

# West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited



## Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2019

### Call to Order

On February 23, 2019 a meeting of the West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited was held at Civil & Environmental Consultants (CEC), Bridgeport, WV and called to order at 10:00 am by Mr. Jim Christie- Council Chairman.

### Attendance

<b><i>Council Members Present</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter Reps Present</i></b>	<b><i>Other Attendees</i></b>
Jim Christie, Council Chairman Lee Orr, NLC Rep & Past Chair (SFTU) Steve Pugh, Vice-Chair South (SWVCTU) Anthony Lafferty, Vice-Chair North (BCTU) Larry Orr, Treasurer (ENCTU) Randy Kesling, Enviro Chair (MCTU) Eric Condon, Secretary (WVCTU)	Roman Stauffer, ENCTU Jimmy Easter, ENCTU Gene Thorne, MCTU Lou Schmidt, MCTU Joe Smith, BCTU Ken Parker, PPKTU Rick Menas, PPKTU	Laura Dent, MCTU Dave Thorne, WVDNR Bubba Holt, PHWFF
<b><i>Council Members Not Present</i></b>	<b><i>Chapters Not Present</i></b>	
	Upper Ohio Valley	

Based on attendance a quorum was declared.

### Approval of Minutes

*[Action: A motion to approve the minutes with no changes was made, seconded, and carried.]*

### Executive Committee Reports

- 1) Jim Christie, Council Chairman- Jim provided an update on his proposed legacy fund. The target remains \$2M, yielding \$80K annually. The plan for the fund is moving along and setup and ready to start soliciting funds soon. The purpose of the fund is for staffing, projects, chapters, and scholarships. Jim has been in discussion with TU National about it.
- 2) Lee Orr, NLC Rep- Lee spoke about the attending the National Meeting in the fall (2018) and suggested someone else attend in 2019 for the exposure. Also at the national meeting, WV was awarded an “Embrace a Stream” grant thanks to the proposal by Jake lemon. Jake will present project ideas to the council, the grant will fund eDNA studies and Jake will offer training. Lee also discussed the

possible National Park designation for the New River Gorge NR and TU's official position on it.

- 3) Larry Orr, Treasurer- Larry presented the council with the budget for the year, actual vs. budget and proposed spend plan for the rest of the FY. He also made the council aware of the change to the fiscal year. Beginning in 2019, the FY will reset on March 15.

[Action: A motion to approve the budget with no changes was made, seconded, and carried.]

Larry also discussed the importance of maintaining a valid budget reviewer's name on the books and with the TU national office.

- 4) Anthony Lafferty, Vice-Chair North- Blennerhassett Chapter (BCTU) is searching for a project to take on in their region. They also expressed the desire to work more with PHWFF. BCTU's annual fundraising banquet is March 7, 2019.
- 5) Steven Pugh, Vice-Chair South- Steve reporting on upcoming projects in the South region.
  - a. Crane Creek cleanup on the Friday (April 19) before Elkhorn cleanup
  - b. Potential habitat work on Milligan Cr and a FF only designation. Possible funding from Bass Pro Shop, looking for other funding sources
  - c. Fly-tying events to support PHWFF
  - d. Donating \$1,500 to the PHWFF event at Thornwood in June
  - e. Rod surveys in southern WV in search of wild trout populations

#### Other Reports

- 1) Randy Kesling, Enviro Chair- Randy updated the council on the proposed hydro project on Big Run; it's in the early stages but is something to keep an eye on. Pipeline work continues throughout the state, right now oversight appears sufficient with agencies using drone surveillance.
- 2) Dave Thorne, WVDNR- Dave provided an overview of the many projects that WVDNR is currently involved in around the state.
  - a. DNR added 11 new waters to the "Brook Trout" waters list through surveys
  - b. eDNA testing for Brook Trout; WV is leading the way in this science
  - c. Eastern Brook Trout joint venture meeting with multiple partners, good work being done; a new publication is forthcoming; analyzing Brook Trout genetics from Georgia to Maine
  - d. East Coast Trout VI conference agenda is out; the conference is June 10-12 in Frostburg, VA
  - e. Habitat projects- another mile of Holly R.; rehab of structures on Spring Run in July 2019
  - f. "Patriots Farm" in Tucker Co., working with the Wounded Warriors Project, improving habitat and access, cabins will be open to the public around Sep/Oct
  - g. Helping SWVCTU with rod surveys and eDNA testing
  - h. Candy Darter now listed as an endangered species. Right now WVDNR still has permission to stock Rainbow and Brook Trout in those habitats- no Brown. WVDNR Commissioner's meeting on Feb 24 will propose eliminating the Candy Darter as bait
  - i. New C&R designations- Red Cr., Tea Cr., Middle Fork of the Williams, and Otter Cr.
  - j. Bucket Brigade planning continues with USFS for June 2019 as usual

- 3) Bubba Holt, PHWFF- Bubba explained how PHWFF donations are used and presented a certificate of appreciation to the council for its continued support.
  - a. Described upcoming events and asked for volunteers from chapters
  - b. Several WV vets have gone on international destination trips
  - c. Hopes to get a national destination trip here in WV
- 4) Eric Condon, Membership and Communications- proposed migrating the council website from its current webhost to a TU microsite. There is value in the website to field inquiries and direct folks to chapters (contacts) in their area. Need content to keep the website fresh. Asked for recommendations for a map of WV that shows chapter boundaries. Also asked for guidance on Trout in the Classroom (TIC), what chapters have this program and who the POCs are. Most of the questions that come through the website are about TIC.
- 5) TU staff- none present
- 6) Womens' Initiatives- nothing submitted but council would like to help fund an event

Unfinished Business

- 1) None identified from previous minutes.

[Action: Steve Pugh moved for council to sponsor a TU Business Partner membership for Big Timber Brewing Co., the motion was seconded, and carried.]

New Business

- 1) Blue Line Bus Tour, looking for someone else to take on this year
- 2) Purchase of new baseball caps (presented and approved in budget)
- 3) Pat Campbell STA to be presented at the ENCTU banquet
- 4) KYOVA decharter
- 5) Purchase of a backpack electro-shocker for WVDNR

Announcements

- 1) Upcoming events
  - a. Elkhorn Cr. cleanup, April 20
  - b. Discover Nature Day, April 27
  - c. Fly Fishing Film Tour, Charleston and Morgantown

Adjournment

[Action: Motion to adjourn, seconded, and carried.]

Minutes recorded by:

Minutes approved by:

X 

X \_\_\_\_\_

Eric Condon  
WVTU Council Secretary  
Signed by: CONDON.ERIC.NMN.1030702545

Jim Christie  
WVTU Council Chair