

MINUTES
VIRGINIA COUNCIL TROUT UNLIMITED
Meeting on 9/24/2011
Roanoke, VA

1. Chapters Present: Thomas Jefferson Roanoke
 Shenandoah Valley New River Valley
 Massanutten Winchester
 Northern Virginia Skyline
 Rapidan Smith River

2. Approval of Agenda: Approved

3. Introduction of Rob Tucker – Bill Pierce introduced Rob Tucker, the Council Coordinator and T-I-C Coordinator

4. Shenandoah Headwaters Projects – Seth Coffman
 - a. Seth reported on projects on Beaver Creek, South River/Coyner Springs, Red Bud Run, Cedar Creek (Meadowbrook area), Mossy Creek, Smith Creek.
 - b. Reported on hiring of a Stream Restoration Specialist to work mainly in the Shenandoah Valley. Funding is in place for 2 years.
 - c. Gave a report on the Marcellus Shale Summit in Bridgewater on 8/6/11.
 - d. Encouraged VCTU to support Sportsman's Alliance. Bill Pierce responded that he thought Council had signed on but, if not, that it would when presented with the letter.

5. Treasurer's Report – Matt Hale
 - a. Current financial statement approved.
 - i. Currently \$100,296 total cash; \$9342 unrestricted
 - b. Budget for 2011 – 2012 – approved
 - c. Chapter financial reports – due 11/15/2011; Form 990s due 2/15/2012
 - d. Liability insurance
 - i. New insurance year goes into effect 10/1
 - ii. Premiums are expected to stay the same - \$110 range
 - iii. Council Directors and Officers are covered under TU National's D&O policy
 - e. The reimbursements for the most recent National Conference exceeded the amount in the travel budget. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to allow total reimbursement to the two members attending.

6. Goal Area Updates
 - a. Conservation
 - i. Embrace A Stream applications – need to notify EAS representative to let them know you are submitting an application by 11/14/11 and the deadline for submission is 12/12/11.
 - ii. Va. Trout Stream Sensitivity Studies have now been completed and can be found online at <http://swas.evsc.virginia.edu/VTSSS-2010/Reports/VTSSS-080111.pdf>

- iii. George Washington Nat'l Forest Management Plan – comments are due
 - 1. There was a motion by Graham Simmerman related to the GWNF Plan:
 - a. That the Virginia Council authorizes the Chairman to draft and submit formal comments to the NFS fully endorsing the adoption of Alternative G (USFS preferred option) amendment and NEPA Environmental Assessment as written for amendment of the GWNF Plan. Further, VCTU is to commend the USFS on the comprehensive fishery and watershed protection measures it provides, the recognition of the need for mitigation from the effects of environmental degradation and climate change, the proposing of a ban on horizontal drilling on federally owned mineral rights for the duration of the plan, and for the public outreach efforts associated with the plan.
 - i. This motion was seconded and approved.
 - 2. Graham Simmerman made the following motion related to horizontal hydrofracking in the GWNF Plan:
 - a. That the Virginia Council, in collaboration with TU National, authorize the Chairman to draft and submit formal comments to the NFS proposing standards and limitations for horizontal drilling and hydrofracking for consideration by the USFS if the GWNF Plan Alternative G is modified to allow such practices.
 - i. This motion was seconded and approved.
 - 3. Graham Simmerman made the following motion related to the GWNF Stakeholders' Group:
 - a. That the Virginia Council authorize the Chairman to negotiate final modifications to and to become a signatory to the consensus statement prepared by the GWNF Stakeholder Group. This agreement defines a collaborative methodology for the group which includes lumbermen, outdoor enthusiasts, sportmans' groups, and wilderness advocates to work in a collaborative manner with the USFS in further defining multi-use land use designations on the GWNF.
 - i. The motion was seconded and approved.
- b. Membership – Graham Simmerman
 - i. Need VP-Membership
 - ii. Graham Simmerman gave a report on membership. Membership now totals 4063 in Va.
 - iii. Graham Simmerman made the following motion concerning the Gorge Washington and Williamsburg Chapters:
 - 1. The Virginia Council directs that the membership of inactive chapters, including the George Washington and Williamsburg chapters, be transferred into the Virginia-At-Large chapter for a period of one year.

- iv. Graham Simmerman made the following motion concerning chapter boundaries:
 - 1. The Virginia Council directs that the zip code based chapter boundaries be re-evaluated and corrected for new member assignments.
- c. Fundraising
 - i. Bill Pierce read written report provided by John Ross
 - ii. Annual solicitation will cost about \$4000 and should gross \$7000 - \$8000. Solicitation should be mailed by the end of October.
 - iii. Materials for Order of the Kype Jaw will cost about \$1000 but should generate \$10,000 - \$25,000 in planned gifts over the next 3 – 5 years.
 - iv. The Gale Foundation has committed \$5000 to support TIC/TU Coordinator position. When matched with other donations, that will complete the donations required to receive the Mars grant which will provide funding for the position through 2012.
 - v. John Ross has developed a process with Hillary Cooley and Steve Trafton where any gift to VCTU of \$1000 or more earns the donor Coldwater Conservation Fund status from TU National. This allows the money to be counted toward TU National's CAST campaign thereby demonstrating the VCTU is supporting National's financial goals but ensures that the money is restricted for use by VCTU to support donor's intent.
 - vi. TU National will provide VCTU with a list of prime donor prospects in Va.
 - vii. VCTU and U Va. have identified about 90 donors for the campaign to endow VTSSS. Of which, about 20 are capable of gifts in excess of \$50,000. Personal solicitation will be a team effort by me and U Va. staff beginning in October.
 - viii. Funds from AEP's grant will be distributed in early October.
 - ix. John Ross will be discussing with Alpha Natural Resources a large scale brook trout restoration project in SW Va.
- d. Communications
- e. Education
 - i. Rob Tucker reported on the status of Trout in the Classroom
 - ii. 158 tanks last year; 184 this year. 3 – 4 more possible
 - iii. Factors limiting growth are funding and volunteers
 - iv. Egg release date – October 4th
 - v. His priorities related to his Council Coordinator position are Communications (website, newsletter), Membership, and Meeting logistics (planning and scheduling meetings).
- f. Advocacy
 - i. Need VP-Advocacy. Possible candidate identified.
 - ii. There was a question about Council's stand on a new access issue on the Jackson River. Council is choosing not to take a position on this because it is not being supported by the Commonwealth of Va. A broader base of support from other environmental and fishing groups is encouraged.

7. Report from TU National Conference – Graham Simmerman
8. NLC Report – Jack Ward
9. Chapter Reports
10. Chairman's Comments
 - a. Chesapeake Bay Coldwater Summit
 - b. TU National Conference in Asheville, NC on Sept. 12-15, 2012
 - i. VCTU expected to provide the following:
 1. Host hospitality room with another Council for one night
 2. Recruit big dollar sponsor for banquet or other program
 3. Obtain items for silent raffle at banquet
 4. Nominate candidates to receive national Distinguished Service and other awards.
 5. Raise funds so that at least one president or emerging leader from each Va. chapter can attend the meeting in Asheville.
 - c. Chapter and Council by-laws
 - i. Roanoke and Skyline chapters have submitted new by-laws. They have been approved by Council
 - ii. Council by-laws are in process

11. Election of Board and Officers

- a. Nominations are as follows:
 - Chair – Graham Simmerman
 - 1st VP – James Damron
 - Treasurer – Matt Hale
 - Secretary – Bill Pierce
 - Board – Marcia Woolman, David Jones, John Ross

A motion was made and seconded and the above were approved for the positions named.

12. Meeting Schedule

- a. The next meeting date will be November 12th

Upon a motion and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.