



Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited

Chair, Tony Gregg, tgregg@inbox.com
 Vice Chair, Ryan Turgeon, ryanturgeon76@yahoo.com
 Secretary, Steve Brown, wsbrown08@gmail.com
 Treasurer, Bill Fuson, wlfuson@gmail.com
 National Leadership Council, Mark Spangler, mspangl82@gmail.com

TU Council Meeting Via Zoom, 21 May, 2022

Attendees

Name	Chapter/Agency	Email
Brown, Steve	1Exec Comm/Clinch River	wsbrown08@gmail.com
Gregg, Tony	1Exec Comm/Clinch River	tgregg@inbox.com
Oates, Frances	1Exec Comm/Clinch River	franceshoates@gmail.com
Turgeon, Ryan	1Exec Comm/Overmountain	ryanturgeon76@yahoo.com
Spangler, Mark	1Exec Comm/Little River	mspangl82@gmail.com
Stephan, Bob	Clinch River	bobstephan59@me.com
Fry, Steve	Appalachian	fryfisherman@gmail.com
Douglas, Terry	Clinch River	terry@douglasflyrods.com
Greene, Sherrell	Overmountain	srgreene@protonmail.com
Young, Steve	Little River	steve_y@earthlink.net
Sells, Danny	Overmountain	
Garner, Rusty	Hiwassee	
King, Pearson	Hiwassee	
Boyd, Shawn	Hiwassee	
Buffington, Buzz	Clinch River	buzzflo@bellsouth.net
Blank-Lukenbill, Heather	Music City	
Ballard, Connor	Tenn Tech Univ	
Wright, Jeff	Overmountain/TU National	wrightjeff83@gmail.com

- Tony Gregg called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.
- The minutes of the 19 September 2021 council meeting were deferred until all participants have a chance to read them.
- Treasurer Bill Fuson could not be at the meeting, but provided the report appended below. Also, he says \$14,800 has been transferred to the TIC account and \$17,000, to the trout camp account, and the subsidy of \$2,500 for the position of Southeast regional volunteer coordinator has been paid. Steve Brown moved acceptance of the report; passed.
- Connor Ballard, a masters student at Tennessee Tech University, (ceballard42@tntech.edu) reported on the research he is doing, which studies and seeks to evaluate the reproduction contributions of stocked and wild rainbow trout in the Norris and Ft. Patrick Henry tailwaters. TWRA stocks one million trout in tailwaters every year, and natural reproduction is uncommon in hydro-peaking dams, such as those controlled by TVA.

The South Holston and Wilbur tailwaters support natural reproduction of brown trout, but they have been considered the exceptions. In 2018, while electroshocking to screen for whirling disease, TWRA discovered wild rainbow fry in the Clinch and Ft. Patrick Henry tailwaters. The studies were launched to (1) assess wild trout presence and (2) evaluate the contributions to spawning of wild and stocked fish. Ft. Patrick Henry receives ~20,000 trout per year, and is known for large, well-conditioned rainbow trout. The Norris tailwater is the most heavily stocked (and fished) in the state, with ~200,000 fingerlings and catchables per year. Wild fingerlings had been observed occasionally, but were thought to be a small contribution. All fingerlings since 2019 have been marked, and catchables in 2022 have been marked with fin clipping. A robust mark-recapture program has been designed, with three-day electroshocking two months apart. Preliminary conclusions are that much of the recruitment of catchable fish comes from wild fingerlings, rather than stocked fingerlings.

- Steve Young reported on the status of the 2022 John Thurman Smokey Mountains Trout Adventure Camp, June 20-25. There have been ~40 applications, and three girls and eleven boys accepted. They will be back in tents this year (indoor dormitories are not available this year); battery-powered fans were bought last year. There is not much change in the curriculum this year, but professional counselors from Maryville College (one man, one woman, with one more man needed) to assist with the campers overnight. Volunteers are still needed, including casting instructors Tuesday morning (contact Mike Givney if you are available).
- Sherrell Green reported on his work as climate change coordinator for TCTU. He has been serving on the NLC Climate Change Work Group with Mark Spangler, and has undertaken writing a plan for TCTU climate change activities, using the structure of the “Back the Brookie” campaign in Tennessee several years ago. His proposed plan will contain four stages: (1) Understand (2) Educate (3) Advocate and (4) Get Wet – execute projects to implement the plan. Each stage will have four components: (1) Objectives (2) Action Plan (3) Volunteers needed and (4) Budget. Guiding convictions and principles include climate change is not new – in fact, it is the norm over geologic time; it is location dependent; action should not be delayed by the debate over the proportion of human causation, but should be based on the best understanding of the problem; and TCTU is in a unique position to educate and to lead in the campaign. The goal is to bring together all Tennessee stakeholders and commit to action.
- Mark Spangler reported on his work on the NLC: he is a member of the New Initiatives work group and the Climate Change work group. The current task of the New Initiatives WG is to nominate grassroots trustee(s) for election at the national meeting. The Climate Change WG has divided into two sub-groups, education and advocacy. The WG has partnered with Climate Change Lobby, a non-profit advocating carbon taxation, but the relationship is not as yet well-defined nor developed. Mark met with Chris Wood recently, who said that the new infrastructure bill will provide a lot of dollars for conservation projects, and urged all chapters to look for suitable projects to get involved in.
- Frances moved, and Tony seconded, that Mark be elected to another one-year term as NLC so he can continue the work he is doing. The motion passed.
- Sherrell added that he has been talking to the SC, NC, and GA councils about climate change. None of the other councils have a dedicated climate change coordinator, but all are interested in the work he is doing
- Frances Oates reported that reports from last year's grants are due in June, and new applications are due soon after. She thanked Steve Fry for his prodigious work as grant chairman for the last few years, and showed an engraved fly box he will receive in appreciation.
- Pearson King (Hiwassee chapter) reported that the USFS has allowed the cutting of 2000 trees in the riparian zone of the North River in the Cherokee National Forest, spilling silt and tree residue into the North River and three tributary streams, and also depriving the river and streams of shade. The Southern Environmental Law Center is involved in the effort to stop this disaster. The Tellico Ranger is Stephanie Bland.

- Heather Blank-Lukenbill (Music City Vice president) reported that the Corps of Engineers is revising the Center Hill Water Control Manual of 1998. There has been no information about the proposed changes in releases, but the COE has a very poor record of managing coldwater fisheries to protect the fisheries, allowing low dissolved oxygen levels and insufficient minimum flows to maintain the fishery. Mark and Sherrell will attend a meeting next week concerning proposed changes, in support of the Music City chapter. TU will align our position with TWRA proposals. Mark has been in contact with numerous stakeholders, asking for their support.
- Clinch River chapter (Bob Stephan): April 30 Women on the Pond event; in-person program meetings again; TVA Tocoa event May 20; Wounded Warriors fishing trip May 26 on the Clinch; service partnership event on the Clinch May 14.
- Overmountain chapter (Ryan Turgeon): TIC release May 10 with 300 students, 17 TU members; kids fishing event today; 1-2 fishing trips per month; pint nights once a month; last program by fish hatchery; fund raiser coming up.
- Appalachian chapter (Steve Fry): Tellico cleanup postponed one week due to snow, so attendance only 90 (normally 180); 2nd annual Tellico Trout Festival was well attended – next year 3rd will be 1st Saturday in May; aquarium raised bumper crop of SABT this year – 400 stocked in Sugar Cove Branch, 800 in Citico wilderness next week. The Aquarium space will be available for the Council meeting next January.
- Hiwassee chapter (Rusty Garner): Fly Fishing 101 every 2nd Saturday; REEL trailer from TU grant now available; 100 calendars printed with tie-ins to local businesses as fund raiser.
- Little River chapter (Steve Young): very active spring; Pistol Creek cleanup teamed with Keep Blount Beautiful and Little River; nine school TIC releases; Maryville High School special needs class TIC release made national news; GSMNP projects getting started (IBIs, water sampling, brook trout sampling); stream barrier study in national forest; there are 700-800 water crossings in the GSMNP; live meetings all spring; picnic in July at River John's; newsletter is main communications for chapter.
- Summer council meeting will be August 13 by Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Brown, TCTU Secretary

Treasurer's Report - May 2022 Council Meeting

Account	Book Balance	Outstanding/P ending	Unfunded Commitment(s)	Net Available
Operating	\$ 17,685.17	\$ (53.86)		\$ 17,631.31
Conservation ¹	\$108,749.15	\$ 22,074.00	\$ (10,000.00)	\$ 120,823.15
Trout-in-the- Classroom	\$16,893.51			\$ 16,893.51
Thurman Trout Camp	\$23,024.61			\$ 23,024.61
Totals:	\$166,352.44	\$ 22,020.14	\$ (10,000.00)	\$ 178,372.58

¹Conservation account "outstanding/pending" is the quarterly distribution of license plate proceeds; "unfunded commitment(s)" is the 2nd part of the 2021 Grant to Little River for the Trout Mapping project in GSMNP.

All Chapters, and the Council's, Annual Activity Report(s) have been submitted through the TU website.