

## VCTU Executive Committee Meeting Notes – June 19, 2023

### Attendees:

Jim Wilson, Scott Allen, Amy Orr, Tom Benzing, Tony Hill, Jeff Deering, Mike Makufka, Eric Tichay, Burr Tupper

Meeting started at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

### Agenda:

#### **1. Priority Waters next steps (a) Areas vs chapters, (b) distribute action plans, (c) GIS options, and (d) outreach for chapter volunteers**

- (Jim) We have three action plans. It is time for the council and chapters to start to take actions:
  - Reach out to chapters to find out in which area(s) they are interested
  - Identify a POC for each Chapter and possible committees
    - *(ACTION) Jim to send an email to the Chapters to identify a representative-short timeline to respond*
  - Identify software that may support the projects
  - Identify a list of ongoing projects (i.e., PEC is working on East side of SNP, culvert projects and training
- (Eric) Getting a list of streams [within each area] is the starting point
- *(ACTION) Scott to work with David to update website with a Priority Waters section*
- *(ACTION) Eric to send historical documents from Priority Waters Identification Committee*

#### **2. Operating Plan**

- *(ACTION) Scott to clean up the document form of the Operating Plan and post it to website*

#### **3. By Laws**

- By Laws approved for publication
  - *(ACTION) Scott to add ratification date and post to website*

#### **4. Buffalo Creek Special Reg. Area grant request**

- (Jim) Back and forth dialog with Joe Irbe (Skyline chapter) and Asa on funding request (\$2K)
- (Tom) Met with Joe and Asa and provided water data sampling supplies
- All agreed that no funding will go to stocking
- (Vote and Approval) for funding of Stakeholders meeting (\$300) and signage (\$200)
  - Tom volunteered to attend and support the stakeholders meeting
- Future funding for bank stabilization and hardware for stream work is an option
  - One requirement will be to specify in-kind effort (financial or labor)

#### **5. Community Development Committee**

##### **a. Newsletter**

- NL posted on website [Great job Burr!]
- NL sent out to all VA members via National Constant Contact
- (Burr) Suggested updates to website—Resource Tab—to host Newsletters and other Council documents

### **b. Engage Survey Respondents**

(ACTION) Burr to parse the list of respondents by their interest in support (i.e., communications, project work, etc.)

### **c. Grant funding guidelines**

- Guidelines are ready for publishing
- (Eric) propose start in 2024 with a budget of \$5K
- It was determined to treat the current Buffalo Creek request as special; however, future requests will go through the Grant process.

## **6. NLC**

- (Eric) On June 13 the NLC held a business meeting. Led by Rich Thomas (NLC Chair) and Sharon Sweeney Fee (Secretary).
- Review of workgroup charters.
  - The charter describes the mission, roles, and responsibilities, and how each workgroup will function.
  - Emphasized that workgroups will be made up of at least two NLC members which includes the workgroup chair. The cochair does not have to be an NLC member, only a TU member in good standing
- Review of workgroup participation.
  - NLC members are required to participate in at least two of 12 workgroups; in the Conservation (7) and Organizational (5).
  - Emphasized workgroup membership is not balanced.
    - There are 4 workgroups with only 1 member.
    - On the other hand, Native Trout Workgroup has the most participation of any workgroup 14, --- New Initiatives 12 and Climate Change 11.
- Rich Thomas will recommend to the New Initiative Workgroup to change the workgroup structure dropping inactive workgroups and adding a Priority Waters Workgroup.
- Future Focus, Events, and Meetings.
  - Workgroup reports are due June 23. Quarterly reports next year.
  - August 21 will be a townhall meeting.
  - Find the NLC Calendar in the TU Community Forum->Communities-> NLC->Libraries. Scroll through the documents on the right side of the of the site.

## **7. Treasurer**

- Bill was not present at meeting
- (Jim) the Council rebate was sent to the VA Capital Chapter

## **8. TIC**

- (Mike) We had a very successful program this year
  - There were 194 schools participating this year
  - Provided funding (\$1450) to Rapidan chapter to purchase two tanks
- There is \$8K in treasury earmarked for TIC support
  - Looking at timeframe for 2023-24 grant funding offering
- End of year questionnaire sent out and responses coming in
- Three (3) Chapter TIC reps stepping down

## **9. Nominations for council awards**

- (Jim) beginning in August the Council will ask for nominations

- (ACTION) Jim to send Scott the documents
- We will discuss "Gold Chapter Award" at next meeting

### **10. chapter reports**

- (Jim) VA Capital
  - Change in president and soon change in vice president
  - Chapter is having some meetings and there is forward movement but there is more work to be done to ensure success
- (Jeff Deering) Smith River
  - Fundraiser in the works – Sweepstakes running through November using the National Event Groove
  - <https://go.tulocalevents.org/2023srtufundraiser/Campaign/Details>
- (Burr) Winchester
  - Working on hosting a class through parks and recreation

### **11. Open discussion**

- (Tom) eDNA study in SNP completed – results pending, but lots of promise
  - (Tom) There is a Conservation Plan/Strategies from many years ago. He will locate and see if this something we can update
  - (Burr) Noted that the At-Large zip codes have not yet been updated on the National website
    - (ACTION) Scott to contact Maggie and get the status
  - (Jim) Two guide trips were donated to the Council at the VA Fly Fishing and Wine Festival. They are available to chapters for use in fundraising
- End