

**Minutes from the TCTU Quarterly Business Meeting
Ijams Nature Center
July 24, 2004**

Meeting called to order at 12:25 PM

Attendees:

Steve Brown, Bill Haggard, Dick Geiger, Rick Murphee, Bob Bennett, Steve Fry, Jim Montfort, Ty Goodwin, Don Denny, Bill Guinn, Danny Phillips, Bob Viers, Bill Beazell, Larry Mauldin, Tom Howard

Minutes:

Minutes of the Spring TCTU Meeting were accepted with a correction in the time of adjournment.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$8002.88 through June 26, 2004.

Committee Reports:

Chapter Committee: No report

Stewardship Committee: No report

Finance Committee: Steve Brown commented that the Back the Brookie (BtB) Campaign is over budget, but it was decided additional expenditures will be necessary for the campaign to be successful. It was moved, seconded, and passed to reimburse the attendees for lodging at the BtB training occurring this weekend at Roan Mountain State Park.

Back the Brookie Campaign: Steve Brown summarized the purpose of this weekend's training and indicated that all of the lead positions in the campaign were filled. There was discussion that the campaign needs to focus more on the human health aspect of the campaign in addition to protecting and preserving the Southern Appalachian Brook Trout (SABT). Suggestions were made to partner with non-profits such as the Environmental Defense Fund, the Sierra Club, and the American Lung Association to improve TCTU's opportunity for success in the campaign. It was the consensus of the attendees to await the outcome of the training to see what partnerships may be proposed. The Back the Brookie website is not yet ready, but a recommendation was made to include links to the restoration projects of the Little River and Hiwassee Chapters.

Chapter Reports:

Cumberland, Clinch River, Great Smoky Mountain, Hiwassee: No report

Overmountain: Chapter fundraiser was not as successful as anticipated; finances still remain an issue.

Appalachian: Adopt a Brookie Campaign is moving forward. SABT will have their own stream in the Tennessee Aquarium. It was moved, seconded, and passed for TCTU to commit \$100 to the Adopt a Brookie Campaign.

Cherokee: Cherokee Chapter to email Council Chair a summary re: the Rocky Fork acquisition in Greene and Unicoi counties. The Chair will present the TCTU position to Representative Bill Jenkins

Little River: (no attendees)

Old Business:

The Zip Code project is complete and will be sent to National this weekend.

There are still problems with the new application form, which appear to be systematic in nature. Several chapters have indicated that they are filling in the chapter name and number on the forms, but new members are still being assigned to the wrong chapters. Chapter officers are getting action at National, but only after contact with the Chapter Support Coordinator in Volunteer Operations or the Manager of

Membership Services. ****ACTION**** Rick Murphree, Grassroots Trustee, will raise the issue of incorrectly assigned new and renewal members on the Grassroots conference call.

Discussion on container deposit legislation focused on the opposition by beer and soft drink distributors. While consensus was that container deposit legislation is the right thing to do, it likely is not a winnable campaign because it is not a front-burner issue. Further discussion addressed whether there is an ongoing campaign by another organization and what Tennessee Conservation League's (TCL) involvement with the campaign/issue. Consensus of the attendees was TCTU should take a formal supporting position, but allow another conservation organization to take the lead for container deposit legislation. ****ACTION**** Rick Murphree will check with TCL to see who supports and the level of support in the Tennessee Legislature.

Stewardship Chair drafted a letter to the Secretary of the Interior re: the Road to Nowhere. While the action to build the road impacts coldwater conservation efforts in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, not building the road is both the economical and environmentally sound alternative. NCTU has requested TCTU to support their position on opposing the building of the road. The National Leadership Council (NLC) Representative expressed his dismay in lack of support from NCTU re: the environmentally damaging use of ATVs in NC. ****ACTION**** Provided that NCTU will reciprocate with its support for enforcement of the legislation to control indiscriminate driving of ATVs through streams and on non-officially designated trails for their use, the Chair will draft and submit the letter to Secretary Norton to support the non-building alternative. The NLC Representative will draft and submit the letter to the NCTU for their support of enforcement and control of proper use of ATV designated trails.

New Business:

A TCTU fundraiser proposal was proposed at the Strategic Planning Session on June 26-27 and distributed for comment. Consensus in the group was that a competition was not the preferred way to raise funds for the Council. There was a recommendation that a Board of Directors be formed and one of their functions would be to raise funds for the Council. ****ACTION**** Bill Guinn (Cherokee) will draft the proposed approach and submit it to the Council Chair.

The TCTU Strategic Planning process started after the Council's last meeting at the Southeast Rally. Sample mission statements, vision statements, and goals from other Councils were distributed electronically to Southeast Rally attendees who expressed interest in participating. Input from participants prior to the Strategic Planning session provided a solid foundation for the strategic plan session held on June 26-27. A telephone conference call has been held since the initial planning session to check the status of the progress for the assigned actions, and a second conference call has been scheduled. The next step will communicate the plan to every Chapter in TCTU. An abbreviated version of TCTU's Strategic Planning Process was distributed to the attendees at the meeting.

The Chair expressed a desire to have two (2) Chapter representatives from each Chapter to TCTU with a commitment equal to that of Chapter officers. The basis for this request was to ensure that the Chapter representatives became active in the functions of the TCTU Committees and to ensure continuity in TCTU deliberations. Two representatives from each Chapter also will serve to expose new or established TU members to the operations of the Council and will afford them the opportunity to move up the leadership ladder in the Council.

It was proposed that TCTU's fall meeting be a teleconference call. It was moved, seconded, and passed to hold the fall TCTU meeting via a teleconference call. The call will be Tuesday evening, October 5, 2004 at 8 PM Eastern Time. The cost for the call will be \$0.27/min/person. The Chair will email a request for agenda items and will email the agenda prior to the teleconference call. ****ACTION**** Rick Murphree will check about securing funds from National to cover the expense of the call. The Chair indicated that he would like working committees to consider teleconference calls to minimize the impact to personal schedules and to improve the efficiency of working committee operations.

Nominations:

The Nominating Committee of Dick Geiger, Ken Chase, and Tom Eustis presented the following slate of officers for 2004-2006:

Chair: Steve Brown
Vice Chair: Tom Howard
Secretary: Dick Geiger
Treasurer: George Lane
NLC Rep: Bill Haggard

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the proposed slate of officers. They will serve from October 1, 2004 until September 30, 2006.

Other Business:

Rick Murphree indicated that one issue to be discussed on the Grassroots conference call will be the staff changes at National. Rick will be available to present information from the Denver meeting to Chapters after October 1, 2004.

Newly elected NLC Rep Bill Haggard has been assigned the lead how to include all fishermen including spin and bait fishermen into TU's organizational development and conservation efforts. Suggestions can be emailed to him (tu@billhaggard.com).

It was moved, seconded, and passed for TCTU funds to be expended to cover the cost of travel, meals, and lodging for the Chair to attend the Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

The Chair expressed a need to sell the BtB merchandise. The SE Regional Representative covered the costs of the merchandise on a personal credit card and TCTU needs to help in removing that financial commitment.

Announcements/Schedule Meetings

The second Strategic Plan conference call/working session is scheduled for August 19.

The next TCTU meeting will be a conference call at 8PM on Tuesday, October 5, 2004.

The next Coldwater meeting will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2005 at the TVA Towers in Knoxville. The snow date for the meeting is Saturday, January 29, 2005 at the same location. The quarterly TCTU meeting will be held after the Coldwater meeting at a location to be named.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM