



Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited

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 National Leadership Council, Mark Spangler, Mspangl82@gmail.com

TU/TVA Coldwater Meeting and TU Council Meeting Via Zoom, 13 February 2021

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Coldwater Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

GSMNP: Matt Kulp presented a summary of current brook trout restoration efforts in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, including Lynn Camp Prong and projected projects for the next year. Opportunities for volunteer work will be available on the NP website. He will provide the slides from his presentation to the council and to Little River Chapter for inclusion on websites.

TWRA: Jim Habera presented an overview of Region 4 trout status and initiatives. His office is focusing on brook trout restoration and completing the brook trout inventory in the region. He is also monitoring rainbow trout spawning in the Clinch River and South Holston River fisheries; early data from ongoing studies suggest that there may be enough spawning and recruitment to make stocking fry every year unnecessary. The new management plan for the Clinch River fishery is available on www.tnwildlife.org. He will also make his presentation slides available to the council. Justin Spaulding reported on water quality problems in the Caney Fork (TWRA Region 3), and efforts by the Music City Chapter to work with the Corps of Engineers to study and improve water conditions.

TVA: Dennis Baxter reported that there was no fish or bug sampling by TVA last year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. He noted that, unlike TWRA, TVA samples *all* fish and bugs – not just trout. The funds that would have been used last year went instead to study of the invasive Asian carp problem.

Tennessee Council Meeting, 10:30

Tony Gregg, Vice Chair, presided at the council meeting in the absence of Frances Oates, Chair.

Jeff Wright provided the Southeast FY21 Staff update, summarizing his activities for the past year, and provided a preview of the Tennessee Highlands project for FY22.

The minutes for the last meeting were not available; they will be forwarded to participants.

The Treasurer's report is attached below.

- Update: the Conservation Fund, including the February distribution, now totals \$120,031.
- There will be a webinar for TU chapter and council treasurers on 4 March 2021.
- Each chapter should download the spreadsheet from www.tu.org to inventory equipment.
- The council treasurer should also inventory council equipment.
- YTD distribution from the Conservation Fund is \$89,072.

Election of officers:

The council elected the following officers to two-year terms: Tony Gregg, chair; Lou Gauci, vice chair; Bill Fuson, treasurer. In the absence of a nominee, Steve Brown agreed to serve as secretary. Mark Spangler was elected to another one-year term as National Leadership Council representative.

Tennessee Conservation Grant Program:

Changes to the documentation for the conservation grant process were discussed. Steve Fry agreed that the new documentation is a good starting point, but should be reviewed after this year's grants. He agreed to remain as chair of the grant committee for one more year to allow new leadership to become familiar with the process. The council voted to

accept the process as documented; the approved summary, application and scoresheet are attached below.

Trout in the Classroom – Mike Givney

- Covid 19 caused problems, putting some TIC programs on hold.
- There were 20 classrooms this year, serving 600-700 students.
- There were improvements to inventory control and equipment management.
- A GIS map was developed to show current programs.
- An online manual was finished with a tab on www.tctu.org
- A closed Facebook page was developed for TIC teachers and volunteers.
- Student Science Project, a high school extension of TIC, involves stream monitoring and hydroponic studies.
- Working on a TIC PowerPoint presentation and on expanding Student Science Projects.
- This summer will try to re-establish delayed programs and get material distributed.

John Thurman Smoky Mountain Trout Adventure Camp – Steve Young

- Tremont is planning on having camps, so we are planning on having camp this summer.
- Already have 14 applicants, 2 of which are girls. Applications still open.
- Covid issues: studying with Tremont personnel. Staffing is a big issue; all volunteers need to be vaccinated..
- The ACA (American Camping Association) suggests fewer campers per tent. This would require more volunteers to stay overnight.
- Will meet with Institute personnel this March to address concerns about Covid.
- The Facebook page is designed for the parents of campers, and is closed – no trolls!
- Financially in good shape. Expect more requests for financial aid this year due to Covid.

Chapters:

- Overmountain (Ryan Turgeon): Held outdoor meetings until it got too cold, then switched to virtual meetings. Planning a field day with a back country hunting and fishing group, and planning stream monitoring projects.
- Hiwassee (Steve Fry): TIC program to day, so no chapter members in attendance.
- Cherokee (Gary Garrison): Mostly inactive since the pandemic.
- Little River (Steve Young): Park sampling projects restarted under Covid rules. Pistol Creek and ponds stocking in Maryville has been very popular; cleanup March 13. No meetings last year, but now using Zoom, and hoping for a live meeting in July. Some TIC projects continued. Planning for GSM park cleanup. In discussion with Maryville College about possible TU projects.
- Music City (Bill Fuson): In a holding pattern with Covid.
- Great Smoky Mountain (Louis Gauci): Calls keep members informed, and Zoom fly tying meetings. Iron Man fly tying contest postponed.

- Clinch River (Terry Douglas): Zoom board meetings. Weekly Zoom fly tying meetings with PHWFF. Planning several PHWFF events and a reduced Big Clinch River Cleanup.
- Appalachian (Rob Prytula/Steve Fry): On hold except for a few outdoor board meetings. Tellico cleanup March 13, with drive-through registration at ranger office, no cookout.
- NLC Report – Mark Spangler: The Climate Change work group is looking for a Tennessee coordinator. There is a better climate for advocacy than in the last four years.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Brown for the council secretary

Attachments:

- Treasurer's report
- TN Conservation Grant Program summary
- TN Conservation Grant Program application
- TN Conservation Grant Program scoresheet