



# Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited

Chairman, Rick Murphree, RichardMurphree@att.net  
Vice Chairman, Dick Geiger, geiger3892@gmail.com  
Secretary, Frances Oates, franceshoates@gmail.com  
Treasurer, Roger Hamiter, rogerhamiter@netzero.net

**Minutes of meeting held Feb. 2, 2013, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 6500 Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919.**

**Chapters present:** **Appalachian**, Steve Fry; **Cherokee**, William Bennett, Fred Derochers, Jeff Hurst, Lori Paris, Allen Robbins, Bob Ross, Jerry Whitted; **Clinch River**, Steve Brown, Dick Geiger, Clayton Gist, Frances Oates, Steve Thompson, John Thurman; **Cumberland**, Roger Hamiter; **Great Smoky Mountains**, Rick Murphree; **Hiwassee**, Don Denney; **Overmountain**, Ron Harrington.

**Chapters absent:** **Delta**, **Little River**.

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by chairman Rick Murphree.

There was no treasurer's report, as outgoing treasurer George Lane was unable to attend due to snowy, cold weather.

Jason Henegar of TWRA brought the council up-to-date on several matters including the possibility that U.S. Fish & Wildlife may have to raise the price of fish from \$1. He said the new Elizabethton hatchery can comfortably produce 150,000 fish, helping TWRA be more self-supporting—but the plan before federal funding cuts were proposed had been to increase production by 150,000, so if federal hatcheries are cut out there will be no gain. He urged TU members to keep writing letters, saying that unless TVA is required to help fund hatcheries, the possibility of closures will loom again every year.

Murphree asked whether the council needed to take a position on the Army Corps of Engineers plan to restrict river access immediately below its dams on the Cumberland River and its tributaries. The proposal cites safety issues with dangerous waters near dams, but fishing is excellent in those areas. Henegar said TWRA opposes the restrictions, not only because the public would be excluded but also because the agency needs access. Since the question is not a conservation issue, the council took no formal action, suggesting instead that individual TU members be encouraged to speak their minds.

Lori Paris told the council she had mapped the ZIP codes used by TU national to assign members to Tennessee chapters, and had found what looked like a jigsaw puzzle. Overmountain Chapter covered a huge area; both Overmountain and Clinch River included scattered areas. Steve Brown moved to appoint a committee to study the issue and propose a solution; Frances Oates seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Murphree appointed Paris to the committee and said two others would be named later.

Murphree said Dick Davis had been unable to attend the meeting because of the weather, and would circulate a report on the TU license plates and conservation programs by email. Steve Fry said that in the last year, more license plate money had been available

for conservation grants than was requested and all applications had been approved. Murphree asked that at the next physical meeting of the council, an update be provided.

Paris described Trout in the Classroom (TIC) presentations made to local service clubs. Cherokee Chapter has TIC programs in two high schools and a middle school; TU volunteers provide startup information to teachers and troubleshoot as necessary. Four TIC systems have been started and nine more are requested. She offered to send her PowerPoint presentation to other chapters. Henegar said he would like to tell the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission about the TIC program; he offered to provide free fish food for the program if chapters will tell him how many schools, school systems and students are involved.

John Thurman said this year's Great Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp is in place. In 2012, the council provided \$3,000 to support this camp; this year he expects to need less than \$2,800. Bob Ross moved to budget up to the amount provided last year; Dick Geiger seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

For the upcoming Southeast Regional Meeting in West Virginia, Steve Fry moved to underwrite the \$50 registration fee for two members per chapter to attend. Allen Robbins seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Don Denney, seconded by Bob Ross, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

After the formal meeting, Lindsay Long described to council members who were able to stay the activities that take place at the annual East Tennessee Casting for Recovery (CFR) retreat for breast cancer patients. Long, who is a Marine Corps veteran, added that because of CFR she got involved with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing and met a woman Marine. "What sank home is the way women veterans are still separated," she said, and now she hopes to start an all-woman veterans' program, providing a special outing for woman veterans.

Asked how TU can help, Long said that funding will be needed for both CFR and the hoped-for veterans' program. Volunteer river helpers are already lined up for this year's CFR retreat; flies always need to be tied.