



# 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 July 26, 2014, at Middlebrook Pike United Methodist Church, 7234 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37909.**

**Chapters present:** Appalachian, Steve Fry; Clinch River, Steve Brown, Dick Geiger, Frances Oates, John Thurman; Cumberland, Dick Davis; Hiwassee, Don Denney; Great Smoky Mountain, George Lane, Rick Murphree; Little River, Mike Bryant; Overmountain, Ron Harrington.

**Chapters absent:** Cherokee, Delta.

The council meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Murphree. The minutes of the Feb. 1 meeting were approved as presented.

## **Chapter reports:**

\* Appalachian: Fry reported getting TVA and Forest Service funds for 300 T-shirts for the chapter's March cleanup; extra shirts will be used next year. The chapter meets at various places—January and July meetings were at Tennessee Aquarium; June, at the Eddie Bauer store; August, at a restaurant; September, at Rock Creek Outfitters. Cabela's, Gander Mountain and Bass Pro are all opening stores in the area, which might help the chapter raise funds. The chapter participates with Project Healing Waters in Nashville—they have plenty of volunteers and need more veterans.

\* Clinch River: Geiger reported a successful second annual Big Clinch River Cleanup, with 105 volunteers covering 4 miles of river and shoreline. A TVA grant funded most expenses including the opening breakfast at Museum of Appalachia. Chapter meetings have been drawing 25 to 40 people; Kids Fish Free Day was well attended; work continues with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boys & Girls Club of Oak Ridge and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing; and a Women on the Water event is planned for September as part of the women's initiative.

\* Cumberland: No report was available.

\* Great Smoky Mountain: Murphree reported the chapter is struggling, with few young members.

\* Hiwassee: Denney said the chapter had used a grant from license plate funds for a First Cast program at McMinn Central High School. Hiwassee also has several Trout in the Classroom programs, and students from Cleveland High School have removed more than 30 tires from Monument Creek.

\* Little River: Bryant said efforts in the last 18 months to reestablish the chapter are bearing fruit, with more than 30 now attending the monthly meetings. The chapter had been dragged down by demands of operating the former two-day Troutfest fundraiser benefiting fisheries programs in Great Smoky Mountains National Park; the event has been replaced by a banquet, which raised \$20,000 in 2014. Trout in the Classroom programs are starting in two schools this year. The chapter is involved with youth education, water sampling, didymo studies and genetic studies of brook trout.

\* Overmountain: Harrington said the chapter used a \$3,600 grant from license plate funds to study Dick and Rock creeks in Unicoi County in 2012-13. Both streams were too low in pH to support trout; now, TWRA is looking at streams in Greene County. The chapter raised \$4,611 for its general fund by soliciting member donations and holding a beer extravaganza at Thirsty Orange in Johnson City. Other projects include repairing a fish barrier in Hampton Creek; building a parking lot at Watauga Bluffs; a youth fishing event in August; and three cleanups, including one on the South Holston sponsored by Cracker Barrel that draws 500 to 600 volunteers. Overmountain meets every other month, holding skills events in the alternate months.

### **Financials:**

In the absence of Roger Hamiter, Lane presented a budget for the fiscal year Oct. 1, 2014, to Sept. 30, 2015; after discussion, the council agreed to budget a total of \$5,510 in recurring expenses as follows: national meeting (travel for representatives), \$2,000; state quarterly meetings (lunch and coffee), \$500; Southeast Regional meeting (chapter subsidies for participant registration), \$900; chairman travel (to visit chapters), \$500; liability insurance, \$110; office and stamps, \$250; telephone (conference calls), \$250; training meeting in fall 2015 (housing), \$1,000. An additional \$750 was budgeted for chapter development, for a total of \$6,260. Income for the year was expected to be \$6,877 (rebate funds from TU National).

### **Conservation license plate funds:**

Requirements were reviewed for reporting on funds from conservation license plates. Fry said Tennessee Chapter Grants from the plates were funded in October. A change in grant application deadlines was suggested to better align with deadlines for TU National's Embrace-A-Stream grants.

### **Great Smoky Mountains Trout Adventure Camp:**

Thurman reported that the fourth camp in June 2014 was a success. In 2015 the plan is to grow to 14 campers and encourage girls to apply (girls attended in 2012 and '13 but not in '14). Other suggestions for the council included paying for volunteers' room and board to encourage participation from around the state; continuing to subsidize tuitions to keep campers' cost under \$500; and budgeting about \$900 to buy waders.

On a motion by Denney, seconded by Harrington, the council unanimously approved continuing the camp in 2015 and supporting it with a budget of \$6,200 (\$4,700 from conservation license plate funds and \$1,500 from the council).

### **TVA funding of mitigation hatcheries:**

A motion was made by Lane, seconded by Harrington, to support a recommendation that TVA assume full responsibility for mitigation hatchery funding, but the motion was tabled until the matter could be discussed with Buzz Buffington and Allen Robbins, who serve on the working group regarding the hatcheries.

### **Clean Water Act:**

On a motion by Davis, seconded by Geiger, the council voted to support guidelines clarifying what waters are subject to the Clean Water Act (Lane abstained).

**TU annual meeting Sept. 3-7 in Santa Fe:**

On a motion by Lane, seconded by Denney, the council voted unanimously to provide \$1,000 in support of attendance by the council chair.

**Council nominees:**

Geiger reported he had sought nominees for council offices via emails and calls to the chapters; he secured nominees for chair and vice chair, but not for secretary and treasurer. Davis is term-limited for the National Leadership Council position; Brown agreed to serve on the NLC. Oates and Hamiter had asked to step down. Oates and Lane offered to serve as secretary and treasurer if no others agree to accept the positions.

On a motion by Lane, seconded by Fry, the council unanimously elected Geiger as chair, Bryant as vice chair and Brown as National Leadership Council representative, and voted to elect Oates and Lane as secretary and treasurer respectively.

**Other business:**

Fry said \$500 grants had been approved for all chapters working with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing to support their programs for disabled veterans, but Hamiter had declined to fund them, saying they didn't meet guidelines. Funding the grants from the council treasury had been suggested; Murphree said he will follow up on this idea.

On a motion by Denney, seconded by Harrington, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.