

**TCTU Fall Council MEETING MINUTES as Approved on January 24.
Saturday October 4, 2003
Held at 10:00 AM at Cumberland State Park**

TCTU Secretary's note: If you have corrections/additions, please take time now to call directly to (865) 428-3377 or send to king@wyoming.com.

Quarterly Business Meeting

Call to order Approximately 10:00 AM

In attendance were: Steve Brown, Howard Kingsbury, Bill Haggard, Steve Fry, Gil Lackey, Don Denney, George Lane, Kim Ryals, Mark Spangler, Tom Eustis, John Torchick (someone from Hiwassee Chapter), Trish Patterson, Rick Murphree.

Minutes of 7/26/03 Summer Council meeting. It was moved that the minutes be accepted, the motion was seconded and put to a vote, passing unanimously. Now posted to web site "as approved".

Steve Brown called for more people to be involved in the committee structures set up over the past year.

Steve Brown and Steve Fry presented highlights, including a written report by Steve Fry, of the TU Annual Meeting in September in Denver:

2003 has been a good year. Revenue is up, the budget is in good condition, the staff reorganized, the NLC in place. A conservation agenda was presented that highlights water quality, in-stream flows, Pacific & Atlantic Salmon, and Wild Salmonid Conservation. The new NLC will stress communications between TU National and state councils, and the Board of Directors will emphasize grassroots structure with 10 Grassroots Trustees, including Rick Murphree from TN, Garland Stewart from GA, and Kirk Otey and Squeak Smith from NC. There will be more focus on collaborative conservation efforts, state councils, and greater field presence of staff. The budget will be applied 75% toward programs and 25% toward administration, membership building and fundraising. There are approximately 130,000 TU members. New member fees will be \$17.50, \$15 will go to the local chapter, \$2.50 will go to the council. Renewals will be \$35; costs on the web will be the same.

There were seminars and forums on developing the organization and resources. Growth will come from membership increases and government grants. There is a perceived conflict between advocacy and collaboration. TU has emphasized conservation, sometimes placing it in opposition to grass roots outdoorsmen when more collaboration could gain more widespread support and potentially more effective conservation of habitat, waters and fisheries.

Repeat information: In the new structure of TU national, the National Resource Board (NRB - composed of three representatives from each of ten regions) was dissolved and replaced by the National Leadership Council (NLC), composed of one representative from each State Council. The regional structure, and the positions of regional vice president (RVP), was also dissolved. The RVPs were replaced on the Board of Trustees, were replaced by new positions called Grassroots Trustees, who will now have all the same rights and privileges as other trustees.

Rick Murphree was our original NLC representative; when he was named a Grassroots Trustee, and Steve Fry was elected as our new NLC representative.

Kim Ryals gave a report on the Mott grants.

A draft of the Back The Brookie- "Volunteers For the Brookie" Campaign Plan for 2003-2005 was presented by Kim Ryals and Mark Spangler, chairman. Comments needed to Mark and Kim.

Trish Patterson issued a written report for the Stewardship Committee. Primarily looking for help as her request to chapters had no results. Liaisons needed, specialists needed, volunteers needed. Responsibilities and job descriptions were included for agency and legislative liaisons.

Steve Brown led a discussion and report on the Chapters committee with review of goals, including development of an extensive Strategic Plan Draft prepared by Bill Gwinn. Each attendee was to prepare comments and ideas prior to 10/18 to submit suggestions to the web site.

George Lane is working on a Zip Code directory to see that TU has a good database of codes appropriate for each TN TU chapter for referring new members to chapters.

Three new chapters are possible in Memphis, Elizabethtown and Bristol. The support of other chapters is needed for them at starting and TNTU needs to help them with starting capital in the range of \$250-\$500.

George Lane presented a written financial summary that showed a balance of \$10,096.42 with known obligations pending for \$1500-\$3,000 for the Mott Grant workshop in 2002 and expenses for the Steve, Steve at the TU national meeting.

Chapters are to submit nominees to George to serve on the Finance Committee.

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously that we set aside \$3,000 to help fund our "Volunteers for the Brookie" Campaign.

The deadline for Chapters to post their financial reports to the website was November 14.

Howard and Mark are to meet to work on a TU clean air position.

There was extensive discussion concerning new brown trout regulations on the Caney Fork. Anglers want healthier and bigger fish, TWRA is proposing regulations, there seems to be a shortage of real scientific data to guide decision-making. Most seem to think that they should just "try something" but that does not follow our mission.

TU License Tags - No discussion at this meeting. Needs someone to work on this is they want to pursue. The suggestion was made at a prior meeting by Mark Spangler and accepted with enthusiasm that a full color brookie on the plate would have widespread marketability and appeal. Tom has subsequently reported that: Contacted the State of TN Title & registration (615-741-3101 ext 158) folks today and was told the following:

1. A TN Legislator must introduce a bill for a plate like we talked about. Suggest that someone on the council contact a legislator that they know.
2. Minimum of 1000 individuals must be prepared to pay \$35, or \$70 if personalized, for the license plate.

Committee staffing - volunteers for each committee, suggestions for chair and other members - Not enough volunteers have come forward at this point. Those participating should consider and let Steve know plus think about others in their chapter who would serve well and speak to them and Steve.

Trish Patterson - Stewardship Committee Chair.

Bill Guinn - Chapters Committee Chair.

TCTU Policy statements - determine what we need and assign writers.

The agreement with GSMNP needs to be renewed and a PR splash announcement/event when renewed.

Remember chapters are being asked by Steve Brown to prepare, report in future on: (Steve will design a form, forward): Number of members; Average attendance; Best meeting idea; Meeting dates; Event Dates past and pending; If increase in membership and /or attendance, Why do you think that happened? ; Best Ideas/why/lessons learned; Lousy ideas/ why/lessons learned

Announcements:

-Visit the TCTU web site and the web sites of the other TU state chapters in NC, GA, SC, VA, and WV? in our region.

- Other Calendar Postings:

January 24, 2004 (1/31 snow backup) TCTU meet after TU/TVA coldwater meet at Knoxville

April (Last weekend in April?), 2004 TCTU meet during SE Rally, likely in NC

Adjourn at 3:00 PM approximate.

Sincerely, Howard Kingsbury, TCTU Secretary