



National Leadership Council

Climate Change - Workgroup Report

September 5, 2019

Workgroup Name: Climate Change

Workgroup Chair: Brian Wagner, bewagner482@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Workgroup calls are held 8:00 p.m. EST on the fourth Thursday of the month. Call in Phone Number: [866-740-1260](tel:866-740-1260) access code of 2829092#

Workgroup Description: What will the potential of a changing climate have on the coldwater resources we all respect and enjoy? Climate Change, and the extent to which it is man-caused, is a divisive issue; the Climate Change Workgroup respects that. We will develop an education and awareness program based upon the scientific background provided by TU Staff and others. With adequate scientific understanding, we all should be concerned about the impacts to our coldwater fishery resources. How much risk should we accept? Can we afford to risk the future of trout and salmon?

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 coldwater 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:

- Continue to develop and implement a climate change advocacy strategy.
- Continue to grow our climate change awareness campaign.

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

Workgroup Accomplishments:

- Climate Change Workgroup presentations at the Regional Rendezvous included historical perspective of TU and climate change, a rollout of the Council climate change leader role, an overview of the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act and an introduction to Citizens Climate Lobby.
- Roll out of Council Climate Change Coordinator role. Workgroup members have been assisting Councils to fill this volunteer leader position.
- Began development work for an upcoming membership survey.
- Began outreach to other like-minded groups (Ducks Unlimited, American Fisheries Society).
- Planned agenda for upcoming Climate Change Workgroup meeting in Rogers, AR.
 - Introduction (Review accomplishments/next steps) (Brian Wagner)
 - Citizens Climate Lobby (local speaker from Fayetteville chapter)

- Climate Change Adaptation (Helen Neville)
- Discussion: What can individuals/chapters/councils do?

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: The polarity and complexity of climate change still presents challenges in communicating our message.

Workgroup Next Steps:

- Action alert in support of Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act
- Fully develop network of Council Climate Change Coordinators. Schedule a call with Coordinators after the Annual Meeting.
- Complete membership survey and distribute. Follow-up with features in Trout Magazine.
- Updating slides for Trout & Climate Change PowerPoint. Addition of a proposed short video from Chris Wood.
- Continue outreach with like-minded groups.
- Review other climate change legislation as introduced.
- Continue working with Citizens Climate Lobby.



National Leadership Council

Workgroup Name - Workgroup Report

Date: 9/2019

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:

The Workgroup has had one in-person meeting in Edison, NJ last January, one phone call, and has been working on a draft for a letter to DRBC stakeholders addressing nitty gritty details on how the releases for the Upper Delaware are calculated. Member Garth Pettinger points out that the Commission uses an extrapolation that can cause dramatic effects on releases, and we would like to ask them to stop using that extrapolation.

We have been carefully monitoring (and have two members participating in) the DRBC Subcommittee on Ecological flows, and don't feel particularly optimistic about any adjustments in thermal targets happening in the near term.

We received reports on the effort to get TU to designate the Delaware in PA and NY a Wild Trout Stream, the Delaware River Basin Restoration Program Grant proposal from FUDR and TU for the UDR Tailwaters, and the NYSDEC/PA Fish and Boat Commission Joint Fisheries Investigation Plan for the

Workgroup Accomplishments:

We are currently drafting a letter to DRBC stakeholders about the extrapolation referred to before.

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.



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TUDARE - Workgroup Report

August 9, 2019

Workgroup Name: TUDARE

Workgroup Chair: Jerry Sapp Sapp375@aol.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Meeting Date 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. Driftless Habitat crew began its work in June
4. Discussion and suggestions about manure spills that caused 2 fish kills this summer.
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.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: 1. 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; pamphlets on angler etiquette discussed.
2. Explore future funding ideas for the Driftless Habitat Maintenance Crew, Cabela's local stores or intern funding from local colleges.
3. Bus Tour planning
4. Planning of 2020 Westby workshop



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Great Lakes - Workgroup Report

Date: 8-16-2019

Workgroup Chair: Robb Smith – rsmithsr@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: August 20th – 8:00PM Call in number to be determined.

Annual Meeting – October 6th?

Workgroup Description: Current on Website

Workgroup Goals: 1. Completion and rollout of “Case for the Great Lakes”

2. Integration of TU with decision making partners with regard to Great Lakes issues

Workgroup Activity and Accomplishments: The workgroup has completed the draft copy of the “Case for the Great Lakes”

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: N/A

Workgroup Next Steps: The workgroup plans to present the CFTGL at the Annual Meeting during the GLWG meeting and discuss implementation of the GFTGL mission.



National Leadership Council

Land Conservancy – Work Group Report

Date: 14 August 2019

Workgroup Name: Land Conservancy

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

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Work Group Meetings in 2019 have been held on January 7; March 27, May 14; July 1 and August 12

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 for 2019 are:

1. Continued outreach and education on the value of land conservancy to TU's mission for both TU members and key outside organizations (e.g. land trusts)
2. Establish intake mechanism and infrastructure for grant applications
3. Grow Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund (CLCF) fund through continued support from foundations and other sources
4. Distribute grants of up to \$5,000 to worthy projects

Workgroup Activity:

1. Actively working w Lisa Beranek, TU Director of Leadership, to establish and beta-test application process for Land Conservancy projects using the EAS portal
2. Providing guidance to NH and VT councils regarding two potential land conservancy projects
3. Updating "Working with Land Trusts" document for distribution at annual mtg
4. Working on a novel joint session at annual mtg with Native Trout WG
5. Seeking additional sources of funding – speaking to key individuals at National level

Workgroup Accomplishments:

1. Obtained an additional \$5,000 in funding for CLCF in addition to original \$25,000 secured by Paul Doscher
2. WG members Garry Crago and Paul Doscher created PPT & presented at Mass Land Trust Coalition meeting on the value of land trusts working w TU to protect streams
3. Grant application process and how it would be operationalized into the EAS portal was reviewed several times w Lisa Beranek and now ready for beta testing
4. Established co-chair of WG – Bill Pastuszek of MA-RI Council

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

1. Funding for Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund – we are looking to get commitments from TU National to provide ongoing funding. We continue to discuss other mechanisms to secure funding

2. Need for additional members of Work Group – work is falling on too few of the WG members.

Workgroup Next Steps:

1. Launch fully functional Land Conservancy application process w EAS portal
2. Continue to solicit other participants for Work Group and address need for increased participation from existing WB members
3. Work directly with key TU National staff, NLC leadership and BOT members to push for TU National funding for CLCF; utilize annual meeting as opportunity to address this
4. Finalize WG session planning for annual meeting in Rogers, AK



National Leadership Council

Mining - Workgroup Report

Date: 8-15-19

Workgroup Chair: Harry Murphy hamurphy3@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: 9-18-19

Workgroup Description: The mining workgroup has published a handbook to assist councils and chapters who need to oppose an extraction project to protect their cold-water resources. The workgroup will also be involved in assisting TU staff focused on mining issues. Helping them to communicate with membership about their projects.

Workgroup Goals:

1. To help state councils, chapters or individuals to monitor new and existing hard rock mines in their area to reduce or eliminate mine pollution discharge into their cold water resources.
2. To support state councils and chapters in their efforts to pass new laws or amend existing laws to help protect against mining discharge from new or abandoned mines.
3. To help connect councils and chapters with TU staff best suited to assist them in monitoring existing mines and to oppose when appropriate, new mine proposals.
4. ?

Workgroup Activity: Recently worked with Idaho state council and Pat Finnegan to draft and submit a letter to the State of Idaho requesting additional comment time on proposal to use suction dredge mining on the South Fork of the Clearwater river. The South Fork of the Clearwater river contains endangered salmon and bull trout.

The workgroup continues to monitor federal legislation to pass the “Good Sam” legislation and proposed changes to the 1872 mining reform act.

Workgroup Accomplishments: The workgroup continues to Idaho state council and Pat Finnegan to monitor suction dredge mining in Idaho. We continue to monitor the proposed “Good Sam” legislation and proposed changes to the 1872 mining act.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: A long history of extraction mining throughout the west and strong opposition to mining reform at both the state and national level.

Differences in state and federal mining and pollution laws and understaffed state and federal agencies and their ability and willingness to enforce existing laws.

Workgroup Next Steps: The mining workgroup continues to support councils and TU staff in their efforts to uphold existing mining laws, update antiquated mining laws and support new laws and changes to existing laws to protect our cold water resources.



National Leadership Council

Native Trout - Workgroup Report

Date: August 15th, 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 nation wide. 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:

Progress continues on our Eastern Native Trout Initiative.

- ✦ We will have a representative participate on the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture quarterly phone calls beginning in September.
- ✦ A Native Trout presentation was made at the Northeastern Regional Meeting in June.
- ✦ Work has started on finding funding for a Native Brook Trout poster.

Western Native Trout Angler Recognition Challenge.

- ✦ The program has launched and the work group will continue to help develop awareness in Western States.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

- ✦ Internally we have struggled with maintaining "long term" leadership. Current work group chair will reach his NLC term limit in October. Discussions have begun on finding a replacement.
- ✦ Work backlogs continue to delay development of our web page. However, Jeff Yates has offered to help and we should see progress in the next month or two.

Workgroup Next Steps:

- ✦ Develop a Native Brook Trout Poster

- ⤴ Start discussion of finding new angler science projects related to native trout
- ⤴ Prepare presentation for the TU National Meeting
- ⤴ Expand awareness of WNTI's Angler Challenge
- ⤴ Continue work on web page development
- ⤴ Find new work group chair



National Leadership Council

Tailwaters - Workgroup Report

Date: August 16, 2019

Workgroup Chair: Jared Carpenter, rjaredcarpenter@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: None scheduled, would like to have at least one call before National Meeting to discuss website changes (but need the website changes first)

Workgroup Description: Mission Statement: The mission of the Tailwaters Work Group is to help TU volunteers advocate for trout populations in tailwater or tailrace fisheries. These are defined as rivers that flow from and are sustained via releases of water from impounded rivers or lakes. The Work Group will explore the issues, challenges and threats to tailwater fisheries and recommend direction and actions for TU staff and volunteers to take to advocate for trout populations in these waters.

Workgroup Goals: At the moment, the goal is to set up a functional website with materials that Chapters and Councils can access to help them address tailwater issues. It has advise, such as setting up a Coldwater Meeting in the state, that would lay groundwork for future interaction on the issue, as well as advice on how to troubleshoot issues as they arise, based on the advice of TU members that have worked through these issues.

Workgroup Activity: The WG has been on hiatus since last year. The question now is whether the group should fold or find a new Chairman to take it forward. Regardless, the information on the website would remain, there are several regional representatives that could answer questions, and I would like to think that new materials could be added to the website from time to time.

Workgroup Accomplishments: Think it is going to be a great website full of valuable information, when it is completed.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: Timeline on the website.

Workgroup Next Steps: See above