Attachment 4 – TIC Brochure](#)]
- I applied for and received a TC Energy grant for TIC on behalf of the State Council in the amount of \$15,000 over a three-year period. The money will be used to help chapters schools with transportation costs for field trips and equipment replacement. I am developing grant protocol guidelines that will follow the State Council's grant program. I hope to have the grant up and running by September 2024. Any schools requesting money will have to apply through their chapter's TIC Coordinator. Which ensures a level of accountability. The announcements of the grant program will be forthcoming as soon as I receive the details and a contract from TC Energy. Jim Wilson, Bill Pierce, and I will be working on details as I get them.

#### 7. NLC

- Leaders Forum, June 09, announced the Entomology 101 for Angling webinar for chapters. This excellent presentation by Maggie Heumann was featured at the three 2024 Regional Rendezvous. Check out the webinar and register at [TU.MYEVENTSCENTER.COM/EVENT/ENTOMOLOGY-101-FOR-ANGLING-95209](https://TU.MYEVENTSCENTER.COM/EVENT/ENTOMOLOGY-101-FOR-ANGLING-95209)

- Trout Weekly, June 7. article titled TU and AI dated June 6, 2024, TU introduced a partnership with OnWater Fish app and an AI-enabled (artificial intelligence) platform called TroutSpotter.
  - The AI component could identify each individual fish caught with a simple photograph. Individual fish would be identified by unique spotting and body shape patterns. We could know the species, get an estimate of the fish's size, know whether the fish had been caught previously and when and where.
  - This could empower anglers to help with science needs like estimating fish population abundance, measuring growth, movement, and tracking use of different habitat types.
  - Helen Neville, TU Senior Scientist is the lead in this project.
  - TU is launching the effort in four pilot sites where our on-the-ground champions are already testing the app and process: the Rapid River in Maine, the [Deerfield River in Massachusetts](#), the Rapidan River in Virginia, and several rivers in [Montana](#).
  - [TU And AI - Trout Unlimited](https://www.tu.org/magazine/science/tu-and-ai/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&_zs=v8M_Cb&_zl=0jR74) ([https://www.tu.org/magazine/science/tu-and-ai/?utm\\_source=informz&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=none&\\_zs=v8M\\_Cb&\\_zl=0jR74](https://www.tu.org/magazine/science/tu-and-ai/?utm_source=informz&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=none&_zs=v8M_Cb&_zl=0jR74))
- In May 2024, it was announced that the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) (<https://fishhabitat.org>), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and partners are providing more than \$27.4 million to support 91 fish habitat conservation projects in 29 states.
- A full list of 2024 funded projects can be found [HERE](#). Virginia has one funded project.
  - Project - Upper Clinch Watershed Stream Restoration and Riparian Corridor Enhancement
  - Fish Habitat Partnership - SE Aquatic Resources Partnership
  - NFHP Project Funds - \$45,704
  - Total Leveraged Contribution - \$118,500
  - USFWS Region - 5
- The Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society will hold its annual meeting at the Renaissance Hotel, Asheville, NC on February 18-21, 2025.
- Lines to Leaders Jun 2024
  - July 23rd – [New Volunteer Leader Orientation](#)
  - September 10th – [New Volunteer Leader Orientation](#)
  - October 16th – [Digital Annual Meeting](#)
  - November 12th – [New Volunteer Leader Orientation](#)
  - March 21 – 23, 2025 – Minnesota TU's [Great Waters Expo in the Twin Cities](#)
  - March 21 – 22, 2025 – Snake River Cutthroats' East Idaho Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo in Idaho Falls
  - Sept. 24 - 28, 2025 – CX3 Twin Cities

## 8. CCL Lobby Day and Asks (PROVE It Act and Clean Energy Permitting Reform)

- (Jim) Participated in three lobby meetings; met with Congressional staff representing one TN district (Nashville) and two VA districts (03 and 05).
- (Jim) CCL is looking for a bipartisan bill with carbon pricing -but unlikely to happen soon
- (Jim) The PROVE It Act is Senate Bill 1863 – this would require DOE to quantify greenhouse gas intensities for key industries for a number of different countries.
- CCL believes it is critical to speed up the process for building America’s clean energy infrastructure. So, Clean Energy Permitting Reform was the second primary Ask at the Lobby Day meetings.

**9. Community Committee (Newsletter, Grants, Fundraising)**

- (Burr) Sending out email to interested parties for assisting with newsletter
- (Burr) Corporate matching grant suggestion or 1% for the planet

**End**