



## **TROUT UNLIMITED, INC.**

ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING – October 16, 2024 at 8:00 PM Eastern

Via Zoom: <https://troutunlimited.zoom.us/j/81870632313>

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### **Welcome & Introductions**

- Jeff Yates welcomed attendees and advised as to Zoom's capabilities, and he invited attendees to introduce themselves in the chat. CEO Chris Wood welcomed the members and provided a short introduction; he informed attendees that the chat feature will be used for voting, with silence indicating assent, and typing "nay" into the chat to indicate a vote in opposition. He invited attendees to submit questions in the Q&A feature.
- Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Terry Hyman, then welcomed the members, called the meeting to order, and reflected on the successes of TU at all levels. He highlighted Chris' upcoming State of TU presentation to be held next Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. He then highlighted many of TU's recent accomplishments this past year.

### **Election & Re-Election of Trustees**

- Hyman then introduced candidates for the Board of Trustees by presenting each bio to attendees.
  - TRUSTEE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION (2-year term beginning Oct. 2024 and ending Oct. 2026). Terry introduced candidates and called for a vote—so moved by Rich Thomas, seconded by Paul McKay.
    - John Burns (At Large)
      - VOTE RESULTS: Unanimous approval by all attendees.
    - Geof Wyatt (At Large)
      - VOTE RESULTS: Unanimous approval by all attendees.
  - TRUSTEES FOR RE-ELECTION (2-year term beginning Oct. 2024 and ending Oct. 2026 unless otherwise indicated). Terry introduced candidates and called for a vote—so moved by Rich Thomas, seconded by Paul McKay.
    - Linda Rosenberg Ach, 3<sup>rd</sup> term
    - Josh Crumpton, 2<sup>nd</sup> term
    - R. Joseph De Briyn
    - Paul Doscher
    - Larry Finch
    - Larry Garlick (to complete his second term as Treasurer, the term of Larry Garlick will run from October 2024 to September 2025)
    - Peter Grua
    - Chris Hill
    - Harris Hyman
    - Phoebe Muzzy
    - Candice Price

- Donald (Dwight) Scott
  - Judi Sittler
  - Joseph Swedish
    - VOTE RESULTS: Unanimous approval by all attendees for all re-elected Trustees.
- Hyman thanked all attendees for their time and dedication to TU's mission before passing off to Rich Thomas, NLC Chair.

### **State of the Grassroots**

- Rich Thomas then provided a State of the Grassroots presentation covering the wonderful accomplishments of TU's chapters and councils:
  - Over 630,000 volunteer hours valued at north of \$20,000,000.00 (an 11% increase from FY23)
  - Approaching pre-Covid volunteer hour numbers; hoping to get above 700,000 within the next few years
  - Highlighted TU's focus on membership engagement and retention, noting that first-year retention outpaces other similar environmental organizations by roughly 8-10%
  - Reflected on TU's strategic plan and its three primary objectives
  - Addressed the need to continue engaging younger people to ensure TU's mission sustains for years to come
  - Covered specific tips for chapters/councils and emphasized the value of allowing younger people to join the board and offer fresh perspectives
  - Recognized TU's newest chapter and how their intentionality in creating a welcoming environment focusing on events, not meetings, has led to initial success
  - Also recognized a similar story with the Teton Valley Chapter, who has built a diverse board of directors and calendar of varied events designed to engage first-timers and experts alike
  - Celebrated the Overmountain chapter's swift response to Hurricane Helene—partnered with United Way and engaged 125 volunteers from four states to help with local recovery needs

### **Conclusion**

- Wood provided closing thoughts and reminded attendees of the State of TU address on October 24, 2024. Meeting concluded at 8:45p.m.

*Minutes taken by Q Collins, Volunteer Governance & Reporting Manager*