

Meeting Agenda  
Wisconsin State Council Meeting  
Saturday, February 7, 2015  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

*NOTE: Given the large agenda below, lunch will be buffet style, to be eaten at our meeting room tables, so that we can move through the list below. There will be no formal break for a sit down lunch.*

**• Introduction**

1. 9:00 a.m. sharp - Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Chapters -Mike Kuhr
3. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2014, meeting in Green Bay, WI.  
- sent via e-mail to all chapters on October 14, 2014, and on January 21, 2015

**• Financial**

4. Treasurers Report  
- Gary Stoychoff

**• Expenditure Requests**

5. (None pending)

**• Legal**

6. Wisconsin Council Fish Hatchery Property – Henry Koltz
7. Wisconsin Council Dunn County Properties – Henry Koltz

**• Operations**

8. Regional Reports by handout.
9. Chair's Report  
- Henry Koltz

*Items voted upon by the executive committee:*

- a. Nominating Committee – by our Bylaws, all officer and Regional VP's are up for election. The nominating committee was convened, and a slate of officer nominations were unanimously approved.

- b. Promotional Materials. The executive committee voted unanimously to expend \$500 to have rigid, large re-usable, durable promotional posters appropriate for marketing opportunities/displays created, so that when Wisconsin TU is present at events we will be able to set up a display booth. Production expected in the next quarter.
- c. Regional Realignment and Regional VP duty description. The executive committee voted unanimously to approve a proposed regional realignment and Regional VP job duty description. This will be presented later today by Linn Beck and a vote from the Council requested.
- d. River Alliance letter of support. The executive committee voted unanimously to draft and submit a letter in support of the Laura MacFarland and the River Alliance of Wisconsin's grant request to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the River Alliance's Aquatic Invasive Species program. Letter written and submitted December 4, 2014.
- e. Increase in Wisconsin Trout editor's stipend. The executive committee voted unanimously to increase the stipend paid to Wisconsin Trout's editor (currently Mr. Todd Franklin) from \$1,250 per issue to \$1,750 per issue. This is based upon the time spent creating each issue, the quality of the work/product we receive, and to remain competitive and keep our talent in-house. In addition, in order to incentivize advertising and revenue generation via Wisconsin Trout, the executive committee voted unanimously to pay 30% of revenue generated on *new* (not existing) advertising leads to the Wisconsin Trout editor. The expectation is that the editor will be incentivized to increase advertising revenue which will increase the editor's stipend, but which will also bring in revenue to defray the cost of the Wisconsin Trout publication.
- f. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requested a position from Wisconsin TU with regard to the Trout Stamp program. Several years ago, the DNR stopped the trout stamp program. Wisconsin TU had been running for the past several years, through Darrell Toliver and Tim Waters. The DNR will be re-starting the trout stamp contest. This will alleviate the burden of running the program. The executive committee voted in favor of returning the program to the DNR.

**Darrell Toliver and Tim Waters are commended for all of their incredible and tireless work keeping the program alive. The fact that the program has remained consecutive in its existence is a result of their work. THANK YOU.**

- g. Waters of the United States sign on with the Izaak Walton League of America. Wisconsin TU voted unanimously to sign on to a letter urging that the Environmental Protection Agency adopt the proposed Waters of the United States rule. Key to Trout Unlimited's mission, this rule would restore Clean Water Act protections to ephemeral / intermittent streams (often headwaters), and isolated

wetlands. Both areas of Clean Water Act application had been removed by relatively recent United States Supreme Court decisions.

- h. Friends of Wisconsin TU grant program applications. Since our October, 2014, \$2,000 grants were unanimously approved for the following projects:
  - i. Aldo Leopold TU for the Bear Creek project;
  - ii. Clear Waters TU for the Waumandee Creek project;
  - iii. Marinette TU for the Northeast Region work crew project;
  - iv. Southeast Wisconsin TU for the Bear Creek project;
  - v. Wild Rivers TU for the White River tributary project;
  - vi. Wisconsin River Valley TU for the Prairie River project; and,
  - vii. Wolf River TU for the Northeast Region work crew project.

*Items voted upon by the Council:*

(None this quarter.)

*Other items:*

- i. ShawPaca TU Update – Kim McCarthy/others.
- j. National Trout Unlimited Great Lakes region staff expansion: First hire FINALIZED: Agreement between TU and USDA – signed by Chris Wood; second position may be moving along.

Ongoing work to bring additional TU staff to Wisconsin – update.

- k. 2015 Banquet – Kim McCarthy
- l. AB-173, License Plate Bill Update – we have a plate – signed in to law on April 16, 2014; latest update is that plates may be available in the next month.
- m. Southern Wisconsin TU – Silver Trout Award Winner (one of the chapters of the year) at this year's National Meeting in Santa Fe, NM : Council sent announcement to Wisconsin Legislators regarding this award.
- n. Emergency Lake Superior Lake Trout Rule. Effective January 12, 2015, the WDNR established an emergency rule, reducing the daily bag limit from three to two lake trout, one 20-25 inches in length, and one longer than 35 inches. For waters west of Bark Point, regulations remain the same. The goal is to reduce harvest to 50,000 lake trout for 2014-2015.

*National items:*

- o. National NLC Working Group on Membership is reviewing / reworking Chapter Effectiveness Index - new CEI is being stress tested currently (with three

Wisconsin Chapters), and is intended to be a roadmap for chapters when it comes to strategic planning and member involvement/engagement.

- p. Upcoming *Council* Effectiveness Index (will be renamed). Efforts are ongoing, coming out of the NLC's membership working group.
  - q. EPA Chief Administrator Gina McCarthy visit – TU led a group meeting with Ms. McCarthy and other conservation groups to discuss the Waters of the US Rule – discussed above, October 2, 2014. TU lead this meeting in downtown Milwaukee, which included Wisconsin TU representatives, national TU representatives, and representatives from Friends of the Central Sands, Wisconsin River Alliance, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Ducks Unlimited, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and the Wisconsin Wetlands Association.
  - r. Letter of support for Assembly Bill 15 (AB-15): Wisconsin TU sent an electronic letter to all members of the Assembly Committee on the Environment and Forestry, supporting AB-15, which would ban the manufacture and procurement for sale of products containing microbeads. Microbeads are tiny plastic beads which are used in many cleansing products. They are not removed by standard water filtration / wastewater processes, and end up in lakes, notably the Great Lakes. They are consumed by small fish, make them sick/kill them/alter their DNA. Those small fish are then eaten by larger fish, and issues spread upward in the food chain. Microbeads also line lake floors, preventing plant growth. Finally, they absorb pollutants, and then inject them in to the food chain when eaten. The Great Lakes – the world's largest cold water bodies – are especially prone to the negative effects of microbeads.
- 10. **GREAT LAKES WORKGROUP.** The NLC 's at Lakes Workgroup has developed a list of aquatic invasive species principles that they would like Wisconsin TU to support. The list accompanies this agenda as "Exhibit A." **CALL FOR A COUNCIL VOTE. – Henry Koltz**
  - 11. **NLC REPORT** / Mining Issues Update - Bill Heart
  - 12. **STRATEGIC PLANNING** – Linn Beck /Chris Long
    - Assembly of Committee (volunteers)
    - Dates for meetings
  - 13. **ELECTIONS.** The Nominating Committee has created a slate of proposed officers. *Nominations from the floor will be accepted.* If no nominations from the floor are made, then the slate of proposed officers offered by the Nominating Committee will be voted upon *en masse*.

The Nominating Committee voted unanimously to support the following nominations for posts up for election:

- a. Chair – Linn Beck (Central WI)
  - b. Vice Chair – Mike Kuhr (Southern)
  - c. Treasurer – Gary Stoychoff (Green Bay)
  - d. Secretary – Tom Lager (Fox Valley)
  - e. NLC Representative – Kim McCarthy (Green Bay)
  - f. Northern Region Vice President – Bill Heart (Wild Rivers)
  - g. Southern Region Vice President Chair – Jim Wierzba (Southeast)
  - h. Central Region Vice President – Bob Haase (Central)
  - i. Northeast Region Vice President – Paul Kruse (Green Bay)
14. **REGIONAL REALIGNMENT/CONFIRMATION.** Wisconsin TU has searched its records, and was unable to find a firm, voted-and-approved list of which chapters are assigned to which of our regions. Likewise, no firm detailed job description exists for Regional Vice Presidents. A proposal has been discussed with concerned / “moving” chapters (and their approval obtained), and a vote had by the executive committee, regarding establishing a list of which chapters are assigned to which chapters, and regarding regional VP job duties. This proposal is attached hereto and marked as “Exhibit B.” **CALL FOR A VOTE. – Linn Beck.**
15. **UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING.** Will be held on March 28, 29 in Minneapolis. There will be a broad schedule of topics related to conservation, membership, and communications. TU’s President Chris Wood, and many other national officers, will be present and part of the meeting.
16. **INVITED GUEST** – Mr. Bob Clarke / Friends of the Central Sands. Update on lawsuit results, CAFO’s in the central sands.
17. **INVITED GUEST** – Mr. Paul Cunningham / Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – stewardship streambank easement purchase project update.
18. **INVITED GUESTS** – Ms. Joanna Griffin and Mr. Scot Stewart / Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – trout season and regulation changes update.

**LUNCH** – *This will be a working lunch.*

• **Appeals**

(None currently pending)

• **Committees**

19. **Legislative Committee**  
- Aaron Frailing, Staush G., others.

- Update on WITU Legislative Plan
  - Inclusion of the Regional VP
  - Chapter Involvement
  -
- Upcoming Legislative Action Items
  - Microbead Legislation
  - SCOTUS Rule on Water
  - Groundwater & High Capacity Well Bill
    - Status of legislation
    - Action Plan
    - Tools
    - Legislative Advocacy
      - **Wisconsin River Alliance (Helen Sarakinos)**

20. **Membership Committee**

- Mike Kuhr, Linn Beck

19. **Women's Events**

- Heidi Oberstadt

22. **Fundraising Committee**

- Kim McCarthy

- Planned Giving

23. **Communications Committee**

- Chris Long

- website chat board / discussion group update

24. **Education Committee**

- Bob Haase and Linn Beck

- a. First ever WI TU Camp – 2014, appeal for 2015 Camp – Linn Beck, Bob Haase
- b. 2014 TU Teen Summit – Ferryville, WI – Todd Templen

25. **Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund Update**

- Doug Brown

Friends of Wisconsin TU grants funded in 2014:

- a. Wisconsin Clear Waters – Sand Creek project
- b. Central Wisconsin – DNR habitat crew funding
- c. Antigo – DNR habitat crew funding
- d. Green Bay – DNR habitat crew funding
- e. Kiap-TU-Wish – Upper Trimble River project (2013 work)

- f. Kiap-TU-Wish – Red Cabin project (Kinnickinnic R.) (2014)
- g. Nohr – Six Mile Branch project
- h. Aldo Leopold TU for the Bear Creek project;
- i. Clear Waters TU for the Waumandee Creek project;
- j. Marinette TU for the Northeast Region work crew project;
- k. Southeast Wisconsin TU for the Bear Creek project;
- l. Wild Rivers TU for the White River tributary project;
- m. Wisconsin River Valley TU for the Prairie River project; and,
- n. Wolf River TU for the Northeast Region work crew project.

26. **Publications**  
- Todd Franklin

• **Programs**

- 27. Dr. Robert Obma – Water Task Force / Brook trout – our “canary in the coal mine”
- 28. TUDARE Update – Jeff Hastings / Duke Welter

• **Past Events**

29.

• **Upcoming Events**

- 30. Banquet – (cocktail hour – *required after this agenda*)

• **Adjourn by 2:00 p.m.**

2:01 – pigs seen flying by windows, Big Foot stops in to say “hi” and provide snake roll cast instruction, and the Loch Ness monster makes a special appearance to give instruction on remaining stealthy while in the water.