
Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Requesting advice/help from the TU guys on the site

Re: Requesting advice/help from the TU guys on the site

Author: : Maurice

Date: : 2013/2/16 10:38:11

URL:

Quote:

GreenWeenie wrote:

20mil is what runs through their books. Securing a 1mil or whatever amount state or federal grant or other private conserancy grant doesn't always run through their books. An org like tu has the ability to access these funds and these funds get spent on something and there are a lot of companies who want to be the ones who get this money.

All I'm saying is which projects get attention doesn't necessarily mean those are the most deserving. If there are 10 projects looking for funding and only enough money to fund 5, those projects with the most push behind them get the money and the push isn't necessarily for the most needed projects.

All of the monies that are spent on projects at the local chapter level are reported through the Finanacial Reports. I am not sure if they are included in the \$20mil figure. I'd bet they are. TU national has ZERO input or influence on Chapter level projects. These chapter level projects (at least in PA) are typically funded by state or federal dollars and the grading system to fund projects has become increasingly more difficult. The first test of muster is whether the project is on a watershed designated as impaired. These places get all the dough.

It is true there is a little "wag the dog" going on in the construction industry. But even that has become less prevailant. When money is available the contractors come out of the woodwork to court TU chapters for work. As Jdaddy said any value that exchanges hands between contractor and chapter are typically in-kind donations for match and perhaps loss-leader investment toward projects funding. (ie. help with grant writing, project scope recommendations, etc.)

Your last line suggests there is corruption involved. This could be true but it is not in TU's to pick the projects funded at state and federal levels.

If anything the Contractors are a big help to bring money to regions and watersheds in which a TU chapter that would otherwise not have the resources to do alone.

Its not a perfect system but with any system in any industry where there are copetitive cash cow funds, one

soon learns the path of least resistance whether sponsor or funding awarded contractor. It is up to the cow to sort it out. And they do a pretty good job of making the red tape wider each year. Hurdles higher and obstacles more difficult to navigate.

But make no mistake, the decisions to which projects are priority are ultimately determined by the Chapter BOD, Which ones funded by the Cash Cow, and the contractors selected through an Request For Proposal process.

Its not surprising that those not directly involved in the process see the suggestion of innappropriateness but there are clear tests of muster to prevent the corruption you allude to.