



National Leadership Council Climate Change Workgroup Report

May 20, 2019

Workgroup Name: Climate Change

Workgroup Chair: Brian Wagner, bewagner482@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Meets third Thursday of the month from October-August- no call in September.

Workgroup Description: To create effective strategies and programs to recruit a more diverse membership profile in TU; encourage diversity within leadership at the chapter, state and national levels; and to ensure every chapter creates a welcoming environment for TU members of different genders, ethnicities, ages, and cultures to achieve the TU conservation mission.

Workgroup Goals: As related in the work group description, the overarching goal of the work group is to raise awareness about climate change and its impacts on our cold-water resources through education and the best available science. Realizing that building resiliency through our normal adaptation work may not be enough, the group has also been focusing on advocacy and support of reasonable mitigation policies.

I would describe the current work group goals as such:

- Develop a climate change advocacy strategy.
- Continue to grow our climate change awareness campaign.

Workgroup Activity: The workgroup has been focused on the development of an advocacy strategy and development of a new volunteer climate change leader role.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

- Support of Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act. TU fact sheet on bill was prepared by Steve Moyer and Kate Miller. Chris Wood's blog, the time for band-aids is past."

<https://www.tu.org/blog/the-time-for-band-aids-is-past/?fbclid=IwAR3ILVQsqn0UtkYxozvcA82cywV5wjlbmvWUzEZsmQp7JAY2uMsW85-Mx3I#.XJP4qAa1Whs.facebook>

Developed the following advocacy strategy:

- Action alert in support of the bill and encourage people to weigh into Congress.
- NLC and Council Chair call with workgroup and staff (May 20th)
- Spread the word on working with Citizens Climate Lobby, and get people doing things with them.

- Roll out at TU regional meetings (currently ongoing).
- Roll out of Council Climate Change Coordinator role.
 - Developed role description.
 - Sent to NLC members March 7th with an introductory message and role description. The ask was to start the discussion of filling this role with their respective councils.
 - Roll out at Regional Rendezvous is ongoing.
 - April Lines to Leaders.
- The Like-Minded Groups document has been updated. This document contains links to other conservation groups pertaining to their position on climate change policy and solutions.
- Climate change awareness.
 - Updating slides for Trout & Climate Change PowerPoint (Jim Wilson/Larry Harris). Addition of a proposed short video from Chris Wood.
 - Discussed having a potential speaker at Annual Meeting
 - Blogs

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: The divisiveness and politicization of climate change still presents challenges in communicating our message to the grassroots (internally) and externally.

Workgroup Next Steps:

- Outreach to like-minded groups
- Action alert in support of Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act
- Fully develop network of Council Climate Change Coordinators.
- Web page transition. Addition of materials/correct some links on current NLC climate change page.
- Climate change focus in Trout Magazine.



National Leadership Council

Delaware River - Workgroup Report

Date: 5/19/19

Workgroup Name: Delaware River Workgroup

Workgroup Chair: Scott Seidman shseidman@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Jan 26, 2019 – In person at Edison NJ Flyfishing Show.
Mar 31, 2019 phone meeting
May 6, 2019 –phone

Workgroup Description:

Represents TU on efforts to develop fish-protective minimum flow agreements in the Delaware River Basin.

Workgroup Goals:

- Prevent Yo-Yo Releases on Delaware River
- Encourage the DRBC to provide enough release to support a year-round healthy environment for salmonids and Dwarf Wedge Mussels
- Communicate with the Delaware River Basin Commission to promote better water release policies within the confines of the Flexible Flow Management Plan 2017.
- Provide reliable and rapid communication between DRBC, relevant TU Councils, Friends of the Upper Delaware River (FUDR) and other relevant partners, and TU National
- Work with regulatory agencies in the Basin to promote science-based resource management policies.

Workgroup Activity:

Since the last report, Workgroup activity has been limited, with current efforts focused on developing a comprehensive agenda for the Edison meeting, as well as arranging for the logistics of this meeting.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

We discussed recent efforts to increase the thermal targets for the Delaware system, and all TU participants in the SEF (Subcommittee on Environmental Flows) will be opposing any language in the policy that recognizes this as environmentally appropriate.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: The two water banks for thermal stress and yo-yo releases are too small to do much good with.

Workgroup Next Steps:

We are working on a letter to the governors of the decree party states challenging the way that releases are calculated.



National Leadership Council
TUDARE - Workgroup Report
Date: April 29th, 2019

Workgroup Name: TUDARE

Workgroup Chair: Jerry Sapp Sapp375@aol.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: May 8, June 4

Workgroup Description: The Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) was started by Trout Unlimited volunteers to expand capacity for stream restoration projects in the unglaciated region of the Upper Mississippi River Basin in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

TUDARE works to bring together partners from nonprofit conservation groups, community groups, schools, federal, state, and other agencies to plan, fund, and carry out stream restoration projects benefiting a wide range of plant, animal and fish species on sites accessible to the public. TUDARE's goal is to protect and restore the largest collection of limestone spring creeks in the world.

Since 2005, TUDARE and its partners have raised \$65 million for habitat projects, expanded public fishing access from 750 to over 1250 miles and carried out more than 350 projects. Its publications include a nongame wildlife habitat guide, two studies of the economic impact of recreational angling in the Driftless Area, and a scoping report, "Landscape of Opportunities", which is being revised to reflect 14 years of TUDARE experience. From the research presented at the Driftless Symposium, a white paper has been assembled to address best habitat restoration practices for projects resilient to climate change impacts.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Successful completion in 2019 of restoration projects on Warner, Billings and Tainter Creeks in Wisconsin
2. Completion of 36 projects in Iowa with NRCS funding
3. Taking the stream monitoring with phone app to completion
4. Planning the next Westby Workshop on stream project planning
5. Planning the next fall Bus Tour of the successful projects
6. Expanding the Driftless Habitat Maintenance project to more crews
7. Continued mutual support (financial and volunteers) of chapters and councils in the 4-state Driftless Area for chapter projects and TUDARE programs.

Workgroup Activity:

1. Successfully raising funding for the first Driftless Habitat Maintenance Program, formerly named the Limited Term Employee program, from chapters in Illinois and Wisconsin.
2. Consideration of a clearing house approach for funding projects
3. Supporting the Midwest Regional Rendezvous
4. Completion of the Scientific Symposium in February
5. Initiation of the pilot program of phone app. stream monitoring.
6. Successfully negotiating with Wisconsin DNR to allow TUDARE to use private contractors on DNR easements.
7. Lobbying unsuccessfully for the continuation of a 20-year easement in Vernon Co. Wisconsin.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: Recent activity in Vernon County Wisconsin by landowners to break from easements that have a 20-year renewal after restoration work has been done. The recent successful break may set a prescient.

Workgroup Next Steps:

1. Exploring ways to keep easements in place in the Driftless
2. Explore future funding ideas for the Driftless Habitat Maintenance Crew | We will be making a presentation at the Northeast Regional Rendezvous on our Eastern Native Trout Initiative.



National Leadership Council

Great Lakes - Workgroup Report

Date: May 8th, 2019

Workgroup Chair: Robb Smith rsmithsr@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: At this time, the workgroup is meeting monthly on the second Tuesday of the month. All calls are preceded by a meeting notice for exact details.

Workgroup Description

21 % of the world's freshwater is contained within the boundaries of the Great Lakes. In fitting with Trout Unlimited's Mission Statement to protect, restore, reconnect, and sustain cold-water fisheries, the Great Lakes NLC Workgroup (GLWG) is bringing to light the many complex issues affecting the Great Lakes Region. In doing so, the GLWG is seeking to provide scientific input and leadership into the resolution of the many problems in front of the Great Lakes Region. It is paramount that recognition and attention is given to the single largest source of cold-water in the United States.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Complete our document entitled "Case for the Great Lakes" (CFTGL). This document will provide information to our members, donors and legislators concerning the physical nature, the cold-water fishery and the perils and issues facing the Great Lakes Region.
2. Determine which government organizations and NGO groups most actively affect the policies of the Great Lakes Region issues and become more influential in their decision making.
3. Continue pushing forward the significance of the Great Lakes Region as a cold-water resource in need of continued and increased attention.

Workgroup Activity: We continue to work on the CFTGL document, have monthly meetings to monitor ongoing or new issues, and we were able to make a preview presentation at the Mid-West Regional Meeting.

Workgroup Accomplishments: Reached the 65% mark to compiling CFTGL document.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: There have been no major obstacles except keeping the project moving with many participants.

Workgroup Next Steps: Get the CFTGL completed for the fall meeting.



National Leadership Council

Land Conservancy – Work Group Report

Date: 12 May 2019

Please use the following template for your NLC Workgroup report in order to provide a standardized report from each workgroup which can be more easily shared with the full NLC, the state councils and chapter leadership.

Workgroup Name: Land Conservancy

Workgroup Chair: Garry Crago; email: garry.crago@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: 2019 meetings have been held on January 7 and March 27, 2019; next meeting will occur in June

Workgroup Description: Work Group works on addressing the *Protect* part of TU's mission through working with Land Trusts and other groups to acquire headwater streams and other streams and tributaries in order to protect them and ensure future generations of cold water to the larger main stem streams and rivers.

Workgroup Goals: The key goals of the work group are:

1. Educate TU's members and key outside stakeholders (e.g. land trusts) of the value of land conservancy to TU's mission
2. Grow Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund (CLCF) fund through continued support from foundations and other sources
3. Establish an intake mechanism for grants to be received and assessed – currently working with EAS team to use that portal for intake
4. Distribute grants of up to \$5,000 to worthy projects

Workgroup Activity:

1. Group completed application template for grant proposals
2. Reviewed and approved grant application process
3. Evaluation of grant for Gunnison Chapter of CO
4. Worked on revised "Working w Land Trusts" document for TU members
5. Paul Doscher & Garry Crago collaborated on presentation for Mass Coalition of Land Trusts

Workgroup Accomplishments:

1. Obtained foundation funding for the CLCF fund - \$25,000 grant
2. Created process for application process in conjunction with EAS group and use of EAS portal – working presently on finalizing timing of launch

3. Distributed \$5,000 matching funds for Gunnison River project in support of project brought to our attention from CO TU
6. Obtained an additional \$5,000 in funding for CLCF Presentation made by Garry Crago and Paul Doscher at Massachusetts Coalition of Land Trusts to educate group on value of land trusts working with TU
4. Presented at Mass Coalition of Land Trusts – significant interest from MA land trusts to find out more about working with TU
5. Brought on new member to work group (NH NLC rep Ron Ouellette and established co-chair (Bill Pastuszek)

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

1. Difficulty in obtaining funding
2. Need to continue adding additional members of Work Group

Workgroup Next Steps:

1. Finalize on-boarding of EAS portal for Land Conservancy grant applications
2. Establish goals for next year – key objective of next WG meeting
3. Commence transition for co-chair to take over after 2020 – will try to have a very smooth and effective transition in leadership
4. Continue to solicit grant applications for worthy projects



National Leadership Council
Native Trout - Workgroup Report
Date: April 29th, 2019

Workgroup Name: Native Trout Work Group

Workgroup Chair: Tim Gavin, tim@dubelyoo.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Calls are scheduled for the fourth Wednesday each month at 8:00 PM EST.

Workgroup Description: The Native Trout Work Group exists to facilitate grassroots implementation of Trout Unlimited's National Conservation Agenda related to protecting our cold water native salmonid species. Scope of the work group activity is nationwide. The work group facilitates education, awareness, restoration and science projects related to native salmonid species. The work group provides information related to native species through a web page on TU's website and serves as an advocate for Councils and Chapters on issues related to native species.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Establish an Eastern Native Trout Initiative in 2019
2. Create a Native Trout Web Page on TU's new website platform.
3. Promote Native Trout awareness through support of a new Western Native Trout Initiative's (WNTI) angler recognition program.
4. Consider developing an additional Native Trout Poster
5. Encourage Angler Science Projects

Workgroup Activity: In general, our work group activities have supported creating greater Native Trout awareness through education, advocacy and the use of science to protect and recover Native Trout populations.

Workgroup Accomplishments: Most significant accomplishment since our last report has been the progress on reestablishing an initiative that focuses on Eastern States native trout issues. TU's new web site is now online, and we can now begin populating our web page with information and resources. We have also updated our work group description on TU's new web site.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: Internally we have struggled with maintaining "long term" leadership. We would like to increase our work group membership beyond western states. We need to revitalize our angler science projects.

Workgroup Next Steps: We will be making a presentation at the Northeast Regional Rendezvous on our Eastern Native Trout Initiative.



National Leadership Council

Tailwaters- Workgroup Report

Date: May 15, 2019

Workgroup Name: Tailwaters Work Group

Workgroup Chair: Jared Carpenter, VT NLC, rjaredcarpenter@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Next conference call undetermined, likely after website changes

Workgroup Description:

Mission Statement: The Tailwaters Work Group will help TU volunteers advocate for trout populations in Tailwaters or Tail Race fisheries. These are defined as rivers that flow from and are sustained via water releases from impounded lakes or rivers.

Workgroup Goals:

Objective: Explore all the issues, challenges and threats to Tailwater fisheries. Recommend direction and actions for TU staff and volunteers to advocate for the Trout population within these waters. Provide practical information resources that enables volunteer leadership to strengthen their resolve to specific concerns. Support action plans with background information, potential partnerships and overall guidance.

Workgroup Activity:

A main goal of the Work Group is to integrate the website materials from the old platform to the new website. The website is an integral outlet for information on how to protect tailwater fisheries and advice on how to interact with state and federal officials that make these decisions that affect tailwaters. Materials include Best Practices, Frequently Asked Questions, a Scientific Library, and other materials.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

WG has been largely dormant since National meeting in September, although I have been working on issues.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

As I indicated in my last Report, the biggest challenge is keeping after members to share their experiences as an educational process for other members, but this level of participation is probably similar in all WGs. There are several types of tailwaters based on who owns the dam, be it private and regulated by FERC, or owned and operated by a federal agency such as BuRec or the Army Corps. Both categories have unique challenges in how to approach them, but there are some members in each area that have experience in interacting with these agencies in order to get better flows, temperatures and chemistry in tailwaters. When the group started three years ago, my experience is all related to FERC relicensing of dams, as that what we have

in the Northeast. But, for those in the West, it is all government owned dams, so some members have been good at stepping up to help fill this void.

Workgroup Next Steps:

My term as NLC Rep for the state of Vermont is up at the end of the year (I think it is actually April 2020). The WG has been dormant for the past several months but the goal is to update materials to the new website, then engage the WG on changes and what updates need to be made. If we cannot find a new Chair for the WG, the goal is to update the website the best we can, so the information will be available in the future.