

Virginia Council Trout Unlimited Feb 21,2022 Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions
New River, Smith, Northern Virginia, Winchester, Shenandoah, and Massanutten chapters were represented.
2. Priority Waters Work Group presentation
Seth Coffman gave a presentation on the process the group undertook to come up with the recommended state priority waters. The three proposed Priority Waters are: the Grayson Highlands in SW Virginia, the Upper James—Shenandoah, and the Shenandoah National Park—Blue Ridge Parkway area. A lot of questions and concerns were shared by attendees and group members and Seth explained the reasons for selecting the areas that were chosen for this particular designation.
3. Officers
Burr Tupper was ratified as Council Vice Chair. He is also taking on the Membership Chair position. Eric Tichay is serving as our Financial Reviewer. We still have openings for an Advocacy Chair and a TIC Resource Coordinator.
4. Wildlife Corridor Action Plan/ Aquatic Organism Passage/Culvert ID Training
There is an upcoming meeting on Mar. 18 with DWR leading the discussion and push. Brook trout, shad and eel passage is the goal on the aquatic side.
5. General Assembly Update
A bill to Fund the Wildlife Corridors is upcoming. Visit the VA General Assembly website to keep track of it and please contact your Reps and Senators.
6. Chapter Reports
New River: Cleanup and Film Festival are coming up. Monthly meetings are occurring.
Massanutten: Zoom membership meetings, Iron Fly event, Film Festival, April Meeting, Beaver Ck Disabled Vet Fishing Day.
Winchester: In person meetings, Bar Flies, Redbud Run Restoration project
Northern VA: Zoom meetings, Two Beer releases/Service Partnership event coming up, kids fishing days
Smith: In person March meeting with program, cleanups, camping/fishing trip
7. NLC Report
Eric could not attend but did send out his update by email to most before the meeting.
8. Treasurers Report
Bill reported we have \$49,953.16 total in hand. \$15,679.26 are restricted funds. \$19,961 was used to reimburse chapter's TIC expenses.
9. Strategic Planning, possible Bylaw updates, Implication of Priority Waters Work Group, recommendations for Council organization
No action has been taken on reports of Xmas Tree farms sedimentation issues in Grayson Co. Lots on new chapter officers across the state. Doug will provide updates our website. Our new webmaster is David Juth. If you want something posted on the Council website, send it to him at juth@gmail.com.
No Bylaw updates at this time. Still waiting on National TU to amend theirs.
There is a unified approach across the country to come up with state led Priority Waters/Watersheds. Protect strongholds, restore, expand/connect if possible. Areas where TU

can have an impact. Strongly considered resiliency due to climate change. Focus is on brook trout. Policy opportunities as well as conservation opportunities.