



VTTU Council Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2019 @ the USFWS Eisenhower Fish Hatchery, N. Chittenden, VT

- **Call to order by the Chair** - 12:02 PM
- **Attending Council Members:** Grey Hagwood (Chair, CV), Ron Rhodes (Vice Chair, GUV), Dave Eastman (Treasurer, GUV), Jared Carpenter (NLC, MD), David Deen (CTRV), Syl Stemple (CV), Ian Sweet (MD), Clark Amadon (MD), Joe Mark (SW), and Ron Kovanic (GUV).
- **Discussion with guest Pete Diminico:** Grey introduced Pete, who lives in Bristol and has been a long time New Haven River Anglers member. Pete would like VTTU to support another “Wildlife Congress” meeting similar to one held in 2006. For background on this and to get a feel for what Pete is advocating please read <https://vtdigger.org/2019/05/26/pete-diminico-alternative-wildlife-governance-bill/>. It was generally acknowledged that most Council members and chapters are flat out with current activities. No decision was made by the Council on how to proceed, although Clark did suggest that this could be part of our next strategic planning process. Pete said he would be willing to help.
- **Minutes of March 2019 meeting:** Reviewed. No comments or revisions. Motion to accept the minutes was moved, seconded and approved.
- **Finance report:** Dave presented a print out/balance sheet for 3/1/19 through 10/12/19. Current balance is \$26,541. Reimbursements were then made to Grey and Jared for their travel to the National annual meeting in Arkansas. Dave will send a \$300 check to the Greater Upper Valley chapter for their successful 2019 Embrace-A-Stream application. Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was moved, seconded and approved.

- **Old Business:**

- Proposal to VT F&W regarding partnership for TIC was discussed briefly, but no updates since our last meeting. Grey and Joe will follow up with Louis Porter and Eric Palmer at VT F&W about the future of the program and how we can continue to partner in the years ahead.
- Online auction of bamboo fly rod donated by Joan Price. Clark volunteered to take on this task after he retires in January and has more time to figure out the best way to do an online auction that will maximize donations.

- **TIC update:** Joe submitted a report via email prior to today's meeting. He discussed the Nov. 2nd workshop at VTC in Randolph and said funding may be needed. A motion to approve up to \$1,300 as/if needed for the workshop was moved, seconded and approved. Joe and Dave will proceed accordingly.
- **Legislative update:** Jared spoke of the restructuring at VT DEC in regards to the Clean Water funding and new service providers and basin councils that have to be created. TU chapters are encouraged to participate and be on these new councils. Jared will provide additional details to the Council on when and how this will roll out.
- **Chapter Reports:** Submitted via email in advance of this meeting. Grey thanked chapters for their work and is impressed by all that we are doing. Noted that VT stacks up well with other chapters highlighted at the Annual Meeting.
- **Council updates:**

10/13/19 Mins.

- **TU National recap** - Increasing diversity and membership were the focus of meetings and presentations. National will be rebooting their efforts since past attempts have not been extremely successful (TU is 98% white, 94% male, and average age is 63). Grey passed around printouts of the new Toolbox details and "Clean My Water" initiative. Ron sent Embrace-A-Stream update out via email before the meeting.
- **Salisbury Hatchery update** - Jared discussed the license fee increase and other funds made available to keep the hatchery open. VT F&W is working on moving eggs and broodstock to Roxbury as a secondary source. The number of stocked fish next year will be reduced by 20% as a result. Long term funding of \$12 million would be needed for the hatchery to meet water quality standards.
- **Morrisville Court case** - Jared said the decision is pending, but our side is optimistic.
- **NE Regional Rendevous** - Somewhere in CT, Dates TBD
- **2020 National Annual Meeting** - Aug. 19-23 in Bangor, ME (all chapters encouraged to attend).
- **New Business:**
 - **Officer Positions** – At the next meeting, Jared will move into the Vice Chair position and David Deen will be our new NLC representative. The Secretary position is open and should be held by a member from the Southwestern chapter, so that all chapters are represented on the Executive Committee. Grey and Joe will discuss this with Erin Lyons, SW chapter president.
 - **EPA Section 401 issue** – David Deen and Jared have been working with Kate Miller at TU National to issue an Action Alert to TU members in VT (and NH) on this issue. Howard Trachtenberg's version of the letter has been ok'd. Members will be encouraged to send comments to the US EPA and legislators. Ron agreed to send info. to Tom Ives, NH Council Chair, since a joint letter is preferred. Background info. available at <https://www.tu.org/blog/clean-water-at-risk-cwa-401/>.
 - **InterBasin water transfers** – Jared and David Deen discussed the Killington-Pico request to move water from the Ottauquechee River to the Otter Creek watershed. VT DEC approved the proposal (e.g. 401 permit issued), but out concerns on the sub-issues of invasives etc. were incorporated.
 - **NEK Chapter** – Clark said the MadDog chapter is having a meeting in the NEK on Dec. 5th to start the revitalization process. Grey and Ron both offered to attend, and help re-establish a chapter. VT TU Council has \$4,622 in restricted dollars dedicated to the NEK.
 - **Council Strategic Plan** – Clark will push out the last copy to all of us so we can review and discuss the process and timing to update at the next meeting.
 - **Cold Water Conference** – Jared discussed this idea, which is similar to what Pete started the meeting with, to bring all organizations together who are working on cold water conservation. PA does it every other year.
- **Set next meeting dates:** Sunday Feb. 9th, 12 to 4 PM, in person at The Sharon Academy (pending Dave Eastman's securing the space). Then May 17th from 10 AM to 4 PM at Seyon Pond (if we can get it). Third and final meeting of 2020 will be Oct. 18th from 12 to 4 PM at Eisenhower again.
- Adjourned 3:30 PM