



Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council Meeting Agenda
Saturday, June 5, 2021 online via ZOOM

- 9:00 Welcome (Mike Kuhr)
- Roll Call (Bob Rice) 15 Chapters present (missing: Aldo Leopold, Antigo, Blackhawk, Oconto River, Shaw-Paca, WI River Valley)
- Approval of Feb. 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Moved and seconded. No discussion. Passed.
- Treasurers Report (Gary Stoychoff)

Presented by Stoychoff.
Beck moved. Williamson 2nd. Approved

- Expenditure Requests:
- TUCARES \$1,000

Tom Lager presented on Jake Lemon / TUCARES monitoring project. Working with DNR to develop data set measuring groundwater flows in a handful of eastern central sands rivers to monitor impact of high cap wells on streams/groundwater. TUCARES is requesting \$1k for Jake Lemon to cover some equipment loss due to theft and work damage. \$550 is for replacement of lost gear. Remainder is for ongoing coverage of loss.

Motion to approve Gary Horvath. 2nd by Graeme Hodson
Approved.

Youth Camp

Linn Beck requested \$5k for youth camp from state council. Stoychoff recommended that that be upped because camp cost has been higher than \$5k. Beck explained that \$5k was sufficient.

Kim McCarthy moved a donation of \$5k for youth camp. 2nd by Tim Fraley.
Approved.

- Chair's Report (Mike Kuhr)
- Executive Committee Sign On Letters
- Letter to Congress supporting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative approved by email on March 19
- Letter to Congress supporting Federal Good Samaritan Legislation approved by email on Mar. 25.
- Executive Committee Expenditure Approvals
- \$500 to hire lobbyist Brandon Scholz of the Capitol Group to work on funding for dam removal in WI State Budget. Approved via email on April 13. Five other local Chapters and

TU National also contributed to help pay Brandon's fee (\$5000 total). - WITU Resolution opposing Enbridge Line 5 Re-Route (similar to Wild River's TU Resolution) – see attached document for language.

- Melis presented on reroute status. No clear indication when the EIS will be drafted. When it is drafted next step is for DNR to take public comment. A local group focusing on the issue requested an extension of public comment. Melis wasn't aware of DNR response on that. Kevin Seefeldt shared a note on geographical reality and significance of the reroute.

- Fred (CRTU) moved to adopt. Gary Horvath 2nd. Approved.

- Great Lakes Advocacy Coordinator Position – Taylor Ridderbusch has accepted a position with the State of Michigan and is no longer employed by TU.

Kuhr and Beck have been having conversations with TU national regarding refilling the position. Some talk is happening now about broadening the scope of the position. One consideration is to make the position able to support all Wisconsin chapters instead of being focused on Great Lakes issues.

- DNR Submits Central Sands Study to the Legislature. (Mike Kuhr, Tom Lager).

Key finding: water pumping was found to directly impact surface waters.

DNR is not recommending change in regulations in spite of the findings of the study. Discussion regarding what can be positive steps forward in light of the fact that DNR isn't making regulation recommendations and legislature wouldn't entertain any proposal for changes. Melis said the report doesn't really tell us things we didn't already know so we need to be very focused on advocacy regarding the issue. Due to the legislature unwilling to entertain any changes in high cap well regs, McCarthy pointed out that gerrymandering has created the legislature that functions in this dysfunctional way. McCarthy is going to look into whether 501c3 can lobby regarding gerrymandering without violating our rules regarding non profit status.

- 5 Rivers Club Midwest Rendezvous @ West Fork Oct. 1-3, 2021. Volunteers? 5 Rivers is the college age outreach from TU. The October rendezvous coincides with our State Council mtg. hoping to get some state council support and participation in a community event in the town of Viroqua teaching fishing and doing some restoration work if possible. Afternoon events and hopefully have volunteers from TU state council. A hiccup in the whole thing is that the coordinator of 5 Rivers is no longer employed with TU so Mike needs to make sure that doesn't impede the event. Question from Jim Erickson about how many colleges in Wisconsin were participating.
- Leadership Succession, Length of Terms discussion – 3 years? Mike raised concerns that the State Council is trying to determine succession and length of terms. There is the sense that the current expectation is too long and might be inducing burnout that would make leader recruitment difficult. Currently it is 2 year term and you can serve 2 terms. 4 years is too long because a vice chair is looking at an 8 year commitment through to their chair terms. Kuhr requested feedback from the council on this.

BREAK 10:00 – 10:05 am

- National Leadership Council Report (Linn Beck)

Last NLC meeting was mid-May. The Volunteer Ops group presented and Jeff Yates presented on financial reports. Beverly Smith presented on Diversity and Inclusion and that it is being emphasized by NLC this year. Rechartering of chapters is up for renewal this year, due in September. Roll-out of that should begin in mid July. Final thing reported in Vol Ops is that the strategic plan is almost complete.

Rich Thomas wanted to make sure that chapters are taking advantage of community forums resources available in chapter leadership tools.

Work group reports. Linn reported on all the NLC work groups that are functioning and how DEand I is developing. Also, Linn stressed that you can be in work groups without being on the NLC and all work groups are looking for new members. Melis asked what would be happening to the Great Lakes group with Taylor's departure from TU staff. Linn reported that Chris Stephan is taking that over and gave info on meeting time and what Melis should do to get updated.

- Friends of WITU Program Update (Kim McCarthy)

\$23k in account. May be lower if all of this year's recipients haven't received their checks.

Kim asked if all recipients have received checks this year. Gary said he didn't think they all had. Donations so far for this year are at about \$5500.

We are currently paying out more than we are taking in. Kim is looking at revising how requests go in by eliminating the April request and having just 1 ask period. Stoychoff recommended no later than February 15th as the reassigned deadline. Kuhr noted that Jan. 15th enables recipients to get checks at the annual meeting but a February 15 deadline wouldn't allow for that. Melis asked about timeline if date is changed. McCarthy gave description of how it currently happens between request submitted to him to the vice chairs considering the grant requests. McCarthy said add a month from request time to notice of award. Jim Wierzba recommended keeping the January 15 date. Kuhr recommended the motion below. Melis asked if January 15th was too late. Consensus was that it has worked thus far.

Motion to revise Friends Program: One deadline for Friends grant requests on January 15th. Eliminate the 2nd request date.

Moved by Tim Fraley. 2nd by Dale Lang. Approved.

Kim gave a report on how the published list of donors is being updated with current info.

Jim encouraged that we explain to chapters that more is going out than coming in so awards might be more difficult.

Mike said that in October a concerted appeal for friends will be happening.

- Watershed Access Program Update (Kim McCarthy)

Balance of \$39k. Since beginning of year we have received donations of \$8k. There has been a legal challenge to the Beaver Cr. Purchase by some adjacent landowners. So the deal is waiting for resolution to a legal action taken by adjacent landowners.

- Great Lakes Stream Restoration Update (Chris Collier)

Has 3 interns this year helping inventory stream crossings and doing fish inventories. Also got the TU national intern position. Also TU national approved hiring a project coordinator person this year. Danielle Nelson has been hired. Chris shared on Marengo River bank stabilization project.

- TUDARE Update (Jeff Hastings)

Kuhr gave update in Hasting's absence. 2020 set a new record for miles completed. TU Dare has had a productive year. New Hire Dusty Hoffman to help facilitate restoration projects in Minnesota. Bus tour is being planned for this fall. Doing a water quality app called Wise H2O. Stihl Chainsaw has noticed the work being done through TUDARE and has developed a grant to award to restoration groups. 4 grants valued at \$1500 each to spend on Stihl equipment.

- Advocacy Committee Update (Mike Kuhr)

- Knowles Nelson Stewardship

- Knowles Nelson reauthorization is main focus. Assembly is ready to do 10 years @ \$35 Mil. Sen is ready to do 3 year 22million. Consensus needs to be reached between two bodies of the leg. Kuhr asked people to reach out to republican legislators.

- Kinnickinnic River dam update (Kuhr) Brandon has done some lobbying work on this. The legislature says they are not doing any earmarks, so whatever is presented needs to be a solution other than earmark. We're working to put more money into the DNR's Dam Safety Grant Program.

- Other Budget Items of Note: County Conservation Staff Funding (still awaiting joint finance to approve), Waterfowl Stamp increase (approved for \$5 increase by JFC)

- Banquet / Fundraising Committee Update (Scott Allen) wrapped up 1st online auction. Scott was aiming at \$7k. That was reached. But only took in a quarter of what we normally take in in the regular banquet. We are in a committed contract to do February 2022 meeting in Oshkosh. Scott encourages chapters to consider using online auction format that TU national provides.

Break 11:00 – 11:05 am

- Diversity Initiative / Communications Update (Heidi Oberstadt)

Heidi reported no response to her WisTrout article. Functioning committee is Heidi, Melis Arik, and Hannah M.

For communications, Heidi is reaching out to chapters regarding diversity. Kuhr offered the August Talking Trout to Heidi for presenting to chapters.

Gary Horvath said that there were a couple of newly recruited people in Kiap-tu-wish who might be good resources for Heidi to connect with.

Some conversation about opposition to having specific diversity committees was voiced by Melis and by Jim (WI Clearwaters) but instead of focusing on diversity committees as separate committees focus on chapter wide intentional inclusion and new member recruit.

- Education Committee / Youth Camp Update (Linn Beck)

Camp is scheduled for 8/19-22. Camp is full. Linn has put in a lot of time to coordinate between national and state council to make sure that COVID and health permissions is covered. Linn said they need people to volunteer at camp.

- Trout In The Classroom Inventory (Greg Olson)

DNR didn't provide eggs in 2020 because of COVID but is going to this year. They were overwhelmed by request in the past so they are trying to get info on how many chapters will be requesting. Kuhr sent out a couple emails to see how much interest there is. Greg is asking for emails to him confirming interest in eggs for the coming year. Fall distribution is targeted so summer planning is necessary.

- Membership Committee Update (Kuhr, for Paul Kruse)

Membership has had a big increase in the last year – we're over 6,500 members!

- Publications – WisTrout & Awards Committee Update (Todd Franklin)

Summer issue is being worked on. June 10th is submission deadline. Some excess copies will be available for events. Contact Todd if needed.

Award: Todd reported a good batch of awardees this year. Presentation is different because no banquet this year. Trying to incorporate this year's recipients into next banquet. Kuhr brought up that Clint Byrnes, who used to make a net for the gold net award, passed away this year, so Awards Committee may be looking for someone to be a new netmaker.

- Veteran Service Partnership Update (Mike Burda, Mike Johnson, Matt Cade)

Mike Burda is needing to step back and Mike Johnson and Matt Cade have asked about how to take over from Mike. No veterans event planned for this year due to COVID complication during planning time. Mike Johnson shared that state council wants to know contacts for chapter veteran planning. Kuhr included as a follow up from Mike's appeal for updated contact info that all positions should be up to date for chapters.

- Ad Hoc CAFO Committee Update (Linn Beck / Kim McCarthy) – DRAFT “playbook” for Chapters who are dealing with new CAFO’s and expansions has been developed. Committee will finalize over the summer and present the final Document to the Council and Chapters in October.

Linn reported. Thanked group of people working on the document. Bob Selk retired DNR has helped out by writing the paper. Paper touches on CAFO laws, local government, getting to know your regional DNR specialist, approach to dealing with a proposed CAFO, enforcement, and guidance on following guidelines for 501c3s, health problems associated with exposure in CAFO environment. Final paper will be released in October.

- Next meeting – Sat. Oct. 2 in Viroqua (In Person!!!)

- Other Business

- Adjournment Dale Lange moved, Michael Williamson 2nd. Approved.