

West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited



Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2021

Call to Order

On October 30, 2021 a meeting of the West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited was conducted via Zoom and called to order at 09:00 am by Mr. Brad Riffée- Council Chairman.

Attendance

Council Members Present	Chapter Reps Present	Other Attendees
Brad Riffée, Council Chairman (MCTU) Nathan Justice, Vice-Chair North (SFTU) Eric Condon, Secretary (ENCTU) Randy Kesling, Environmental Chair (MCTU)	Stephen Bodnar BCTU Pres Larry Orr ENCTU Lee Orr SFTU	Bubba Holt, PHWFF Dave Thorne, WVDNR Dustin Wichterman, TU Jeffrey Kresch, TU Abigail McQueen, TU
Council Members Not Present	Chapters Not Present	
VACANT, Vice-Chair South Jim Christie, Treasurer & Past Chair (MCTU) Roman Stauffer, NLC (ENCTU)	Upper Ohio Valley SWVTU PPKTU	

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) Brad Riffée, Council Chairman- Brad commented on upcoming activities for 2022, to be discussed during New Business and Upcoming Events.
- 2) Larry Orr, Treasurer- Larry provided an update to the annual spend plan.
- 3) Eric Condon, Secretary- discussed the parameters for the nomination and election of Council Officers to take place later in the meeting.

Conservation Committee Report

Randy Kesling, Cons. Comm. Chair- Conservation and legislative issues were discussed by the group. Randy is working on solidifying a contact list of those interested in tracking legislative issues.

Awards Committee Report

- 1) Larry Orr- STA for Gary Berti was delivered. No other awards pending for the remainder of 2021.

Chapter Reports

- 1) The following chapter representatives provided brief chapter reports.
 - a) BCTU, Stephen Bodnar- license for raffles, upcoming events, need chapter officer volunteers
 - b) ENCTU, Larry Orr- November chapter meeting, January 2022 WV Hunting and Fishing Show

Other Reports

- 1) Bubba Holt, PHWFF- Provided an update on PHWFF activities
 - a) PHWFF uses a “volunteer app” to track everything
 - b) 2022 Re-engagement Plan
 - c) Proposed a collaboration with WVCTU to bring back the Fly Fishing School
- 2) Larry Orr, WV Trout Management Plan- Larry discussed progress on the plan, as a member of the Stakeholders Committee. Dave Thorne, WVDNR updated the group on where the final plan was in coordination. Expecting it to be published for public comment soon.
- 3) Abigail McQueen, TU Staff- discussed Embrace a Stream grant for WV and a timeline for resulting activities.
- 4) Dustin Wichterman, TU Staff- discussed TU’s new Strategic Plan and the focus on establishing a national network of “priority waters”.

[Action: A motion to establish a WVTU Priority Waters Committee was made, seconded, and carried without debate. Eric Condon agreed to socialize the committee with WVTU Chapter presidents to solicit volunteers interested in participating.]

Nomination and Election of Council Officers

The annual election of Officers of the Council was conducted in accordance with the West Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited’s By-laws. For each Council Officer, a nomination was made and voting followed. Below are the results of each election.

- 1) Council Chair- Brad Riffie
- 2) Vice-Chair North- Nathan Justice
- 3) Vice-Chair South- *no nominations*
- 4) Secretary- Eric Condon
- 5) Treasurer- Larry Orr
- 6) NLC Rep- Roman Stauffer

Unfinished Business

Vice-Chair South position still open

New Business

- 1) Draft a WVTU response to the Gauley Healthy Forest Restoration Project (Brad)
- 2) Need to recruit a VC South
- 3) Need a Treasurer to take over for Larry
- 4) Reestablish the Council Newsletter (Brad)
- 5) Explore a raffle license (Larry)
- 6) Get more specifics on the sond purchase being considered (Brad)
- 7) Vote on monetary contribution to PHWFF

[Action: A motion to contribute \$1,500 to PHWFF for their spring event was made, seconded, and carried without debate.]

- 8) Establish a WVTU Priority Waters Committee (Eric)

- 9) Recruit a Women's Initiatives POC
- 10) Request information regarding the publishing of the WV Trout Management Plan (Brad)
- 11) Request a meeting with WV Rivers (Randy)
- 12) Explore feasibility of reestablishing the fly-fishing school

Announcements

- 1) Upcoming events
 - a) Winter Council meeting January 15, location and time TBD
 - b) Spring Council meeting/event, coordinate with Discover nature Days?

[Action: Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and carried without debate.]

Minutes recorded by:

X *Eric Condon*

Eric Condon
WVTU Council Secretary