

TCTU Winter Council MEETING MINUTES as approved 4/19/03
Saturday 25 January, 2003 12:30-2:20 PM
At Radisson Hotel Restaurant in Knoxville

Chairman Steve Brown provided a preliminary agenda weeks in advance and that format is followed in these minutes.

This meeting followed the TVA/TU 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon Coldwater meeting at TVA's Knoxville offices across from the Radisson.

Call to order Approximately 12:30

Introductions and Chair's opening remarks. Apologies for poor choice of meeting site and having to talk while eating, and need for brevity to finish in time for restaurant to close.

Presentation by Mike Butler, Executive Director of Tennessee Conservation League Brief overview of TCL, with emphasis on common interests and how we might work together. The intention was to decide whether the council would join TCL. Tom Eustis moved and the motion was seconded that TCTU join the Tennessee Conservation League. The motion was put to a vote and the ayes carried, there were no nays. There was at least one abstention. A price/cost of membership has yet to be determined.

Minutes of fall 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".

Treasurer's report. George Lane distributed a statement of the TCTU checking account showing a balance of \$6,565.28. It was also reported that the total funds held by all Tennessee Chapters is \$37,452. Sources of income include raffles that raised between \$200 and \$400, banquets, a three-chapter project that raised \$7,000, some limited merchandising, and newsletter advertising.

Chapter reports – Planned 2 minutes each. Request was made for brief synopses of 2-3 successes, and areas that each chapter hopes the council can help - what each chapter thinks most important.

Most chapters deferred to the web site or prior reports with nothing new to report. Hiwassee reported a \$1,000 grant from TWRA for river clean up. Three chapters submitted applications for Embrace-A-Stream grants. Little River applied for a Mott grant. It was agreed that we need much improvement in grant writing and number of grant requests submitted. We are leaving money on the table that would support our mission and extend our effectiveness. Grant writing and grant awards will help to fuel our growth and qualify us for much bigger opportunities if we have demonstrated proper utilization and administration on smaller projects.

New Business items: (as we were pressed to work while eating, the agenda was rearranged)

-Kim Ryals, TU National representative reported on USFW meeting and effect on TU. She reported the meeting was excellent and provided a vehicle for open communications and funds for work that conforms to the mission of TU and TCTU. Steve Williams is the new USFW director, an avid hunter and fisherman who manages the \$50M budget. Very exciting as Federal Government goals and ours likely conform. Contact with Hannibal Bolton, Chief, Div of Fish & Wildlife Mgmt& Habitat Restoration. He and Jerry Kosa, another manager will likely attend the March 8 GSMNP banquet to honor volunteers contributions to fisheries programs in the park. This will be held in the evening, all are welcome but seats will be limited.

-"Selecting a statewide issue to grow TCTU" - Kim Ryals. Kim reviewed the process for selecting projects that has been taught previously and the importance of picking a banner/keystone/calling card/flag project. Purposes for the project are that the project be a great conservation project, help to build our organization-TCTU, chapters and TU, create public awareness, gain attention and raise money. There was wide agreement of the importance of doing these things. The worksheet is attached as a MSExcel document that was set up by Dick Geiger, thanks to him for doing that.

After discussion concerning the chart, the Wild/Native Trout (Brookie/Acid Deposition) project was selected. The motion was to accept a focus project for TCTU to be the Wild/Native Trout (Brookie/ Acid Deposition) project. The motion was seconded and a vote taken. The ayes carried with a count of 16, there were three nays and several were out of the room on personal business when the vote was taken.

Old Business:

-Vote on acceptance of By-Laws revision - All attendees were urged to review the final draft of the by-laws on www.tctu.org before the council meeting. There was a motion to accept the By-Laws as presented, the motion was seconded and a vote taken. The Aye's carried unanimously so the motion passed. There was discussion that when the new national by-laws are available that we will need to check conformity.

-Dissolution of Nolichucky Chapter, reassignment of members -. There was a move to dissolve the Nolichucky Chapter, the motion was seconded and a vote taken. The Aye's carried unanimously so the motion passed.

-TU License Tags - either let's do it or put it to rest. After discussion, Tom Eustis agreed to research the law and report back so no decision was made. The suggestion was made 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. That a minimum of 1000 individuals must be prepared to pay \$35, or \$70 if personalized, for the license plate.

-Council letter on refund policy. A letter to TU was presented. The motion was made that we send the letter, the motion was seconded, a vote taken and the aye's passed the motion. There was subsequent discussion and the Chair agreed to accept suggestions through Sunday evening to be at the Chairs discretion as to whether to incorporate added input. This had been reviewed and discussed previously with active attendees having the opportunity for participation. The goal is for the chapter to participate in membership fees and to have renewals be price consistent, easy and efficient, a cost/time effective process.

-Chapter assessment to fund council activities - tabled for lack of time.

Other New Business:

-Bill Haggard - report on Tennessee Clean Water Network meeting (Jan 21), there was to be a Discussion of joining TCWN. Bill attended meeting. TCWN has a new device/technology for testing and measuring DO (dissolved oxygen) and has begun testing TN rivers and streams. Published data should be available soon. One interesting finding is that DO levels are higher in the sunlight.

-Nominating committee for TCTU Representative to National Leadership Council. A paper describing the qualifications and responsibilities is in the "Leaders Only" section of www.tu.org. Steve Fry will head the nominating committee. Bill Haggard and Don Nolls will serve also.

-Committee staffing - volunteers for each committee, suggestions for chair and other members - 3 minutes. Not many 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. Steve requested that the president of each chapter submit at least three names from their chapter.

-TCTU Policy statements - determine what we need and assign writers. Tabled for lack of time.

Announcements:

- Visit the TCTU web site & web sites of other TU state chapters in NC, GA, SC, VA, WV? in our region.
- TU organization will change this summer at the Denver convention and is expected to push resources and money to the state organizations.
- Steve Brown has been working on an updated state roster which will be available soon. Decisions to be made about what to post, what to distribute to members.

TCTU Winter Council Meeting, 25 January, 2003
Announcements from Steve Brown

1. The TCTU contact list will be passed around for each of you to verify your contact information. If there are changes, please make them on my notebook computer before you leave today. Chapter presidents - you received a spreadsheet with your chapter contact information on it. If you have not updated it and returned to me, please do so, with a copy to Howard Kingsbury.

2. TU National has asked each state to review its Zip code information for each chapter. I have a copy of the spreadsheet, which we can post on the website, but I would like a committee to review our chapter boundaries and come up with a plan for bringing the spreadsheet up to date to send to TU national.
3. Little River Chapter has a booth at the Fishing Expo today and tomorrow - they would appreciate a visit and your support.
4. The TN Adopt-A-Highway program is a nearly painless (and costless) way to get the state to put up signs advertising your chapter. Check the TDOT web site at <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us> for info.
5. If you didn't notice, membership rates have gone up. Make sure your membership application forms have the correct rates - or get new ones.
6. Remember that back issues of *Trout* are available from Wendy Reed wreed@tu.org for use as give-aways at chapter functions.
7. Chapter Presidents - please review your chapter's information in the Leaders Only section of www.tu.org. You must update the information there for your officers and leaders to have access to your chapter's information, such as membership lists.
8. Please be aware of the NC Youth Camp. Betsy Craig obtained your contact information from me so she could send your information on it.
9. The Friends of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and the National Park Service are sponsoring a "thank-you" banquet on March 8 for TU and other volunteers who have helped in the Park. You must RSVP before 14 February - see the flyer making the rounds here. This could be a great finish for a day helping out with the Tellico Cleanup on the same day - see Steve Fry for info.
10. Little River applied for a Mott Grant to sponsor a PR seminar with professional help. Stay tuned for more information on the TCTU website, but be thinking about how your PR leader might benefit.
11. Be aware that the World Wildlife Fund has made available money for SE Rivers and Streams projects. Information is available on the TCTU website.
12. Roster updates - each chapter should make a plan to update their membership roster and the information about each member. I can demo what the Clinch River Chapter has done.
13. The Spring Council meeting will coincide with the SE Regional meeting in Hendersonville, NC, April 25-27. This is a terrific opportunity to meet with other SE state councils and compare notes, and observe their council meetings, as well as attend some training sessions and attend the (last) SE Region meeting. There will be a session on a regional acid rain and brook trout campaign, following a conference call Jana 21 with TN, NC, VA, and WV with national leaders. There are also some great trout streams within just a few miles, and the French Broad for those who fancy smallmouth.
14. Remember that TWRA cleanup grant applications are due Jan. 30.
15. Remember the Delayed Harvest streams - Tellico River and Paint Creek.

- Other Calendar Postings:

July 26, 2003	TCTU meet Following TU/TVA coldwater meeting at Knoxville
October 4, 2003	TCTU meet Cumberland Mountain State Park

Adjourn at 2:20 p.m.

We appreciate the help with roster, decision chart, etc and marvel at the selfless active participation and work by so many. Thanks to the leadership of Steve Brown for his pre-meeting work, planning a good meeting, communicating well in advance and keeping the meeting moving. We also appreciate having the high quality, levelheaded TU staff participation and leadership of Kim Ryals. She is a significant portion of the reasons this organization of volunteers is gaining momentum.

Sincerely, Howard Kingsbury, TCTU Secretary