

VCTU Council Meeting Notes – February 25, 2023

Date: February 25, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Disabled American Veterans Hall 2381 Roanoke Blvd. Salem, VA 24153

Meeting hosted by the Roanoke Valley Chapter and via ZOOM

Attendees:

In-Person: Jim Wilson (Chair/Northern Virginia), Burr Tupper (Vice Chair/Winchester), Bill Pierce (Treasurer/Massanutten), Scott Allen (Secretary/Northern Virginia), Eric Tichay (NLC Rep/Smith River), Deidra Stultz (Comm-Diversity)/Roanoke Valley), Richard Foust (Massanutten), Red Bourdage (Rapidan), Camper Wilson (Roanoke Valley), Brenda Willis (Roanoke Valley)

Zoom: Tom Benzing (Conservation/Shenandoah), Mike Makufka (TIC/Winchester), Tony Hill (Northern Virginia), Jeff Deering (Smith River)

Meeting Called to Order at 10:08 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 P.M.

- (Jim) Opening remarks and Agenda review

1. Minutes from last meeting

- Copy of minutes from September 17, 2022, meeting passed around room
- **Motion: Approve minutes - Approved**

2. Priority Waters Status (Dependent upon staff availability)

- Investigate Regional Vice Presidents to lead multi-chapter efforts*
- Next steps*

- No presentation - Seth was not able to attend
- (Jim) General review of status
 - No further actions have been taken since identifying three areas in VA
 - Jim Proposed identifying regional VPs aligned with the three areas

3. VA Climate Change and Trout (Jim Wilson)

- PPT [[Attachment 1](#)]
- National Climate Change work group meets monthly (remote/zoom)
- There are 10-15 coordinators representing each state
- Jim tried to call Tim Kaine's office – but not able to leave message
- (Brenda) VDOT is very active around the state, including decarbonization efforts
- (Tom) Suggested that the presentation be clear that carbonic acid is not likely to be affecting stream pH levels—these effects are due to sulfur and nitrogen deposition
- (Richard) Impact to Brook Trout – increase in temperature reduces vapor pressure of water and has an impact on stream flow

4. VA General Assembly Status Report (Jim Wilson)

- The Assembly is at end of current session
- Virginia Conservation Network is used to monitor government activities
 - Current topics:
 - Emphasis has been on retaining clean energy laws passed previously

- Budget – a House-Senate Committee is having ongoing discussions on the next 2 year budget
- There is a current “Ask” for funds (\$5M) for wildlife corridors

5. Action Committee Report and Action Items (Burr Tupper)

- PPT [[Attachment 2](#)]

a. VA Capital Chapter re-start

- (Jim) February 11 Fly shop meeting had 15 attendees; Catharine Tucker, previous VA Council Chair attended and shared the story about Joe Brooks as one of the originators of the Richmond (VA Capital) Chapter, which was one of two original chapters in Virginia
- Next meeting for VA Capital chapter scheduled for February 28th to elect leadership

b. Council Communication (newsletter)

- (Deidra) Showed Monday.com as a possible resource for gathering newsletter material
- Discussion of NL and how to collect content, generate NL, distribute NL

c. Engage Survey Respondents

- (Mike) Requested list of TIC volunteers from survey

d. Grant Funding to Chapters

- (Bill) Clarification of types of grants – conservation-related

- Open discussion:

- (Eric) VA Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) status?
- (Tom) WAP DWR Brook trout listed as species of concern, flora different from trout management plan
<https://bewildvirginia.org/wildlife-action-plan/>
Next revision of the WAP is 2025. The 2015 version identified brook trout as a "species of greatest conservation need"
- (Jim) Tom identified as Council representative to Wildlife Corridor Plan
- (Eric) Would like to see TU national provide lists of projects by state
- (Eric) Suggested we prioritize list of activities
- (Jim) Suggest need to assign actions to items in PPT

6. Nominating Committee

- (Scott) Bylaws list Chair, Vice Chair, Regional VPs, and Past Chair as members of nominating committee
- Jim, Burr, and Eric volunteered to be members of nomination committee
- (Tom) I believe the Conservation Chair is a "Functional VP" in the bylaws. I can't recall when I was last appointed/elected but I'm willing to continue.
[Scott – According to bylaws there is no limit on length of appointment for Functional VP's]

7. Fundraising (note donated guide trips)

- (Jim) has two donated guide trips (Stonegate bed and breakfast)
- (Jim) Looking to identify donations (e.g., Guide trips) and ways to bid on items
- (Eric) TU National has a fundraising tool
 - (Scott) National offers through the Tackle Box advice on setting up an online auction. The Vol Ops staff will help with it. [Scott – Event Groove is the tool]
- (Burr) A good example is the F3T Film tour hosted by the Massanutten chapter
- (Richard) Some chapters do a great job at fundraising (e.g., Beaver Creek project which raised \$24K (\$10K grant and match by competition)

- Some chapters may need assistance, so we need to take a close look at money raised by chapter vs council
- (Burr) Not all memberships generate refunds (e.g., At -Large members)
- **Motion: Work with National to move At-Large zip codes to Virginia Capital - Approved**

8. Trout in the Classroom Program (Mike Makufka)

- Requested approval for putting together a TIC Zoom meeting presentation for chapter reps to provide workshop and/or training – approved
 - Mike will provide draft at May meeting
- Request to upgrading Council TIC manual – approved
- Request permissions to update the website, specifically with pictures – approved
 - Mike to go direct to David with website updates
 - Request a release form for pictures for website
 - Deidre to provide sample
- Eric to send Brook trout posters to Mike
- **Motion: Purchase stickers for distribution to TIC participants - Approved**
 - Deidra will send council logo to Mike
- 194 schools participating statewide (No data for Mountain Empire Chapter)
- Open question on how to support non-chapter programs

9. Chapter Reports

- Skyline de-charter*
- Possible Lexington and Lynchburg re-starts*
- Others*
- Identify non-attending chapters and status*

- (Jim) Need to look at options for members in the Skyline Chapter (in process of de-chartering)
One possibility is to form two chapters: Lexington and Lynchburg regions
- Winchester (Burr)
 - Redbud Run spring creek restoration going well
 - PHW program is strong with help from Veterans Association
 - TIC program is strong
- Massanutten (Richard)
 - Held a successful Landowners dinner--45 guests
 - February 7th meeting went well -- Jackson Bradburn from DWR was speaker
 - Ami Riscassi presentation
 - March 9th hosting the F3T film tour
 - April 22nd is the Mossy Creek PHW Tournament -- Chris Wood is guest speaker
- Rapidan (Red)
 - August 13-19 supporting Kids with Cancer
 - ~~35 TIC tanks in 7 schools~~
 - Correction: The Rapidan Chapter has 29 schools with 35 tanks, according to Chuck Hoysa, the former Rapidan TIC program manager.
 - February fishing show went well
 - April 1st hosting Kids Day at Graves Mountain Lodge kids' day with support from DWR
 - Community outreach with Fauquier County parks and recreation
 - Upgrading website

- Roanoke Valley (Camper)
 - Starting to gain traction after COVID
 - March 20th TIC release
 - Chapter is looking at ways to grow
- Smith River (Jeff)
 - December meeting- George Palmer presented DWR results on Smith River sampling
 - Chris Power, Army Corps, will speak at next meeting on Philpott Dam Project
 - April - Supporting Kid's Fishing Day, Stuart
 - Trash pick-up
 - Camping event at Grayson Highlands
 - May – TIC trout release
 - Supporting Blue Ridge Heritage Veteran's Fishing Day, Floyd
- Shenandoah (Tom)
 - Meetings have resumed
 - SMB fishing outings
 - April 22nd – hosting F3T Film at Basic City Brewing
 - April 29th – Riverfest at the South River – host a yard sale in conjunction with this event
 - April 11th – Jon Ross to talk about brook trout at Wayne theater
 - Looking to get a branch of the Virginia Museum Waynesboro
- Northern Virginia (Tony)
 - Alternating member meetings in-person and zoom
 - Spring - Stream Girls event
 - Supporting 4 kids fishing days
 - Conewago Creek work on access and trails – 41 years of cooperation
 - Supporting eDNA survey in the Shenandoah National Park
 - Support Our Military Kids events
 - Summer – Crooked Run Fermentation release of Let It Fly Lager fundraiser
 - New Conservation chair – Bob Krieger
- General Discussion
 - (Jim) What is status of non-attending chapters? How do we promote TU in these areas? Example: News article on kids fishing day in SW Virginia or other fishing activities
Other examples: Little Stony and Mountain Empire
 - (Tony) What about a paid position?
 - Discussion about how to fund salary
 - Suggest looking at other options (i.e., engage fly shops)

10. Treasurer's Report

Balance sheet - 2/20/2023			
Truist Bank			
	restricted	unrestricted	total
Checking		35,672.65	
Savings			

Brook Trout Restoration Cmpgn	0.00		
AEP Grant	0.00		
Dominion - South River	1,929.87		
TIC - WV	0.00		
Garth Run Project	1,500.00		
Trout in the Classroom - Va	2,912.76		
TIC - Dominion	0.00		
Thomas Jefferson Chptr	0.00		
Nat'l TU - travel for NLC rep	1,559.59		
Annual Rebates Escrowed-Capital	1,277.50		
Annual Rebates Escrowed-B Wills	395.18		
TIC Coordinator funds-from TU Natl	7,095.87		
Totals	16,670.77	35,672.65	52,343.42

- Restricted funds

- (Tom) Dominion-South River activity still active talks. Tom will report on status at next meeting.

- **Motion: Adjudicate restricted funds (Dominion) to General fund if no longer needed - Approved**

- Garth Run Project is no longer active

- **Motion: Adjudicate restricted funds (Garth) to General fund - Approved**

- **Motion: Combine two separate TIC restricted funds – Approved**

- **Motion: Reimbursement for SE Regional Rendezvous: Council to pay for registration plus 2 nights hotel for Council Chair and NLC representative - Approved**

- **Motion: Reimbursement for SE Regional Rendezvous: Council to pay registration equivalent (\$200) for 2 members per chapter – Approved**

- Once the Virginia Capital Chapter elections are complete the escrowed funds to be transferred to chapter

- Escrowed Bill Wills funds will transfer to Virginia Capital when and if the territory is reassigned by national

11. NLC Report

- PPT [[Attachment 3](#)]

- National meeting scheduled for end of September

12. Council By-laws Review

- Deferred to later date

(Jim) Closing remarks

Next meeting in Harrisonburg

- Meeting location identified, but looking at other locations with lunch options

End