

VIRGINIA COUNCIL TROUT UNLIMITED  
MINUTES FROM MEETING  
11/12/11  
Charlottesville, VA

Chapters Present:

Massanutten	Rapidan	New River
N. Virginia	Roanoke	
Shenandoah Valley	Thomas Jefferson	
Smith River	Winchester	

Approval of minutes: The minutes from the 9/24/11 Council meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Matt Hale

1. Unrestricted funds - \$6136; Total bank balance - \$95,429
2. Year-end financial statements – motion to approve was made, seconded, and approved.
3. Matt reminded the chapters about the year-end financial reports being due. He said that Council gets reimbursed \$1.50 per member of each chapter that submits a report. It was noted that Matt put a great deal of effort to aid/file annual reports for struggling chapters which helped the Council qualify for more membership rebates.
4. Kevin Daniels stated that he could make business cards for the current Council officers and board members.

NLC Report – Jack Ward

1. Reminder about chapter by-laws due to TU National by end of year.
2. Overstocking issue – NLC passed a resolution prohibiting TU Councils and chapters from the stocking of hatchery fish over native and wild salmonid populations. This extends to assisting State Game and Fisheries departments in their overstocking efforts. Chapters with stocking programs should remain aware of the evolving policy.

Trout in the Classroom - Rob Tucker

1. Last 5 weeks or so focused on egg delivery.
2. 187 classrooms + waiting list. Expect 200 next year but need funding and chapter TIC coordinators.
3. Some chapters are reporting that the Tradewinds chillers are proving unreliable. Rob has contacted manufacturer and he is aware of problem. Rob will be trying out Aqua Euro chillers to check on their performance.
4. Rob reported on great publicity coming from Martinsville and their TIC program. Reminded chapters to send info like that to him and Graham for newsletter and other media publications.
5. Rob made a TIC presentation to the Marion Rotary Club.
6. He has had numerous meetings with chapters across the state as he travels on TIC related business.

7. He is working on editing and revising the TIC manual to make it more user-friendly.
8. He is working on creating a database of TIC classes and leaders.
9. Rob will be making a TIC presentation to the Va. Assoc. of Science Teachers.
10. He suggested that a plan be developed that will provide teachers with some award or acknowledgement for TIC work. Suggestions he and others made included a free TU membership after 2 years of TIC participation, sending certificates or letters to teachers' principals and/or school superintendents, and sending teachers to Mary Baldwin's TIC training program.
11. Rob also suggested that since lack of funding was preventing faster TIC growth we should consider some kind of TIC award to be presented at our awards meeting to those businesses that contribute to TIC programs around the state.

#### Council Coordinator Report – Rob Tucker

1. Rob has finished work on the newsletter. He is looking at possibly doing 4 per year – 2 paper and 2 online.
2. Rob is working with Tom Benzing, VP-Conservation to catalog conservation work being done across the state.
3. He is meeting with some of the editorial staff of TROUT magazine to better understand their publishing schedule and let them know of our various projects.

#### Fundraising Report – Graham Simmerman for John Ross

1. Fundraising letter directed to Va. TU members at printer.
2. John is working with U.Va. Foundation staff on identifying donors and raising funds to create a VTSSS endowment to hire a grad student to assimilate VTSSS data.

#### Conservation Report – Graham Simmerman for Tom Benzing

1. Rife Dam in Waynesboro taken down.
2. George Washington Nat'l Forest – Council has made comments to forest management plan, is coordinating with TU National about drilling measures, and is working with a Forest Stakeholder's Group on a consensus statement.
3. Mossy Creek – Seth Coffman is working on plans to take out the dam on the lower portion of Mossy Creek and various bank stabilization measures.
4. St. Mary's liming – to begin in March 2012. Some funds still need to be raised.
5. Beaver Creek – tree planting

#### Communications Report – Graham Simmerman for Jason McGarvey

1. Reminder to send in articles for newsletter.
2. Need to change website to more current technology. TU National is rolling out new website that will allow state councils to piggy-back on the National site. The plan is to review that website once it is functioning to see if we want to use that.

#### Public Policy Report – Graham Simmerman

1. Bob Burnley has agreed to be VP-Public Policy.

#### Membership Report – Graham Simmerman

1. Total TU membership in Va. – 4412.
2. One-fourth of our membership is in chapters that are having leadership or chapter engagement issues.

#### Youth Conservation Camp Report – Stan Ikonen

1. Camp will be held June 24-29, 2011
2. Last year they had 25 campers – Va – 14; MD – 7; WV – 1; DC – 0; Other – 3
3. Encouraged TU members to check out [tucamp.org](http://tucamp.org) for updates and to recruit campers.
4. Stan presented the Youth Camp by-laws for consideration. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for Excomm to review these and approve if suitable.

#### Chairman's Comments – Graham Simmerman

1. Coldwater Conservation Summit
  - a. How to increase TU involvement?
  - b. Timing may be an issue as April is a busy month for many chapters. Historically, the Summit has been linked informally with the VA Fly Fishing Festival.
2. VA Fly Fishing Festival
  - a. Should Council consider getting a tent so Council and chapters can promote TU?
  - b. Need to consider placement of tent so it is in traffic flow of Festival participants.
  - c. Council voted to pursue that discussion with Festival leadership.
3. SE Rally and National Convention will be in Asheville, NC
4. Council By-laws
  - a. Graham submitted drafts of proposed Council by-laws for review.
  - b. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the by-laws as proposed subject to
    - i. adding a provision (to be drafted by Graham) concerning Advisors at Large: limited to 2, nominated by Executive Committee, their duties, and elected by Council at any regularly scheduled Council meeting. (Note –under the proposed by-laws, the existing At-Large Board members/Advisors will be converted to Regional VPs thus preserving their position on the Council) and
    - ii. creating a section describing duties of Regional VPs.
    - iii. these additions to the proposed minutes (per the motion) can be approved by the ExComm.
5. Chapter By-laws
  - a. It is not necessary for Chapters to submit their proposed by-laws to Excomm prior to posting on the TU National webpage. TU National and Council will be reviewing and approving them after upload.

## Other Comments

1. David Jones gave us a report on the current effort to eliminate the ban on uranium mining in Va. He recently attended a forum on the subject in Richmond. His comments were as follows:
  - a. There could be extremely negative consequences for air and water resources given the level of population in Va., the topography in mining areas could lead to run-off heading to drinking water sources, and the drifting of mining dust toward populated areas.
  - b. 450 leases already in Va.
  - c. Encouraged members to contact representatives to let them know your thoughts on removing the ban.
  - d. The main company considering mining in Va. is Virginia Uranium Inc. which is a Canadian company. Under existing laws, Canadian companies cannot be held accountable for clean-up and mitigation of existing or abandoned mines.
  - e. The Dan River Basin website has samples of various resolutions to conservation organizations to use when taking a position on this issue.
  - f. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for Excomm. to consider this issue and, if appropriate, pass a resolution stating VCTU's support for the existing ban on uranium mining in Va.
2. Bill Bainter spoke about the ongoing access issue on the Jackson River. He noted that there was a website where one could go to find out more about the issue and make contributions to assist with legal expenses of the defendants. Graham indicated that John Ross and others are working on this issue as a group outside of VCTU proper and that chapters are encouraged to work with this group if they wish to support this case.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting. An afternoon of fly fishing followed on the Moormans River courtesy of our hosts, the Thomas Jefferson Chapter.

Submitted by Bill Pierce, Council Secretary.

## SUMMARY OF MOTIONS MADE:

1. To approve Council by-laws subject to revisions by Graham and approval by Excomm
2. For ExComm to approve Youth Camp by-laws
3. For ExComm to consider resolution regarding keeping the ban on uranium mining in Va.

## ACTION ITEMS:

1. ExComm to review and approve proposed Youth Camp by-laws.

2. ExComm to review changes to proposed Council by-laws and vote to approve or make further revisions.
3. ExComm to consider passing resolution related to ban on uranium mining in Va.
4. ExComm to consider getting a tent at Va FF Festival to promote Council and chapter membership and projects.