



## National Leadership Council

### Native Trout Workgroup

June 25, 2022

**Workgroup Chair:** Eric Tichay, erictichay@yahoo.com

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** The Native Trout Workgroup meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8:00 PM (Eastern Time)

**Workgroup Goals:** The workgroup has three primary goals:

1. Help facilitate grassroots implementation of TU's National Conservation Agenda.
2. Facilitate education, awareness, restoration, and science projects related to native trout.
3. Serve as an advocate for Councils and Chapters on issues related to native trout.

#### **Workgroup Activity:**

December 13, 2021 – On our December call Tom Osterday, Arizona TU Public Policy Chairman presented how they accomplished the TU Priority Waters project in Arizona.

January 26, 2022 – Land Conservancy Workgroup members Bill Pastuszek, Schuyler Sweet and Paul Doscher presented a video and information on the workgroup's activities and accomplishments.

February 23, 2022 – Helen Neville, TU Senior Scientist, gave an update on TU's Councils Priority Waters progress and their challenges, and what happens next in the process.

March 23, 2022 – Our March call featured a presentation by Bryan Moore, TU Senior Staff Government Affairs on Stewardship Agreements with the U.S. Forest Service on government lands.

April 27, 2022 – Robb Cotiaux and Steve Heinz of the Sebago Maine TU Chapter, the largest in Maine, addressed the April meeting on Maine's "Five in Five" native trout pond reclamation program.

May 25, 2022 - Kitty Griswold, Department of Biological Sciences, Idaho State University gave the May meeting a presentation on the Coastal Cutthroat Trout, the native trout subject poster for 2022.

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

1. Support the development of the Coastal Cutthroat Trout poster to facilitate education.
2. Provide workgroup members with information to accomplish the Priority Waters initiative.
3. Draft a comparative list of Native Trout species.
4. Update the Native Trout Workgroup webpage and message map.
5. Draft an Invasive Fish Species pamphlet to educate the public on the threat to native trout.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** The group is challenged with competing interests for attendance and getting some NLC members to participate in workgroup meetings and activities.

#### **Workgroup Next Steps:**

- 1) Continue to support the TU Priority Waters initiative.
- 2) Develop future Native Trout posters.
- 3) Develop a list of known Council and State native and wild trout problems and issues.
- 4) Assist Councils and States to develop native and wild trout management plans.

- a. Identify states without native or wild trout management plans
  - b. Obtain copies of State native and wild trout management plans
  - c. Provide State fishery departments without management plans access to other state's plans
- 5) Identify and make available information resources that describe standard criteria or methodology to identify road culverts and other obstacles that are barriers to aquatic organism passage.



# National Leadership Council

## Responsible Mining and Energy Workgroup

### June 25, 2022

**Workgroup Chair:** Harry Murphy, 48 Riverside Drive, Bozeman, MT 59715 406 580 7115

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Mining and energy work group meets via Zoom on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. Mountain time, 8 p.m. Eastern Time.

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

1. The mining and energy work group continues to support “Good Sam” legislation by securing letters of support in key western states from TU state councils and chapters to key sponsors and committee members in the Senate and helped secure key co-sponsors from Colorado and Montana.
2. Support and engage key members of Congress to revise the 1872 mining reform bill, this is a priority item for the NLC work group.
3. The work group supports efforts to bring balance back to public lands management by a) curtailing speculative mineral leasing. b) Ending non-competitive mineral leasing and c) modernizing bonding and reclamation requirements for mineral extraction.

**Workgroup Activity:** The mining and energy work group has worked with Trout Unlimited national staff to elevate TU’s message by engaging in action alerts on Good Sam legislation, coordinating efforts to write letters to the editors and Op-eds in key western states in support of Good Sam legislation. The work group continues to monitor proposals for new hard rock mines on or near cold water resources in several states in the west and mid-west.

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

1. Two years ago the mining and energy work group reviewed and had input on TU’s tenants for responsible mineral development. This year the Biden administration announced sweeping mining reform policies that aligned squarely with that report’s tenets.
2. Members of the work group played critical roles in securing reforms to suction dredge mining laws in Washington and in enforcement of existing laws in Idaho.
3. The work group engaged in action alerts on Good Sam, 1872 mining reform and securing Co-sponsors in the Senate on Good Sam legislation.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Much of the work group's efforts go into supporting legislative changes and reforms to mining laws. Meaningful legislative changes take time and are easily overshadowed by larger more pressing issues on a world and national level. Our challenge is to stay focused on our legislative goals and keep working to achieve those goals.

**Workgroup Next Steps:** The responsible mining and energy work group will continue to monitor and work for the passage of Good Sam legislation, 1872 mining reform legislation.



# National Leadership Council

## Climate Change Workgroup

### June 25, 2022

**Workgroup Chair:** Russ Collins, **Co-Chair:** Jeff Holzem

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Zoom meetings occur on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, starting at 8 pm Eastern time.

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

1. Form two teams within the WG:
  - a. Advocacy Team with the capability to mobilize members and supports to advocate for emissions reductions to slow climate change. The team will use a variety of techniques such as:
    - i. communicating through Climate Change Coordinators
    - ii. generating 'action alerts' to TU members to support or oppose proposed measures affecting watersheds
    - iii. contacting council and chapter leaders by email and phone
    - iv. publishing in the Trout Magazine
  - b. Education Team that will disseminate relevant and timely information
2. Closely aligned with the Education team, WG leadership is working to organize a 'climate change library' on the WG's website
3. Establish a Climate Change Coordinator for each Council and train them to be effective messengers for climate change
4. Continue to support adaptation through Priority Waters and local projects

**Workgroup Activity:** Work Group leadership, working with volunteers, has formed the two teams outlined in the WG goals above. Each team has had at least two Zoom meetings. A partial compilation of material related to climate change is being assembled for presentation on the WG webpage.

**Workgroup Accomplishments:** Please provide here a brief statement on the recent accomplishments of your workgroup, focused most heavily on the accomplishments since the last quarterly report.

1. Reorganize and refocus the workgroup. A lot of good information and work has been done by CCWG in the past, but it was felt we needed to refocus.

2. We have established the baseline for the WG's presentation @ CX3. There will be a collaborative presentation by CCWG and CCL on Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 to 12. The WG will team up with CCL on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> for a display table to demonstrate EnRoads.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Please include here any internal or external obstacles of challenges faced by your workgroup in achieving your goals.

WG members are busy with employment, volunteer efforts, and fishing, so scheduling meetings is a challenge.

**Workgroup Next Steps:** Continue to pursue the goals of the WG and set realistic dates for accomplishing our work. Communicate the urgency of slowing the impact of climate change. Build relationships with like-minded groups as a learning process.



## National Leadership Council

### TUDARE Workgroup

June 25, 2022

**Workgroup Chair:** Bob Soddors (email - bsoddors@buildwithball.com)

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** July 13, August 10, September 14 and October 12

**Workgroup Goals:** Please include here the 3-5 high level goals your workgroup has set for the year, or longer. Please be brief.

1. Workdays in the Driftless to build habitat structures or stiles. Work crew funding.
2. Workshops/Symposiums for volunteers and cooperating agencies.
3. Raising awareness and funds to support the North Bear and Yellow River projects.
4. Solicit donation for the Supreme Beef litigation.
5. Trading phosphorous credits with Municipalities in exchange for stream restoration.

**Workgroup Activity:** Please provide here a brief, executive summary of recent workgroup activities since the last report.

1. Working on Yellow River/North Bear funding with IA Chapters.
2. Driftless Symposium went LIVE on Facebook. Well received. Hopefully next year in can be in person!
3. Continuing to work on the Supreme Beed litigation with IA Council.
4. Paul Krahn continues to work with several municipalities on phosphorous credits and the benefits for them (as well as the public).

**Workgroup Accomplishments:** Please provide here a brief statement on the recent accomplishments of your workgroup, focused most heavily on the accomplishments since the last quarterly report.

Facebook live event for Symposium.

Distributed free pollinator seed for Driftless Stream projects.

North Bear/Yellow River projects are moving along. Projected Spring 2022 start.

Stream repairs at Bohemian Valley Creek, Wisel Creek, Rush Creek, Daley Creek and West Indian Creek.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:** Please include here any internal or external obstacles of challenges faced by your workgroup in achieving your goals.

Covid remains an obstacle. Hopefully this year will be better!

**Workgroup Next Steps:** Please include here your workgroup's expected next steps and activities that you will be taking on to move your goals forward. Please be brief.

1. Continue to develop hierarchy within the Steering Committee to identify next Chair/Co-Chair.
2. Further development of CAFO manual to show what steps to go through when a new project is being contemplated.
3. Continue funding efforts for Kinni, Yellow River and North Bear projects.
4. Jeff Hasting replacement and integration.



## National Leadership Council

### Delaware River Workgroup

June 25, 2022

**Workgroup Chair:** Donald A. Kieffer email: defferda@aol.com

#### **Workgroup Meeting Dates:**

The Delaware River Workgroup is scheduled for meetings using the dedicated TU NLC Zoom account on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month.

#### **Workgroup Goals:**

1. Workgroup to protect the environmental integrity of the Upper Delaware Basin including the Delaware River and its tributaries.
2. Monitor Delaware River flow data in to better advise the NYC DEP Water Bureau during the anticipated closure of the Delaware Aqueduct.
3. Coordinate with TU chapters in the region and other environmental groups to further protection and restoration efforts in the Delaware Basin.

**Workgroup Activity:** Please provide here a brief, executive summary of recent workgroup activities since the last report.

1. Have attended recent virtual meetings of the Regulated Flow Advisory Committee of the DRBC and reported findings at DRWG meetings.
2. Reviewed potential impact of US Infrastructure and Jobs Act funds for Delaware River.
3. Drafted and sent letter to commissioner of NYC DEP, Rohit Aggarwala, asking for additional information about how proposed Flexible Flow Mgt. of Delaware dam releases during the Delaware Aqueduct closure will avoid flooding during spring runoff.

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

1. See #3. From Workgroup activity above.
2. Presented 10 year average Delaware River flow data in graph form showing potential for flooding during Delaware Aqueduct closure to attendees of RFAC meeting.
3. PA members of DRWG helped initiate letter by PA TU Council to DRBC showing them against any amendments allowing removal or discharge of water under any circumstances.

#### **Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:**

1. Encouraging designees from DRWG member states to attend monthly meetings and take ownership of action items.

#### **Workgroup Next Steps:**

1. Continue seeking information from NYC DEP Bureau of Water about proposed flexible flow mgt. control of Delaware River dam releases during the Delaware Aqueduct closure in 2023 and forms of public outreach that may be used to heighten public understanding.
2. Draft letter to NYC DEP with recommendations for use of reservoir water saved from aqueduct repairs to enhance thermal bank reserves and increase river flows to maintain year-round cool temperatures.



3. Attend FYDR Water Week in Oct.
4. Coordinate with other resource conservation groups in the Delaware River Basin.



## National Leadership Council

### Great Lakes Workgroup

June 25, 2022

**Workgroup Chair:** Gregory Walz     [gwalz@michigantu.org](mailto:gwalz@michigantu.org)

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Monthly meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8pm Eastern via Zoom.

#### **Workgroup Description:**

21 % of the world's freshwater, and 84% of the surface fresh water of North American is contained within the boundaries of the Great Lakes Basin. Additionally, about 30% of Trout Unlimited members reside within the Great Lakes watershed. The Great Lakes and their tributary rivers and streams support a diverse mix of native and wild salmonid populations. 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 and challenges facing 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. Continue pushing forward the significance of the Great Lakes Region as one of the world's preeminent cold-water resources and the need for increased education and sustained attention on confronting the identified and emerging threats to this resource.
2. Provide informational updates on the many threats facing the Great Lakes Region as identified within the "*Case for the Great Lakes*" report.
3. Publish a revised electronic and printed copy of the "*Case for the Great Lakes*" and share it with Great Lakes region TU Councils, Chapters, TU staff, and like-minded organizations and conservation partners.

#### **Workgroup Activity:**

We are continuing to discuss and track issues in the Great Lakes Basin including the Back Forty sulfide mine project; proposed wind power facilities in the open waters of the Great Lakes; the now 60+ year-old "Line 5" oil products pipeline crossing beneath the Straits of Mackinac; growing identification of PFA's contamination in lakes, rivers and drinking water supplies, and the effects of climate change and invasive species on these cold-water resources.

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

In 2022, the workgroup completed revisions to the "*Case for the Great Lakes*" to bring it up to date with current information regarding issues and threats to the Great Lakes Basin.

**Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:**

1. Continue to build active participation in the Work Group especially among NLC members representing the Great Lakes States.
2. Identify a GLWG member to serve as Vice Chair and eventually Chair to ensure continuity in leadership.

**Workgroup Next Steps:**

Continue efforts to bring awareness of the tremendous cold-water resources present within the Great Lakes Basin and the threats facing the resources to the Trout Unlimited membership and the citizens of the Great Lakes Basin. Build relationships with conservation partner groups within the Basin. Create action plans to develop and implement remediation projects and formulate potential legislation to address identified threats.



# National Leadership Council

## Land Conservancy Work Group

### June 25, 2022

**Workgroup Chair:** Bill Pastuszek, Colrain MA, [billp@shepherdnet.com](mailto:billp@shepherdnet.com), 617 290 8370

**Workgroup Meeting Dates:** Last meeting: June 2022. Monthly meetings are scheduled for the remainder 2022. It is expected that the Workgroup will have an informal meeting and make efforts to interact with the BOT.

#### **Workgroup Goals & Activity:**

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): we have spoke to a number of individuals and organizations.
2. Grow Coldwater Land Conservancy Fund (CLCF) fund through continued support from foundations and other sources.
3. Solicit applications, approve requests, and distribute grants of up to \$10,000 to worthy projects related to land acquisition (fee, easements, restrictions) for cold water related projects.
4. Refine, improve, and develop outreach to TU chapters, councils, land trusts, and land trust organizations.
5. Road Map. After the national meetings, we revise the LC WG Road Map.

#### **Workgroup Activity:**

- Meetings with Land Trusts, TU members (Individuals, Chapters and Councils) including Mac Cunningham of TU's BOT.
- We made a grant to the Connecticut Council to assist in the acquisition of lands related to the Miller River.
- Increase the maximum grant to \$10,000.
- The video presentation showing the Work Group's projects continues to be shown with good responses.
- The WG will serve on a panel with NE Land Trusts and Jeff Reardon of TU. Paul Doscher will present. Bill Pastuszek will moderate the +/- 1 hour panel.

#### **Workgroup Accomplishments:**

- Assisted the MA-RI Council in development a grant oversight process for their Conservation Fund.
- *(In Progress) Cold Water Land Conservancy Overview.* Development of this *Overview (CWLCO)* was led by WG member Paul Doscher, WG assisted by the WG chair, and with committee members providing input. The document allows Work Group Members to reach out to potential donors and applicants. In conjunction with the Land Trust Conservancy slide deck (in progress) and the video, several effective means exist to improve the WG's ability to be out in front of interested parties.

#### **Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:**

- **Fundraising.** This has been the most challenging of our goals as neither of us have great expertise in fundraising. One of our tasks for the rest of the year is get TU development staff to provide professional assistance in our fundraising efforts.
- **Membership.** This group is small – very small - but is cohesive but with a strong New England/East Coast identity. Additional members, particularly from Western TU chapters and councils would be welcome.
- **Fundraising.** A Work Group challenge is to raise sufficient funds to meet demand in the future, *independent of TU funding*. This challenge is likely to increase as potential non-profit funding sources feel the impact of COVID-19.
- **Visibility and Outreach.** The WG has not solved how to get out in front of organizations that might want to apply for a grant. The grant size (\$10,000, formerly \$5,000 may help attract interest for larger projects.

### **Workgroup Next Steps:**

- **National Meetings:** Develop presentation slides for the panel discussion.
- Provide 1 or 2 slides to be part of the NLS presentation of the BOT. (R. Thomas will help facilitate.)
- **Cold Water Land Conservancy Overview.** In conjunction with the video, make use of the Cold-Water Land Conservancy Fund Overview to present to potential grant funders and supporting organizations and individuals. (This will evolve out of the WG's National Meetings.)
- **Outreach.** Market Work Group Funding services through internal TU media and develop outreach to Councils, Chapters, and land-related organizations for acquisition funding. Post LC WG statement in TU forums.
- **TU Staff (2022).** Engage and Invite TU development staff to an upcoming meeting – possible informally at the National Meetings - to discuss the role of land conservancy in the overall mission of TU.
- **Membership.** Continue to seek to expand Work Group membership beyond New England and the East Coast.
- **Fundraising.** Develop better funding sources so that the WG can fund at a higher level per project.

**In Memoriam: *Schuyler Sweet of NH passed away recently while in Maine, fishing. He was active in land conservation in New England. An integral part of the Land Conservancy Workgroup - and of TU – he was a hard worker with great energy and ideas. He will be missed.***