

West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited



Meeting Minutes

February 29, 2020

Call to Order

On February 29, 2020 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

<i>Council Members Present</i>	<i>Chapter Reps Present</i>	<i>Other Attendees</i>
Jim Christie, Council Chairman (MCTU) Lee Orr, NLC Rep & Past Chair (SFTU) Don Harding, Vice-Chair North (BCTU) Larry Orr, Treasurer (ENCTU) Roman Stauffer, Vice-Chair South (ENCTU) Eric Condon, Secretary (ENCTU) Randy Kesling, Environmental Chair (MCTU)	Gene Thorn, MCTU Pres Steven Pugh, SWVTU Pres Jacquelyn Core, PPKTU Pres James Eddy, PPKTU Board Brad Riffie, MCTU Chris Byrd, MCTU	Gary Berti, TU Dave Thorne, WVDNR Dustin Wichterman, TU Morgan Agee, PHHRI
<i>Council Members Not Present</i>	<i>Chapters Not Present</i>	
	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 without debate.]

Executive Committee Reports

- 1) Lee Orr, Immediate Past Chair & NLC Rep- Lee reminded everyone of the need to find a replacement for Jim as Council Chairman. Also recommended that Council search for a new NLC Rep to replace him.
- 2) Larry Orr, Treasurer- Larry provided a comprehensive budget report to include the spend plan for the year. The budget was presented for approval with one change to be made- one additional line item in the amount of \$250 to fund SWVCTU's Stream Girl event. Larry also reminded chapter presidents of their requirement to file financials with TU National and that they must have identified a *financial reviewer* for their chapters.

[Action: A motion to approve the spend plan with the additional line item of \$250 for SWVCTU was made, seconded, and carried.]

- 3) Eric Condon, Secretary- presented state membership statistics by type and chapter.
 - a) KYOVA de-charter update
 - b) The group discussed the benefits of TU Business Memberships and other strategies for increasing membership statewide.

Conservation Committee Report

- 1) Randy Kesling, Cons. Comm. Chair- Multiple conservation and legislative issues were discussed by the group.
 - a) The pending WV Senate bill regarding the use of Off-road Vehicles (ORVs) on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) was presented for discussion.
 - b) The need for re-inspired advocacy, on behalf of TU, in light of the apparent shift in focus by the USFS away from watershed restoration projects toward fire and timber management.
 - c) Regarding to potential New River Gorge National Park designation, Council reiterated its neutral stance. TU's main concern is that WVDNR continues to manage the fisheries in the park.
- 2) Based on these discussions, several people present agreed to join the Conservation Committee. A sign-up sheet was passed around and given to the Cons. Comm. Chair for further action.

Awards Committee Report

- 1) Larry reviewed recent Silver Trout Award (STA) recipients and asked for nominations going forward. Mr. John Schmidt, USFWS (ret.) and Mountaineer Chapter member was nominated for his brook trout restoration efforts in WV.

[Action: A motion to award Mr. Schmidt with an STA was made, seconded, and carried without debate. Gary Berti will write and Larry will procure award.]

Chapter Reports

- 1) MCTU, Gene Thorn- the chapter moved its headquarters to Elkins, WV; have had some fly tying events at Big Timber Brewing Co.; working on putting together schedule for the year, meetings, cookouts, etc.
- 2) BCTU, Don Harding- upcoming annual banquet; growing Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program; looking for a new stream for a project
- 3) ENCTU, Roman Stauffer- activities calendar for the year is now out; multiple TIC classrooms, fly tying events, chapter meetings, and fingerling stockings scheduled
- 4) SWVCTU, Steven Pugh- collaborating with WVDNR on a sign for Second Creek; planning another rod survey; currently engaged in fly tying, rod building, and stream cleanups; Elkhorn Cr cleanup in April, camping, meals, etc; forecasting a Stream Girls event and fingerling stockings this summer

- 5) PPKTU, Jacquelyn Core- upcoming annual banquet; TIC program is growing; trying to connect with WVU Fly Fishing club; considering hosting an F3T; currently working with Friends of Deckers Creek; coordinating a Seneca Creek clean-up; using mapping tools to target restoration projects; hosting fly tying classes
- 6) SFTU, Lee Orr- upcoming inaugural banquet; considering NF Cherry and SF Cherry stream cleanups

Other Reports

- 1) Dave Thorne, WVDNR- Dave reported on several DNR activities that are ongoing
 - a) DNR continues to put the electro-shockers (provided by WVTU) to good use
 - b) Recent DNR Commissioners meeting; dropping Buffalo Cr. and a section of Shavers Fork from C&R; looking to do some studies to add C&R sections
 - c) New regulations affecting fishermen, ex. Candy Darter
 - d) The WV Trout Management Plan is moving along, Jim Hedrick is compiling all of the public comments and DNR is getting closer to putting together the Stakeholders Committee
 - e) Dave is working on a side project to promote fly fishing (C&R Trail, FF Only Trail, or WV Brook Trout Conservation Trail)
- 2) Dustin Wichterman, TU- Conservation work continues for the AmeriCorps and PHHRI staffs
 - a) Completed over 100 miles of habitat restoration in WV, reconnecting 75 miles of stream, 100 miles of riparian work
 - b) Installed long-term stream monitoring equipment in much of the PHHRI area and expanding into the Greenbrier River watershed
 - c) Morgan Agee with AmeriCorps coordinates the volunteers that do tree planting, SOS workshops, fish surveys, and provide education/outreach opportunities
- 3) Gary Berti, TU- current project is working with DOH and the Corps of Engineers on bridge work improvements in the Elkins and Seneca Rocks areas

Unfinished Business

- 1) None

New Business

- 1) Re-schedule Spring Council meeting due to conflicts with Discover Nature Days and the Elkhorn cleanup, new date and location TBD
- 2) Council is in possession of equipment (rods and reels) that were previously used for the fly fishing school, can we put these to use? Ideas- donate to PHWFF or use for kids involved with TIC? Steven Pugh reminded folks that TU will provide chapters with rods to be used for outreach projects.

Announcements

- 1) Upcoming events
 - a) Spring Council meeting 2020 date and location TBD

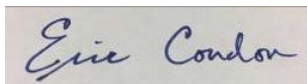
- b) Fall Council meeting will be held again in September at Davis, WV in conjunction with Run-For-It weekend

Adjournment

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

Minutes recorded by:

X

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Condon".

Eric Condon

WVTU Council Secretary

Signed by: CONDON.ERIC.NMN.1030702545