

VT TU Council March 19, 2017 Meeting  
12:00 P.M. To 4:00 P.M.  
Woodstock Vermont, Woodstock Inn, Wilder Board Room

Jackie  
Doug Zehner  
Joe Mark  
Syl Stemple  
Jared Carpenter  
Mitch Harrison  
Dave Eastman  
Grey Hagwood  
Chris Moore  
Clark Amadon

12:00 1. Treasurer's Report. Review and approve.

- Transition from Syl to Dave started last fall- almost all updated.
  - Voted and unanimously approved.
- Jared for an overseer of treasury work.
  - Voted and unanimously approved.
- Requested TIC reimbursements from all chapters from teachers training. Only received 2 of out 5.
- Amazon Smile Program.
  - Council is signed up.
  - Register your non-profit, then gets .5% of all sales that uses Amazon Smile.com
  - **ACTION ITEM (Ian):** We need to alert State Council Website to let all VT TU Members know they can donate by shopping amazon.
- Reimbursement from court fee from Morrisonville case. Let's figure out what we should do in the future with situations like these.
- TIC Stickers – euros bought through SWVT Chapter. Can we offer those to other chapters? **ACTION ITEM: Joe Mark** to get pricing to board members so they can buy.

12:10 2. Minutes from October 2016 Meeting. Review and Approve. **See attached.**

- Voted and unanimously approved.

12:20 3. Chapter Updates. (Please prepare and share updates before meeting and prepare questions to ask chapter reps present).

#### GUV TU –

- Preparing for April 8<sup>th</sup> banquet at the Woodstock's Inn Country Club. Only a few tickets left (expecting 100). \$35 per ticket for plated meal. Every other year cycle.
- Few new TIC sign-ups and prospects. Just voted to formalize partnership with Mary Russ at White River Partnership. (Her husband on TU Board). They also made a donation (\$1K) to help cover the time for the volunteer to recruit new schools with chapter's help. In White River drainage.
- Boot on the ground projects: White River Open –around beginning of June, donations to White River Partnership.
- Working with Rockefeller Foundation (owns Billings Farm) – doing tree plantings and river restoration to make this a FF destination. Also working with Monster.com CEO for funding projects.
- Agreed to move their meeting location to Lebanon Airport. Increased average of folks in attendance.
- Conservation Tour (like at Annual National Meeting) with BBQ, 100ppl at The West Branch.

#### Central VT

- Banquet next Saturday at the Sunset Room on Shelburne Road. Tom Rosenbauer guest speaker – session before with Tom \$90 (capping session at 20), banquet ticket \$50.
- Green Up Day – as chapter on Lamoille River.
- Tree Planting on May 13<sup>th</sup>. 10 Bends Section. Series of plantings planned with Homeowners Association.
- Movie Night – April 6<sup>th</sup>. Davis Center.
- Right after they swapped officers last fall, they updated on website. Treasurer received text and email from someone they thought they knew- asking them to wire \$3,200 to a bank in MI. EVEN THOUGH they checked into everything except calling the individual, it was proven to be a scam. FBI aware and they target non-profits.
  - Since, they kept names of board members up but contact info down from website and use a general email address now.

### CT River Valley-

- Ron Rhodes EAS. 2 OLD dams, East Putney Brook and Cold Brook in Wilmington- both on private land and landowners looking to remove. In process. Both native brook trout streams.
- Erin Rogers presented to members last fall- went well.
- Saxton River restoration work- was hit hard by Irene. Donated \$3K and planted 400+ trees along river.
- Herrick's Cove (on CT River) sponsored by an Audubon chapter. They plan on being a part of it again this year. Connections for generating members and TIC participation LY.

### Mad Dog

- Banquet April 29<sup>th</sup> at Commodores Inn at Stowe. Activities beforehand – casting competitions, etc.
- Successful movie night last month (46 ppl) showed Providence – fishing in Seychelles. Kid activities, raffles.
- Keep working on Mad Dog sections. Have been planting for last 15 years. All projects ongoing.
- TICs doing well. New teachers need a lot of guidance.
- Large committee working on Trout Camps. 13-year old range teens encouraged to apply.
- Applying to EAS to help support dam removal.

### SWVT-

- Banquet April 22<sup>nd</sup>- Comm. Porter speaking.
- Just voted YES to donate to the TU Camp.
- Working on tree planting with BKWA
- May – Orvis + TU Battenkill River Clean-Up
- June – Hapgood Pond Derby; TU Teen Camp
- July – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Get the Tread Out – Walloomsac
- Successful chapter event with Jesse Haller – spoke about Tightline Nymphing. Will try to fundraiser and generate members in future.

### **General ACTION ITEM (for all):**

**Please contact your local USFS and local fisheries biologists to discuss communication when doing conservation projects in your areas.**

**Also, keep track of your volunteer hours!**

#### 12:50 4. Trout in the Classroom.

- Overall, going well. TY 69 schools, 71 tanks, 4 are SIC, rest are TIC.
- Working with table to help predict when fish reach the swim-up stage. Eric Anderson realized that this table was for salmon! So the trout had been at 90% development. We now have NEW table and redoing equations.
- Big challenge – nitrites big issue- no one can provide an explanation. The colder the tank the more successful it's been.
- How do you help the children with grief when they lose a tank?
  - Restock the tanks quickly. Joe's picking up fry and taking them to restock.
  - Do we build "real world situations" into the program? (ie forest fires). But great idea and we will try to work into our training program next year.
  - Some kids would take dead trout and feed them to the turtle tanks. ;)
- One teacher TY read fine print on the MSDS sheets – one chemical was suspected of causing genetic defects- National was alerted and sent out cease-and-assist and implemented a strip-test water testing system. Bonus is that there is very little human error with this system.
- Teacher Workshop expenses were divided among chapters. 2 donations as well this year.
- Up to 15 teachers were gifted membership by National. Mad Dog provided cost for others.
- Joe working on final reporting for grant partners.
- Joe sent us list of interested schools – we need to discuss within chapters of possibility of being overtaxed on a volunteer level if too many schools are added. We should maybe only add 10 schools next year across Vermont.
- VT Magazine is writing a story about our TIC program. Will accompany Joe to restock fry, and visiting Orvis and AMFF, etc. Should print this summer.
- **ACTION ITEM (for all):** Let's look into your regional publicity for the classroom trout release- any personal connections to reporters or writers? Mostly mid-late May and early June.
- There are some older kids teaching/presenting to younger kids within the schools.

- If we could get kids to become anglers at a young age, that's our best chance of keeping them as TU Members through their lives.
- Equipment. Where can teachers get fly rods to teach their students how to cast?
  - Joe borrows from Orvis Flagship, but takes management to set them up for each class, where do others get some?
  - Let's Go Fishing Program. Volunteers who takes people fishing.
  - Other chapters have designated rods or fly tying kits, typically under the care of one point-person.
    - Donated a few rods each year from anglers, a few each year from LL Bean National, etc.
  - Line blurs outside of TIC program...

*Side bar- New App for Vermont: Search Macro Invertebrate – search a stream and it returns pictures and descriptions of Invertebrates that were found. Very cool!*

1:30 5. Chair's Update:

Vermont Council Fund Raiser Sunday, May 21, 2017, 6-9pm Hen of the Woods, Waterbury.

- Chef is passionate angler and wanted to give something back.
- Grey asked for chef's dinner for 4, he would send him with a fly fishing guide.
- They would like to do a fund raiser for VT TU. This year. Stand up apps and bar with band. In conjunction with Orvis.
- Hen of the Woods will handle all ticket sales. Pricing not confirmed. Usually around \$30/person. All beer and wine donated. One drink ticket with entry. Cash-only thru HOTW. Checks and credit cards accepted for silent auctions?
- If they get 20 out of the 25, we should add more. Will profits from drinks be given to us?
- **100 people.** TU VT Members gets first crack at purchasing tickets, then it's opened to general public.
- How can chapters help? **ACTION ITEM PER CHAPTER: Provide one significant donation for this event.**
- Market raffle prizes and ticket structure upfront.

Clyde River Project and Regulation Change proposal. **See attached.**

- ***VT State Council of Trout Unlimited acknowledges the passionate concerns of anglers in that community that want to keep that fishery alive and growing. We feel as though the proposed new state regulations will help the protection of the salmon in this fishery. Therefore, we do not support the amendment to the proposal until there is sufficient biological evidence that supports future needed changes. We would like to monitor the outcome of the fishery after the state's proposal is implemented.***
- Proposal denied, statement of TU State Council position written.
  - Voted and unanimously approved.

Vermont Trout Camp support request for 2017.

- June 25-29, 2017. Jackson Lodge.
- \$1200 requested. It's the estimated cost to send one student to the camp.
- Please mention at your banquets and chapter meetings.
- Voted and unanimously approved.

TU Financial Controls. **See attached.**

- Just a reminder to chapters – please require 2 signatures on any checks over \$1,000. As well as a non-signer to review the monthly books. If not implemented, we do not receive membership rebates.

Scamming warning. **See attached**

- Grey discussed in his chapter update.

Approve VT TU letter to Congress. **See attached.**

- Voted and unanimously approved.

Northeast TU Meeting in NJ, May 5-7.

- Now called Regional Rendezvous
- Jackie attending to present on the DI. Joe Mark and Jared may go.
- If chapters are sending folks, it would be nice for the attendees to have some questions within their chapters that need answering.

National Meeting, Roanoke, VA September 27-30

- Jackie, Grey, Jared attending.

2:50 7. State-wide update:

- Clean water Day is on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Putting on a reception at State house and David Deen retirement (watershed council) reception.
- **Please attend the day of you can.** Brief meeting in morning. Then press conference to follow. If you can go- please wear your TU hat and/or shirt.
- \$1.15B/yr for next 20 years = total need for Clean Water Act

#### Clean Water Bill, RAP's and Clean Water Bill Funding.

- Whether funding gets cut, clean water will still be a problem and we need to keep pushing forward with a clear message about how this will continue to decline if we don't act now.

#### “Heritage Trout Waters”.

- No stock, no take/kill.
- F&W didn't like the idea, but knew they could do a better job of promoting wild trout and being definitive of where stocked and wild waters are.
- Instead of Heritage, designate as “OWR – Outstanding Water Resource”
- That would be great to see a map that shows wild trout fisheries on F&W site.
- Make sure TIC release waters are ok.

#### Dam Safety Bill

- Passed on Friday – Dam owners have to register their dams with state so they can be inspected on hazard levels (high hazard = if it fails, what is loss downstream?)
  - Inspected annually.

#### 3:15 8. Hydro re-licensing updates:

- Waterbury Hydro Project
- Morrisville Water and Light and American Whitewater 401 appeals.
- Bolton Falls, Winooski River.
  - Trucking salmon from Winooski-1 to above dam in Essex.
- Molly's Fall, Marshfield
  - Rt. 2 in Marshfield. State wants Green Mtn. Power to do mitigation for.

#### 2:30 6. National Leadership Council Update.

#### 3:45 9. New Business.

- Dave: Bank Account: Motion to return the National's membership rebate dollars back to their chapters.
  - Second motion to table discussion until October's meeting.
- Jackie: WI/DI – would love to try to get chapters to fill coordinator role to promote women's membership in the next year.

**ACTION ITEM (Jackie/Clark):** Add DI/WI update to agenda and hopefully each chapter can report on that.

Schedule Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 meeting dates.

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> @ VLS and March 15<sup>th</sup> @TBD

Adjourned at 4:21pm

Respectfully Submitted on 3/21/17

Jackie Kutzer, Secretary