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Fellow TU225 members:

First and foremost, it has been a pleasure to be a part of the Narragansett Chapter. During my association with the Chapter, I have met many individuals who are knowledgeable of the fisheries in Rhode Island as well as fishing techniques and equipment. I respect their opinions and views, and hope to continue my education on tracking the elusive trout.

During 2011, the membership of the Narragansett Chapter adopted a revised vision and mission statement that will serve as basis for chapter activities. The vision of a thriving coldwater habitat for use by future generations and our mission to conserve, protect, restore, and sustain their fisheries and watersheds will be the guiding principles for 2012 and beyond.

I believe there are three goals that, if elected, I would actively pursue. They are:

1. Setting realistic and achievable goals
2. Mending broken bridges
3. Make new friends.

When I speak of *setting realistic and achievable goals*, I will support any ideas that can result in realistic projects, staffed with good leaders drawn from the membership, and having identifiable end results and completion dates. Ideas and projects should be forthcoming, developed, and managed by members. I know that every member has at least three good projects they would like to pursue or see pursued.

Several new committees have been recommended by TU National and will need volunteers to staff them. These include communications, membership, education, conservation, nominating, and financial development committees. I recommend having the chairs of these and any other ad hoc committees report their activities as part of the general membership meetings.

Mending broken bridges is an important issue that needs to be addressed. In recent years, communications with the DEM and other organizations has become difficult. Internally, we need to heal the derisiveness that has recently surfaced among the membership.

As a start, I propose we strengthen our ties with other organizations, including the Northern RI TU chapter, UFTRI, Rhody Fly Rodders, and others. Additionally, despite outstanding efforts by our representative, we have been treated as a red headed step child by the Mass/RI Council, even though our membership is larger than most of the other chapters in the Council. We need to use whatever leverage we have in the Council to have our voice heard. Finally, we need to meet with DEM personnel

and present a cohesive game plan that would benefit the goals of both organizations while improving communications.

Internally, we need better communications within the Chapter. Information regarding E-Board meetings, general membership meetings and activities, and issues of interest to members can be better communicated. Improvements have been made to the Long Cast, but changes to the TU255.org web site are needed. I will work to make these improvements happen, as well as encourage an “open door” policy for any member to discuss any issue with the officers and board members. This organization is our organization, yours and mine, and we all have an equal voice in it.

Finally, we need to *make new friends*. This chapter needs to be actively involved with other organizations, including the Wood Pawcatuck Watershed Association and the Nature Conservancy. Both have a record for achieving results at the legislative level as well as on the water, and we should have a voice and participation in their activities. The recent announcement of efforts to classify the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed as a wild and scenic river may have new challenges for us. A joint effort with WPWA can create a synergy that can exceed the sum of the individual efforts. Our efforts on visible project should generate public relations interest in RI news outlets if we establish contacts with them. As always, we need to be looking for ways to encourage membership and participation in TU, especially from younger generations.

In closing, I would like to restate the three objectives I will work for if elected: *setting goals, mending bridges, and making new friends*. I am honored to be considered for the office of president, and look forward to facing the challenges of this office in the upcoming year. Tight lines!