



National Leadership Council

Climate Change Workgroup Report

September 2021

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.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Raising awareness about climate change and its impacts on our cold-water resources through education and the best available science.
2. 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.

Workgroup Activity:

1. Our May call featured a presentation by Drew Eyerly, Conservative Outreach Coordinator, Citizens' Climate Lobby. Presentation included overview of Citizens' Climate Lobby and the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act HR 2307 (EICDA). This led to a discussion on how the bill would work to drive down carbon emissions.
2. Link to June 12th Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) conference breakout session, "Who Supports Carbon Pricing: Outdoorsmen" with Drew Eyerly, CCL Conservative Outreach Director, Todd Tanner, President of Conservation Hawks and Brian Wagner representing Trout Unlimited. [https://youtu.be/ Bp5stR1Lus](https://youtu.be/Bp5stR1Lus)

Workgroup Accomplishments:

1. The National Leadership Council's Climate Change Workgroup hosted a Vol Op webinar on July 22nd featuring TU Senior Scientist Helen Neville presenting the new Trout Unlimited Climate Change presentation as part of TU's Summer of Science.
2. Continue working with Citizens Climate Lobby in support of Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act. If you would like CCL contact info for your state, please contact Brian Wagner at bewagner482@gmail.com.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges: Workgroup would like climate change to have a more focal presence in Trout Magazine and on TU website for members and potential members to see what TU is doing about climate change. Workgroup needs a new chairperson.

Workgroup Next Steps:

1. Workgroup identified the following as potential resources to further explore for toolkit.

Sample messaging

- a) Lobbying toolkit
- b) Template how-to for op-eds
- c) Field visit toolkit
- d) Citizen science (existing temperature data, current monitoring, volunteer engagement)
- e) Handouts/FAQ
- f) How-to make short videos for use in advocating to congressional members



National Leadership Council

Great Lakes Workgroup Report

September 2021

Workgroup Chair: Robb Smith rsmithsr@gmail.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: A meeting will be held in October, 2021 following the Annual Meeting. Zoom notification will follow from the new Chairman Chris Steffen from Ohio.

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. Provide informational updates to the many threats facing the Great Lakes Region including an editing the "*Case for the Great Lakes*" report.
2. Continue pushing forward the significance of the Great Lakes Region as a cold-water resource in need of continued and increased attention.
3. Publish a revised electronic and printed copy of the CFTGL's and share it with a diversity of recipients, membership, staff, and likeminded or interested parties

Workgroup Activity:

The workgroup will be starting an edit to the Case for the Great Lakes to bring it up to date with current situations.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

We are continuing to track issues in the Great Lakes including the Back Forty Mine Project and wind power facilities in the open waters of the Great Lakes. The "Line Five" pipeline crossing the Straits of Mackinaw continues to be a contentious subject. PFA's in alarming quantities are being found in lakes and rivers of the Great Lakes Basin and are topic discussed in the CFTGL's document.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

1. With regard to Michigan TU - NLC transition information and Great Lakes Workgroup chair transition: (this is not an obstacle or challenge)

- A. Greg Walz has been nominated to become the new Michigan TU NLC Representative. Greg is our immediate past state chairman and will do a great job when elected in late Sept. 2021.
- B. Chris Steffen (copied on this email) is the Ohio NLC Rep. and has agreed to assume the chairmanship of the Great Lakes Workgroup October 1st, 2021 until his term expires, I believe, in the spring of 2022 at which point Greg Walz will offer to assume the chairmanship of the group.

2. Discussions with TU staff as to whether Taylor R. will be replaced or if a different more inclusive position will be created to serve the Great Lakes Region. Taylor's position dealt mostly with legislative policy tracking and advocacy. No action has been taken to make this replacement as of late. A thought came to mind that perhaps one of the existing staff in Michigan could fill the gap. We don't believe that it would require a full-time person to assist us, but it would be helpful to have someone from TU National that would actively help lead, follow-up and promote our work. We believe persons from the workgroup could become the contacts with other organizations that we might want to be affiliated with and eliminate staff from this responsibility. As a grassroots group we will certainly continue on our course, but the link with national staff and resources would certainly be appreciated.

3. Finding resources (money) to print hard copies of the CFTGL. Add additional visual features to the document. Obtain publication and editing ownership of the document. These items are all in progress.

Workgroup Next Steps:

Restore a regular meeting schedule as we work through the revisions to the CFTGL document, continue GL's situation discussions, and find out if we will be getting a new contact person from TU for the GLWG.

NOTE:

All,

I have had a great pleasure in chairing this workgroup and will continue to be involved as it moves forward. If I can be of any service to the organization in the future, please let me know. I will sincerely miss being involved with the NLC and National Staff, whom I truly admire, and have appreciated the opportunity to serve in this position.

Best regards and good luck,

Robb



National Leadership Council

Native Trout Workgroup Report

September, 2021

Workgroup Chair: Werner Studer, wgstuder@yahoo.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Fourth Wednesday of the month at 8:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Workgroup Description: The Native Trout Workgroup 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.

Workgroup Goals: To support native trout species in the United States in maintaining original range and introducing native species in suitable fishless waters within that original range and opposing stocking of non-native species in waters already supporting a viable native fish population

Workgroup Activity:

The group has followed the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks Department efforts in the project to eliminate invasive Rainbow Trout and the reintroduction of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout in Buffalo Creek in Montana which flows into Yellowstone National Park and supported this project by email. The group has followed the proposal of removing the lower four dams on the Snake River and is participating in an online TU Grassroots Group which is continuing support for the project after failure to obtain funding from Congress. The group has completed development of a poster about the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout to be used for public information and support of the subspecies.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

The development of the Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout poster which is presently at the printer and expected distribution in October to the TU councils and chapters and other organizations which contributed to the project.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

The group is faced with limited attendees at the monthly meetings. Getting more involvement by the self-selected members is an ongoing challenge.

Workgroup Next Steps:

- 1) Support Priority Waters initiative
- 2) Development of future Native Trout Posters
- 3) Develop list of known Council/State Native/Wild Trout problems or issues

- 4) Assist Councils to develop native/wild trout management plans
 - a. Identify states without Native/Wild trout management plans
 - b. Obtain copies of State Native/Wild trout management plans
 - c. Provide state fishery departments without plans access to other states' plans.
- 5) Develop and make available standard criteria or methodology to identify road culverts that are barriers to aquatic wildlife passage.



National Leadership Council

TUDARE Workgroup Report

September 2021

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

Workgroup Meeting Dates: October 13, November 10, December 8 and January 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. Work on understanding/shaping the conversation around CAFO rules and regulations.
2. Workdays in the Driftless to build habitat structures or stiles. Work crew funding.
3. Workshops/Symposiums for volunteers and cooperating agencies.
4. Raising awareness and funds to support the Kinni Dam, North Bear and Yellow River project.
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 has been set for 2/1 and 2/2/22 in LaCrosse WI. Contemplating two tracks – Riparian and Conservation/Watershed.
3. Trying to get approval from TU National to join the Supreme Beef lawsuit.
4. Paul Krahn has been working 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.

Lee Wulff/Gary Borger/Elliott Donnelly Chapters have completed 6 stiles this summer.

Actual Bus Tour Planning is nearing completion. Will be held on 10/12/21.

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

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

COVID-19

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. Develop hierarchy within the Steering Committee to identify next Chair/Co-Chair.
2. Work on CAFO manual to show what steps to go through when a new project is being contemplated.
3. Support within the NLC and broader TU for the Kinni Dam Project and funding. Need to follow up with Jim Walker and/or TU Stream Access Workgroup Chair.



National Leadership Council

Delaware River Work Group

September 2021

Workgroup Chair: Don Kieffer - defferda@aol.com

Workgroup Meeting Dates: A virtual meeting of the work group is scheduled for Sept. 22, 2021 at 7:00pm. Dates and times for future meetings will be established then.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Revisit the work group mission to promote active engagement and support of TU new strategic plan.
2. Support effort to encourage DRCB to increase volume and duration of flexible flows.
3. River and habitat improvement.
4. DEC fisheries management plan due in 2021.

Workgroup Activity:

1. New work group leadership in summer of 2021, introductory email communication with work group members and scheduling of virtual meeting On 9/22 to examine possible need to review work group mission.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

1. A new work group leader was appointed this summer and has held productive background discussions with Rich Thomas, Jeff Skelding and Tracy Brown.
2. Current membership roster reviewed and work group meeting scheduled for 9/22.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

1. One challenge will be to work to achieve meaningful consensus support from among work group members holding diverse positions.
2. Second challenge will be steering efforts needed to effectively guide DRBC flow decisions.

Workgroup Next Steps:

Next steps required of the work group should be clearer after the next two meetings, however support of DRBC flexible flow mgt., DEC Delaware fisheries mgt. plan and fisheries habitat improvement efforts are expected to continue.



National Leadership Council

Land Conservancy Work Group

September 2021

Workgroup Chair: Bill Pastuszek, Colrain MA, billp@shepherdnet.com, 617 290 8370

Workgroup Meeting Dates: Last meeting: July 2021. Monthly meetings scheduled for the remainder of 2021.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Create outreach and education on the value and relevance of land conservancy to TU's mission for both TU members and key outside organizations (e.g., land trusts).
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 \$5,000 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.

Workgroup Activity:

- Video distribution with assistance and support from TU National.
- Discussions with groups interested in funding from the Workgroup.
- Continuation of exploration of funding sources.

Workgroup Accomplishments:

- Worked with TU National to disseminate the video and related materials.
- Posted materials in TU forums outlining the WG's purpose and to raise awareness of the Workgroup and its possibilities.
- Worked with several potential grant candidates.

Workgroup Obstacles and Challenges:

- *Membership.* Getting additional members, particularly from Western TU chapters and councils, to join.
- *Fundraising.* Raising sufficient funds to meet demand in the future, independent of TU funding, represents a major challenge.
- *Visibility and Outreach.* The WG needs to find better ways to reach out to potential grant candidates. Recent experiences suggests that the grant size (\$5,000) may be insufficient to attract interest for larger projects.

Workgroup Next Steps:

- *Outreach.* Market Work Group Funding services through internal TU media, social media and develop outreach to Councils, Chapters, and land-related organizations for acquisition funding.

- *Fundraising.* Locate and develop funding sources to improve the WG's scope.
- *Presentations.* Based on completing the video project, provide a presentation for TU national/regional meetings, whether virtual or in person. Seek out opportunities to make presentations to Councils, Chapters, and land conservation-related organizations.