



# Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited

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 Secretary, Linda Good, [tlindagood@gmail.com](mailto:tlindagood@gmail.com)  
 Treasurer, Mark Spangler, [mspangler@charter.net](mailto:mspangler@charter.net)  
 National Leadership Council, Steve Brown, [wsbrown08@gmail.com](mailto:wsbrown08@gmail.com)

**Minutes of TN Council 2017 summer meeting held at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Norris, TN hosted by Clinch River Chapter.**

**Presiding: Mike Bryant, Chair (LR)**

**TOTAL NUMBER PRESENT: 27**

**COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT (Home Chapter in parentheses)**

Linda Good, Secretary (OM)	Y	Mark Spangler, Treasurer (LR)	Y
Steve Brown, NLC Rep. (CR)	Y	Mike Bryant, Chair (LR)	Y

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT (Home Chapters in parentheses)**

Frances Oates, Communications (CR)	Y	John Reinhardt, Youth (GMS)	Y
Lori Paris, Trout in the Classroom (CH)	Y	Steve Young, Trout Camp (LR)	Y
Steve Fry, Conservation (AP)	Y		

**CHAPTERS REPRESENTED (Other than Council Officers)**

CHAPTER	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
Appalachian	Mike May	<a href="mailto:mike_may@me.com">mike_may@me.com</a>	815.409.8327
	Steve Fry	<a href="mailto:frfisherman@gmail.com">frfisherman@gmail.com</a>	423.432.2210
	Jim Herrig	<a href="mailto:jimherrig@juno.com">jimherrig@juno.com</a>	423.303.9341
Cherokee	Charlie Webb	<a href="mailto:cwebb005@icloud.com">cwebb005@icloud.com</a>	401.375.4377
	Lori Paris	<a href="mailto:loriwebbparis@gmail.com">loriwebbparis@gmail.com</a>	423.956.4238
Clinch River	Dennis Baxter	<a href="mailto:dsbaxter1@live.com">dsbaxter1@live.com</a>	865.494.6337
	Dick Geiger	<a href="mailto:geiger3892@gmail.com">geiger3892@gmail.com</a>	865.599.2604
	Tony Gregg	<a href="mailto:tgregg@inbox.com">tgregg@inbox.com</a>	865.607.3785
	Jim Hendrickson	<a href="mailto:jdhknoxtn@aol.com">jdhknoxtn@aol.com</a>	865.771.2012
	Rusty Hallett	<a href="mailto:hallettrusty@gmail.com">hallettrusty@gmail.com</a>	858.227.1227
	John Thurman	<a href="mailto:johnthurman@comcast.net">johnthurman@comcast.net</a>	865.494.7771
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	Karen King	<a href="mailto:karenleaking@gmail.com">karenleaking@gmail.com</a>	615.509.7008
GSM	Lou Gauci	<a href="mailto:louisgauci24@gmail.com">louisgauci24@gmail.com</a>	865.219.1161
	Bruce McNiel	<a href="mailto:bmcniel@earthlink.net">bmcniel@earthlink.net</a>	952.807.2908
Hiwassee	Don Denny	<a href="mailto:dd37312@hotmail.com">dd37312@hotmail.com</a>	423.241.5873
Little River	Steve Young	<a href="mailto:steve_y@earthlink.net">steve_y@earthlink.net</a>	882.256.3228
	Ernest Frey	<a href="mailto:ernest.frey@comcast.net">ernest.frey@comcast.net</a>	865.403.2832
	Joyce Frey	<a href="mailto:jmfrey@comcast.net">jmfrey@comcast.net</a>	865.518.1975
Overmountain	Jeff Wright	<a href="mailto:overmountaintu@gmail.com">overmountaintu@gmail.com</a>	636.734.2055

**GUEST:** Travis Scott, TWRA (Appalachian) travis.scott@tn.gov 931.952.0967

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

The council meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Mike Bryant, Council Chair.

### OLD BUSINESS

After welcoming everyone and covering the agenda, Mike asked for self-introductions. The January 21, 2017 (Coldwater Meeting) minutes were unanimously approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mark Spangler, presented financial information in two parts: (1) License Plate funds and (2) Council General Fund report. Copies of the reports are included at the end of this document.

**License Plate (Conservation) Fund**—Mark reported that funds from the sale of license plates are received from the state of TN quarterly. The 2017 beginning balance was \$4,076 and the current balance is \$45,658.39. At this time last year, the 2016 balance was \$10,860.44. The 2016 total fund income was \$52K.

**Council (Operating Account) Fund**—the operating account fund current balance is \$10,860.44. The largest portion of this fund is sourced by TU National from membership fees of approximately \$5200, and is placed into the account each February. A projected 2017 expense includes \$2,000 for TU National meeting attendance in Roanoke.

Together the conservation and operating account funds have a current balance of \$56,518.83.

Mark also reported on the financial outcome of the **SE Regional Meeting** which comprised the largest YTD Council expense at \$2,224.88. He congratulated those who worked toward its success. Meeting sponsors (\$1,750); auctions (\$2,350); and t-shirt sales (\$340) contributed to the financial success. Chapter contributions of \$300 were received and ultimately refunded due to the meeting's financial success. Total revenue yielded \$5,240. Expenses included the t-shirts, fire wood, barbeque, posters, printing, and a few other miscellaneous items for a total of \$2,224.88. The remaining balance was \$3,015.12. With this, the Council decided to refund each chapter \$200 for their contribution to the success of the regional meeting; and \$1,800 was used from the regional meeting travel account to pay for travel expenses. All meeting sponsors have been sent thank-you emails.

Mike Bryant presented a history of the Council having taken on the responsibility for the meeting and congratulated John Reinhardt for his procurement of sponsors and to Mark

Spangler who was responsible for the auction. These two activities allowed us to come out financially whole.

Mark also reported that an honorary contribution had been sent to the family of Cherokee Chapter member Allen Robbins who passed away recently. A note of gratitude from Allen's family was passed to those in attendance.

The 2018 Council budget will be presented at the fall meeting.

(While those in attendance had no question with Mark's financial report, it was not formally approved by motion, second and vote.)

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

*NLC Representative:* The NLC representative position was currently up for election. Steve Brown was unanimously approved to continue as Tennessee's NLC representative.

*Council Officer Positions:* Mike cited that in the summer of 2018, new officers would be elected. He announced that Linda Good is leaving the secretary position and that the Council Chair position will also be open. Steve Brown suggested approaching Charlie Chmielewski (GSM & LR) to fill the vacancy of Vice Chair; and Jim Herrig (Appalachian) volunteered to fill the position of Council Secretary effective at the fall Council meeting. Recent history of Council leadership was reviewed by Mike.

*Council Reimbursement Guidelines:* Mike stated that guidelines will be announced at the fall meeting.

*Conservation Fund Distribution:* Mike reviewed the current distribution of the conservation fund and its approximate 10-year history. The State Auditor requires a report of the distribution of funds by September 30, 2017. A prospective issue concerns the balance in the total fund that is not being utilized. The original agreement stipulated that the Council receives 60% of the funds for distribution to seven Chapters, and the remaining 40% is held by the Cumberland Chapter. There are no current written or approved project requests in place for the Cumberland Chapter use of the funds. Mike announced that it is time to revisit how we are implementing the distribution. He asked that a committee be formed to review the use of the resource and bring a recommendation on how funds should be used and distributed prior to the fall 2017 Council meeting. He stated a goal for the committee to recommend how to look at the issue from a broader perspective. Discussion included the make-up of the committee and some guidelines for its activity. Some of these suggestions were (1) a recommendation to have the members who originated the agreement to be involved; (2) that communication from the committee be sent to the TN Chapter members as they formed their recommendation; (3) that the committee address the legal aspects of distribution using the original documents for reference prior to involving the originators; (4) that a summary of the decision making process and the decision be posted on the Council web site. Further discussion concerning the make-up of the committee took place. Perceived inequity of the

distribution continued as a part of the conversation. Mike asked for one person from each chapter to be on the committee. Volunteers for the committee from those in attendance included Bruce McNiel (GSM), Jeff Wright (OM), Dick Geiger(CR), Ernie Fry (LR), Steve Young (LR), Lori Parris (Cherokee), Karen King (Cumberland), Mark Spangler (LR), Jim Herring (Appalachian), Steve Fry (Appalachian) and Dennis Baxter (CR). Mike Bryant will chair the committee.

In the end, Mike asked for two separately sourced activities: (1) The multi-chapter committee to document and present future conservation funds distribution to include how and where future funds are to be used prior to the fall Council meeting (October 31); (2) Additionally, Mike requested that the Cumberland Chapter share a Cumberland Chapter board-approved detailed plan for the use of current funds allocated to the chapter by mid-October (October 15). After input from these two sources has been received, the Council is responsible to make the decision on the distribution plan.

*Acquatic Nuisance Species (ANS):* Travis Scott from TWRA reported on Aquatic Nuisance Species efforts. His presentation is included at the end of this document. Whirling disease and gill lice (affects the fish directly not the habitat) are being found in our waters as well as didymo (affects the habitat not the fish directly). TWRA partnered with Tellico High school to install wader cleaning stations on the Tellico River and would like to expand the project. Whirling disease has been found in the feeder streams to the Watauga River on the NC side. Gill lice have also been found in NC on the Cullasaja, Watauga and Pigeon rivers. It is spread by anglers, kayakers, and boaters. Some gill lice could be coming from hatchery fish. An instance of gill lice has been noted at Blackberry Farm near the National Park. Fish cannot be moved from one stream to another without a TWRA permit. TWRA funded a seasonal intern from Tellico to research and make inroads into the impact of ANS. She has made presentations to canoe and kayak clubs to inform them of the issues and solutions. Recommendations to thwart the spread are “Clean, Drain, & Dry” all gear used in the water. LR and Hiwassee TU Chapters have partnered to provide wading stations. The gear-cleaning stations are not pet-friendly; so it is recommended to have them at businesses where someone can maintain them on a regular basis. The solution must be replaced every 7 days. Little River Outfitters has a station. TWRA is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to place get them on the Caney Fork river—but ran into the issue of no “eyes-on-the station” at remote sites. The recommended alternative is to have the Chapters provide volunteers on a specific Saturday to inform people using the rivers of the “Clean, Drain, & Dry” necessity. Travis stated that TWRA needs help in the form of work days and assistance in distributing education. Portable stations were suggested for special events—a sprayer and sign could be used, for instance. Additional suggestions included (1) getting more information out concerning the maintenance of the stations; (2) the possibility of using conservation funds for this effort since it includes both conservation and education; and (3) high school students be used for partnering in the effort. Travis stated TWRA has the funding, but needs volunteers. Bart Carter is the point of contact in TWRA Region 4. Mike Bryant asked for a volunteer from TN to be the point person for this effort. There were no volunteers from those in attendance.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**Conservation:** Steve Fry, (Appalachian) Conservation Committee Chair, discussed current grants and asked for assurance from representatives in attendance from CR, GSM, and Hiwassee Chapters that they were not asking for funds. Steve discussed the tasks of the current grants—one being Trout in the Classroom (TIC). He cited that several years ago, monies from the grant fund were giving to TIC in addition to the Chapter requests. A grant to the TN Council will fund state-wide research concerning Brook Trout DNA partnering with the TN Aquarium, TWRA and the Forest Service. These three organizations are equally funding the research @\$10K. TWRA has collected samples and is contracting the research out to a 4<sup>th</sup> party. The research is taking place primarily in the OM and Cherokee Chapters' geography at Little Stoney Creek, a feeder stream into Watauga Lake.

Guidelines for conservation projects were requested and have already been made available to Chapters. Frances Oates volunteered to be sure the guidelines are posted on the Council web site. Ernie Fry (LR) suggested that TIC be the recipient of the primary source of conservation funds. This suggestion received no further discussion. Steve Fry requested volunteers for a conservation fund committee. Ernie Fry (LR) and Steve Young (LR) volunteered to help Steve. It was suggested that funding for Trout Camp should be included (A discussion concerning Trout Camp and funding took place later in the meeting.)

**Women's Initiative:** In Melissa Harrell's (Chair) absence, Linda Good (OM) covered the recent OMTU Women's Clinic which provided \$690 for a girl to go to the 2018 Trout Camp. The Clinic was a two-day event on the South Holston River. Linda cited that volunteers from Clinch River Chapter and Overmountain were a crucial, and much appreciated part of the clinic's success. A video was shown depicting the participants and activities in the clinic. Television coverage was provided by WJHL, the local Johnson City CBS affiliate. Memberships for the participants will be offered by the Overmountain Chapter.

**Trout Camp (TC):** Steve Young (LR) Chair, presented a review of the 2017 TC. The 2017 and 2018 TC is included at the end of this document. Steve requested more female attendance, and recommended getting girls from Girl Scouts, TIC, and schools. Steve talked about individual campers and the positive impact on the kids. All the participants caught fish and also helped in a Park Service conservation project. Forty volunteers from six Tennessee chapters volunteered and were highly appreciated. Counselors who sleep in the tents with the campers are a pivotal resource. The goal of the camp is to enable the participants to fish independently. These participants usually turn out to work in conservation activities and also become chapter members. There is a maintenance issue with the rods and reels and additional fly lines are needed. A STEM class in Knoxville has set up the web site: [www.tntroutadventure.org](http://www.tntroutadventure.org). The Facebook page name is "Great Smoky Mountain Trout Adventure Camp." Each day during the camp the FB page is updated primarily for parents. Steve asked for tiers to tie 14 flies to contribute to the 2018

camp. Dick Geiger (CR) will be the point person to gather the flies. Swag is given including gift certificates, flies, etc. The income comes from tuition (\$525 per camper). Tremont charges \$595 for each camper; therefore, there is a need for Council and chapter support. The 2018 budget is estimated at \$15,175 expenses with a budgeted \$14,360 income. Currently there is a balance of \$2288.56 in the Trout Camp fund. Steve closed by asking for additional volunteers. A motion to fund the Trout Camp at the requested \$7,000 was unanimously approved.

**SE Regional Meeting:** John Reinhardt (GSM) gave a review of the April, 2017 meeting which was sponsored by the TN Council. Attendance included approximately 100 people from 15 states. 120 attended the Saturday evening barbecue. John presented feedback from an attendee survey which showed high ratings of the meeting. (John's presentation is included at the end of this document.) The two science presentations were the two most highly rated workshops.

**TIC:** Lori Paris (Cherokee) Chair, announced that the TN Fire Marshall has required that the insulation be removed from the sides of the tanks at some TIC installations. She asks chapters to notify their TIC installations who have received the fire marshal comments concerning the insulation to contact her directly. ([loriwebbparis@gmail.com](mailto:loriwebbparis@gmail.com)) Lori reported some missing equipment. Travis Scott, (TWRA) asked that TWRA receive more notice concerning hatchery tours and streambank releases.

**Communications:** Frances Oates (CR) Chair, asked for help in the Communications area. She suggested that we consider having our own email distribution through Mail Chimp (also used by CR) rather than using TU National's data base which is often incorrect. This would require that each chapter get an accurate email address from each member. Each chapter membership chair is requested to submit correct email addresses. There is a charge of over 2,000 members and Mail Chimp provides statistics concerning the communications. Steve Brown (CR) suggested that each membership chair "clean up" the membership rosters through phone calls, FB, and email. A motion to transfer emails to Mail Chimp was unanimously approved.

**National Leadership Council (NLC):** Steve Brown (CR) covered items from NLC conference calls. He reported that there is a new policy on litigation stating requirements for chapters involved in litigation. At the National meeting in September, four grassroots trustees will be voted on. They are Tom Jones, Jeff Witten, Kerri Russell, and Howard Kern who is being nominated to continue past his term in order to chair a committee. A new "how to" concerning Five Rivers chapters pamphlet is available on line. Each TU chapter must be re-chartered every 4 years; and this September at the National meeting, all the chapters will be re-chartered at the same time. A recommendation on how to re-charter each of the eight Tennessee Chapters prior to the National meeting is necessary. (It could be completed via email.) Steve chairs a Communications Committee for the NLC. This committee is creating a survey of how councils and chapters perform their communications. The survey will go to chapter presidents who are asked to share it with

their boards to get some useful information. The information will be gathered and best practices will be shared with all the chapters. We are finding that some important communications are not received by membership. Steve concluded with a brief summary of NLC responsibilities.

**Financial Oversight:** Mike Bryant presented the Council and Chapter Financial Oversight Policy which includes that each Chapter and Council needs to have more than one chapter or council officer to periodically review each of the chapter's or council's bank account records. The specific requirements are included at the end of this document.

**Chapter Reports:** After a break for lunch, a few of the chapters shared information.

**Little River:** Ernie Fry announced that following a meeting in which Walter Babb presented to the chapter, his live presentation was recorded into a Facebook event. This received accolades for the effort and for Walter's presentation.

**GSM:** John Reinhardt announced "The Battle of Gatlinburg" to be held at the end of September (at the same time of the National meeting). He also reported that the two members of the University of Tennessee Five Rivers chapter were chosen along with three other Five Rivers representatives to participate in an eight-week trip visiting ten states.

**CR:** Rusty Hallett (CR) reported that he will participate in a "train the trainers" event hosted by Project Healing Waters in Sun Valley, Idaho in late September.

#### SUMMARY OF UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Description	Made By	Seconded By
Approval of previous meeting minutes	John Reinhardt	Ernest Fry
Steve Brown for NLC position	Steve Young	Ernest Fry
Approval of \$7,000 contribution to fund 2018 Trout Camp	Dick Geiger	Steve Brown
Transfer of email address to Mail Chimp	Steve Young	Ernest Fry

#### ACTION ITEMS INITIATED

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE DATE
Preparation of Reimbursement Guidelines	Mike Bryant	Fall meeting
Preparation of 2018 budget	Mark Spangler	Fall meeting
TWRA Trout Management Plan Input	Linda Good	August 15
Point Person to be named for ANS project follow-up	Mike Bryant	Fall meeting

Ensure posting of Conservation Fund Grant Requirements get posted to the Council web site	Frances Oates	Fall meeting
Chapter membership chairs to gather accurate email addresses and get them to Frances Oates	Chapter presidents	Fall meeting
Provide information on Mail Chimp cost	Frances Oates	Fall meeting
Recommendations for Chapter re-chartering	Steve Brown	Prior to fall meeting
Document and present future Conservation funds distribution to include how and where future funds are to be used.	Newly-formed committee chaired by Mike Bryant (members listed in notes)	October 31
Document Cumberland Chapter board-approved plans for use of current Conservation funds delivered to Mike Bryant.	Cumberland Chapter Board (Mike Dow)	October 15

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Attachments include:

Financials: Operating, Conservation, and SE Regional Meeting Reports

TWRA ANS presentation

Southeast Regional Meeting Survey Review

Trout Camp 2017 – 2018 Budget

Chapter Financial Oversight Policy