



Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited

Chairman, Dick Geiger, geiger3892@gmail.com
 Vice Chairman, Mike Bryant, mjbryant1954@hotmail.com
 Secretary, Linda Good, tnlindagood@gmail.com
 Treasurer, George Lane, geohlane@gmail.com
 National Leadership Council, Steve Brown, wsbrown11@hotmail.com

Minutes of meeting held February 13, 2016, at Lawson McGhee Library, Knoxville, TN in association with the Annual Coldwater Meeting.

PRESIDING: Dick Geiger, Chair (CR)

TOTAL NUMBER PRESENT: 18

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Mike Bryant, Vice Chair (LR)	Yes	George Lane, Treasurer (GSM)	Yes
Linda Good, Secretary (OM)	Yes	Don Denney, Web (Hiwassee)	Yes
Steve Brown, NLC Rep. (CR)	Yes	Frances Oates, Communications (CR)	Yes

CHAPTERS REPRESENTED (Other than Council Officers)

CHAPTER	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
Appalachian	Steve Fry	fryfisherman@gmail.com	(423) 432-2210
Cherokee	Gary Garrison	sugarret@charter.net	
	Ed Mueller	emuell1@yahoo.com	
	Lori Paris	loriwebbparis@gmail.com	(423) 956-4238
(Teacher)	Morgan Saunders	morgansasaunders@gmail.com	(570) 647-6803
Clinch River	Jim Reynolds	jimreynolds5442@gmail.com	(865) 661-5420
	Steve Thompson	stevethefishingguy@gmail.com	(865) 773-3343
	John Thurman	jthur727@bellsouth.net	(865) 494-7771
Cumberland*			
GSM	John Reinhardt	john711111@yahoo.com	(865) 971-2488
Hiwassee	Ron McCosh	ronbobomc01@aol.com	(423) 506-7119
Little River	Ian Rutter	info@randrflyfishing.com	(865) 448-0467
	Mark Spangler	m.spangler@charter.net	(865) 250-0754
Overmountain	Jake Walker	thejakecwalker@gmail.com	
	Ernie Walker	eewalker@tmix.com	

*Chapter not represented.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The council meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. (following the Coldwater Meeting) by Dick Geiger, Council Chair. December 30, 2015 Conference call minutes approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer, George Lane presented financial information in two parts: (1) License Plate funds and (2) Council operating expenses.

License Plate Fund: The deposit from the state in 4Q 2014 was \$12,152.36. George projected that \$30,000 would be available to the conservation grants program.

Council Operating Expenses: \$6,944.65 balance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council Leadership Awards: At the Summer Council meeting, Shannon O'Quinn (OM) had suggested that the Council establish an awards program. Dick Geiger asked for input for awards criteria from Chapters so that a process/protocol can be put in place. Dick and Mike Bryant will be sending a draft of suggested awards and criteria to Chapter presidents and finalized by the summer Council meeting so that awards can be made at the fall meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dick Geiger thanked all the chapters for having submitted their AFR's on time. This qualifies us for rebate money which is used to send people to meetings. IRS Form 990N's not already submitted need to be submitted by Monday, February 15 or they will be overdue. There will be a revision to the IRS system at the end of February, which could cause issues for chapters that haven't completed the forms by then. In addition, TN now requires all tax exempt organizations to annually file an exemption request; this applies to all chapters which take in less than \$30,000 per year in revenue. Those chapters which take in more than \$30,000 in revenue annually are required to register with the state or submit a registration renewal. All chapters should keep a copy of the 990Ns (hard copy and electronic copy) and submit an e- copy to National. Failure to report to the IRS for 3 consecutive years will result in loss of tax exempt status for the chapter. Failure to report to the IRS or register with the State of TN may result in fines.

Dick reminded everyone of the SE Regional Meeting (May 20 – 22 in Roanoke). The agenda has not been finalized. There is a probability of Five Rivers Chapters inclusion.

Frances Oates requested pictures and ideas for the Council web site. Mike Bryant suggested that chapter event information be posted on the site. The site will be a one-stop shopping place to find guides, chapter events, newsletters, Facebook pages, and other fishing and cold-water conservation activities.

Lori Paris introduced a TIC teacher and new Cherokee TU member, Morgan Saunders. Morgan reported on the three-year status of the TIC program in her (Kingsport City) special needs classroom. One of her severe & profound special needs students is leading the after-school TIC program. Mike Bryant reported that eight schools were involved in TIC out of the Little River Chapter. It was mentioned that other states have hundreds of sites. West TN members are interested in establishing a TIC project with the major issue of not having an appropriate place for releasing the fish grown in the project.

Steve Fry is updating the conservation grant application form. Chapters are requested to get confirmation of receipt of their submitted grant form from Steve to be sure that he has

received them. Requirements for grants include no “give aways” (e.g., rods and reels). Items for reuse by the chapter are encouraged. The deadline for submitting license plate grant applications is July 1.

Shannon O’Quinn reported that an Orvis fund raiser for removal of tires from the South Holston and Watauga rivers (appropriately named “Get the Tread Out”) will be held in Asheville next week. Orvis has moved a portion of their national meeting from the western area of the country to the southeast and is focusing on the South Holston and Watauga rivers.

Mark Spangler asked about the previously discussed marketing campaign for increasing license plate revenue. Funding is available for this project, but no work has been completed. Dick indicated that if the effort is not completed in FY 2016, the funds approved for it could be added to next year’s budget.

Trout Camp: Questions were raised as to (1) whether two slots should be held open for female participants since none have applied so far; (2) inclusion of 11 year-olds; and (3) opening slots for alumni to attend (See listing of approved motions in this document). Each year there is an increase in cost of Trout Camp mainly due to the additional charges from the Tremont Institute. The Council pays the difference between the Tremont charge and the individual participant amount (\$495). The Council will evaluate modifying its policy for supplementing an individual participant’s cost to Trout Camp 2017. This would make more funds available to be distributed to chapters for conservation activities.

Brief Updates from Chapters Concerning Upcoming Events:

Cherokee Chapter is hosting the international fly fishing film festival at South Holston Brewery, March 19. The TU-sponsored film tour was more expensive and the decision was made to go to the Film Festival. Lodge at Bee Cliff Cabins is being reserved June 10 – 12. All chapters are invited to join Cherokee Chapter in a weekend of fishing.

Dick Geiger and John Reinhardt cited cooperation among the Knoxville-area chapters’ in sponsoring Vols on the Fly (University of Tennessee-Knoxville’s Five Rivers program). The fishing club has 15-16 members aged approximately 16 – 18. John Reinhardt (**GSM**) asked about creating a scholarship for one of the students. It must not be run through TU. East TN Foundation administers scholarships.

Overmountain: Watauga Bluff (Bill Bezell) clean-up slated for March 19.

Appalachian: Steve Fry announced the Brook Trout monitoring (Saturday on the weekend before Labor Day weekend August 27). Meet at McNabb Group Campsite, North River Road, Tellico Watershed, Monroe County. The Campsite is free on Friday and Saturday nights for participants. Breakfast is provided from 8:00-9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Tellico River cleanup March 12; Hiwassee River cleanup March 19.

Other Cleanups: **Clinch River** July 23; **Little River** April 30.

Frances is working to add all chapters' activities to a calendar on the Council website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

National Leadership Council: Tailwater working group has started. TVA and TWRA have said they are willing to participate in the working group. Anyone can be in a working group (even non-members). They will be looking at water condition; water flows; withdrawals. Dick Geiger is a part of the working group.

SUMMARY OF UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Description	Made By	Seconded By
Mark Spangler to replace George Lane as Treasurer	George Lane	Steve Fry
Trout camp participants must be 12 on the beginning day of camp	John Thurman	Steve Thompson
Allow the two remaining slots to remain open for female participants only until March 20; after that date, they can be filled with male applicants from the waiting list. If there are still openings, make them available to alums.	John Thurman	George Lane

ACTION ITEMS INITIATED

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE DATE
Gather chapter suggestions for award criteria and develop final award criteria to be presented at summer meeting	Mike Bryant and Dick Geiger	July 2016
Propose slate of officers at summer meeting	Mike Bryant and Dick Geiger	July 2016
Add Mark Spangler as signatory on Regions Bank accounts; remove George Lane as signatory.	George Lane and Mark Spangler	March 1, 2016

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m. The date for the next Council meeting will be determined and announced in the near future.