



# 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 August 8, 2015, at South Holston River Ruritan Pavilion, Bristol, TN hosted by Overmountain Chapter.**

**PRESIDING: Dick Geiger, Chair (CR)**

**TOTAL NUMBER PRESENT: 17**

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

|                              |     |                                    |     |
|------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|-----|
| Mike Bryant, Vice Chair (LR) | no  | George Lane, Treasurer (GSM)       | yes |
| Linda Good, Secretary (OM)   | yes | Don Denney, Web (Hiawassee)        | 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           | <a href="mailto:fryfisherman@gmail.com">fryfisherman@gmail.com</a>       | 423-538-6664 |
| Cherokee     | Gary Garrison       | <a href="mailto:sugarret@charter.net">sugarret@charter.net</a>           | 423-930-3212 |
|              | Bob Ross            | <a href="mailto:dbross00@embarqmail.com">dbross00@embarqmail.com</a>     | 423-638-1940 |
|              | Wm. Butch Clendenon | <a href="mailto:wfclen@comcast.net">wfclen@comcast.net</a>               | 423-639-8553 |
| Clinch River |                     |  |              |
| Cumberland*  |                     |  |              |
| GSM          |                     |  |              |
| Hiwassee     |                     |  |              |
| Little River | Mark Spangler       | <a href="mailto:mbspangler@charter.net">mbspangler@charter.net</a>       | 865-250-0764 |
| Overmountain | Taylor Joyce        | <a href="mailto:joycet@goldmail.etsu.edu">joycet@goldmail.etsu.edu</a>   | 704-692-0008 |
|              | Dennis Scheer       | <a href="mailto:scheer.dennis@gmail.com">scheer.dennis@gmail.com</a>     | 423-472-0477 |
|              | Gary Barrigar       | <a href="mailto:barrigargn@embarqmail.com">barrigargn@embarqmail.com</a> | 423-543-7576 |
|              | Shannon O'Quinn     | <a href="mailto:tsoquinn@hotmail.com">tsoquinn@hotmail.com</a>           | 423-383-5014 |
|              | John Dollard        | <a href="mailto:jrdollard@charter.net">jrdollard@charter.net</a>         | 423-737-1893 |

\*Cumberland Chapter not represented.

**GUESTS:** Don Littrell, Project Healing Waters; (Healing Waters also represented by Overmountain Chapter member, John Dollard.)

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

The council meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Dick Geiger, Council Chair.

Dick thanked Overmountain Chapter for hosting. He announced a plan to rotate Council meetings among chapter geographic locations so that more members can attend as well as include Council members in local projects.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

March Meetings were approved. Motion by Don Denney; seconded by Steve Brown.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

**License Plate Fund**—a copy of the report is attached as page 7. Total receipts from the fund equal \$49,156.14 (about 2800 plates). George Lane reported the Cumberland Chapter is using their conservation funds on a cooperative project with TWRA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform laser mapping of the Caney Fork hoping to identify ideal trout habitat for later identification of conservation projects. George asked for a motion to fund next year's Trout Adventure Camp at \$6800 from conservation funds. A motion was made by Don Denney, seconded by Gary Barrigar, and passed with unanimous approval. George reported that with this expenditure, the remaining balance for conservation projects would be approximately \$25,000. The Council will receive another distribution from the state before the end of the 2014-2015 calendar year (4Q 2015) which will occur after the Council fiscal year. Questions were asked and discussion held concerning the process of laser mapping. The subject was tabled as answers are expected by those involved in the Caney Fork Project at the Cold Water meeting scheduled next February. It was suggested that Cumberland Chapter and TWRA make a presentation concerning the mapping at the Coldwater meeting.

**Council Operating Expenses**—a copy of the report is attached as page 8. The current balance of funds in the Council account equals \$11,342.05. George announced that the Council is funding \$100 for Council meeting attendance expenses and asked that each chapter represented receive a check before departing the meeting. George gave an overview of 2014-2015 budgeted expenses compared to current expenditures. In his summary statement, George cited that while last year the budget was passed for \$7,000, currently approximately half of that amount has been spent. National rebates for memberships have increased our accumulation of monies. Funds previously earmarked for conservation projects came out of the Council fund and now they have come out of the Conservation Projects Fund (license plates). This has enhanced the Council fund amount compared to previous years. Discussion was held concerning budgeted monies for west TN membership development due to the fact that 600 members in the state are located geographically west of Nashville and need to be kept informed of the activities of other chapters and decisions by the Council.

A proposed budget for September 2015 – August 2016 was discussed. Line items in the 2014-2015 budget which were not spent were discussed and proposed as line items in the 2015-2016 budget, including a Leadership Training meeting.

Don Denney moved to approve budget (including \$6800 for Trout Camp which is a separate account); seconded by Gary Barrigar. The motion was unanimously approved. The 2015-16 Approved Budget is attached as Page 9.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**Conservation Committee:** Gary Barrigar and Mark Spangler accepted positions on the Conservation Committee. Steve Fry, Chairman of the Conservation Committee, reported grant applications for conservation funds for the Hiwassee Chapter in the amount of \$2,670 for their continuation of a Brook Trout restoration project; for Appalachian Chapter for their hatchery project at TN Aquarium of \$7,000; for Cherokee Chapter \$10,050 Trout in the Classroom (TIC) projects which now cover other chapters. Steve stated that the Cherokee Chapter's request for funds exceeds the \$10,000 cap and will need to be separated into two requests. This should not be an issue since Lori Parris, TIC Coordinator for Cherokee Chapter, has used chapter funds to assist in developing TIC programs with other chapters. Overmountain has not yet requested funds but Steve Fry indicated grant applications will still be accepted. George Lane stated that GSM will submit requests for two TIC projects. Dick Geiger asked that GSM spend their current balance of \$1800 before requesting additional funds. Dick also reminded everyone to submit their status or final reports to Steve Fry stating how the funds were spent so that the Council can track expenditures for audit purposes.

**Legislative Actions:** Dick Geiger reported that TN HB 442 was taken off the legislative calendar. TN TU's letter writing campaign likely contributed to the bill being removed from the calendar.

Currently US Senate bill S.755 would reallocate 20,000 acres in the Cherokee National Forest to a wilderness area. Senators Alexander and Corker co-sponsored the legislation, but it needs support from Phil Roe and Chuck Fleischmann in the House. There were questions concerning the definition of "wilderness area." It was reported that wilderness area rules disallow chain saws, roads, and some other protections; however enforcement of the rules has been lax in other areas that have received the designation. The Cherokee National Forest is supporting it. Gary Barrigar mentioned that areas which are close but not within the designated wilderness areas, loggers can work very close to streams.

### **National Leadership Council:**

Steve Brown cited that there is a new policy statement originated from the National Board of Trustees (BOT) concerning fiscal responsibility due to reported embezzlement. The BOT is asking for two signatures for checks over a \$500 limit. (TN Council requires dual signatures on checks over \$200.) Also, they are stressing that we have term limits for officers that are enforced. Steve reported that the NLC is considering minor revisions of national by laws to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. There is an expectation that a committee will be formed whose purpose is to improve communications through the

organizational hierarchy from the Board through councils, chapter, and members. Steve will most likely be involved in this committee. He offered to send documents concerning the working groups and committees to anyone who is interested. There is ongoing discussion concerning the formation of a Tailwaters Working Group (which may be called the Water Quality WG). Because of the number of tailwaters in TN and the successes TVA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with tailwater challenges, Dick Geiger suggested TN TU be represented if a Tailwaters/Water Quality WG is formed. He indicated that any TU member—or non-member with appropriate expertise—can serve on a WG.

Dick Geiger called for the election of the TN NLC representative since the current term is ending. Bob Ross' nomination to retain Steve Brown as the TN NLC representative for 2015-2016 was unanimously approved.

Dick Geiger reminded everyone about the annual meeting in Scranton, PA from September 16 – 20. There are funds to partially cover travel/lodging expenses for anyone who attends.

### **Chapter Reports:**

**Appalachian:** Steve Fry reporting. The previous chapter meeting was held in a new location due to the Chattanooga shooting; 20 members present. Jim Herrig, National Forest Service, will present at the next meeting 3rd Thursday of each month. A multi-chapter supported Annual Brook Trout Survey on Sycamore Creek is scheduled for August 29.

**Clinch River:** Steve Brown reporting. The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Clinch River clean-up had 106 volunteers. Partnership with TVA and TWRA were cited as very important as well as members of the community who are not TU members.

**Overmountain:** Gary Barrigar reporting. The Watauga Bluff State Natural area project has been a great success. Partnerships included TDEC, TVA, and TWRA. (OMTU did not spend \$ but provided volunteer work.) A dedication of the area which offers a great access to fishing the Watauga below the Ledges, occurred on April 11 and included participation of local guides who picked up large debris such as tires in their boats. This effort was done in memory of Bill Beazel, long-time member of Overmountain. The “Thirsty Orange” fund raiser allowed local craft beers to sell and exhibit their beers. OMTU provided the facilitation of licensing for the event and received \$3741 as a result licensing allowance and ticket sales. According to the most recent project work on Hampton Creek, Brook Trout population reportedly down (most likely due to high water events). Trail clearing of new Natural Area on the Watauga took place last week. August 29 is scheduled as a “Buddy fishing” day event. The chapter is looking for stream projects and is interested in conducting a Youth Camp.

**Little River:** Mark Spangler reporting. Mark reported about the Lynn Camp biomass improvement reported and fishing reports are good. He commented on the fact that the

Youth Trout Camp was well organized and well received due to good planning and organization on the part of many volunteers and especially John Thurman, coordinator.

**GSM:** George Lane reporting. GSM is holding joint meetings with LRO and Clinch River during the summer. Plans are in place to complete two TIC projects. John Reinhardt is now serving as chapter president.

**Hiwassee:** Don Denney reporting. Don stated that the chapter's TIC coordinator has several projects and Don will be coordinating his first TIC project this fall. The chapter is involved with several conservation organizations on a Blue way project. (Blue Way is like a Green way for paddlers.)

**Cherokee:** Bob Ross reporting. Bob cited that the chapter's biggest event is kids fishing day on Dillard Ponds. This area has yielded a continuing project of improvements and accessibility in the Cherokee National Forest. Bob reported that Lori Parris has gotten involved in everyone's TIC and is congratulated for her continued service in this role. Chapter sponsored Fly Fishing classes and rod building classes are well attended. Bob reported a conservation project in Cherokee National Forest on Sawmill Branch. The chapter won a contest that allowed free showing of National Film festival at Holston River Brewery in March which was a great success relative to publicity and participation.

**Other New Business:**

Shannon O'Quinn, Overmountain Chapter member and TVA employee, reported on a TVA biodiversity meeting that was held last week in which several coldwater organizations were involved. Shannon reported that the meeting yielded an effort to create leadership to celebrate conservation successes completed by specific conservation organizations. Shannon suggested awards be given by the TN Council for successful Chapter projects. He reasoned that this would give chapters incentives and also communicate the successes; plus the monies awarded could go toward further conservation projects. (Dick Geiger suggested this matter be taken up by the Council executive committee.)

**SUMMARY OF UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS**

| <b>Description</b>   | <b>Made By</b> | <b>Seconded By</b> |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| Approval of March meeting minutes  | Steve Brown    | Don Denney         |
| Approval of Financial Report including 2015-16 Budget earmarking \$ from conservation project funds (license plate) for 2016 Trout Camp. | Don Denney     | Gary Barrigar      |
| Nomination of Steve Brown as TN NLC rep  | Bob Ross       | (not required)     |

**ACTION ITEMS INITIATED**

| <b>ITEM</b>  | <b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>  | <b>DUE DATE</b> |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Presentation by TWRA/Cumberland Chapter at Coldwater meeting   | TWRA/Cumberland Chapter  |                 |
| Next Council Meeting location  | Appalachian Chapter/Fry  |                 |
| Council discussion of Shannon O'Quinn's idea concerning Council awards to Chapters for successful Conservation projects. | Dick Geiger (placement on next Council Executive committee meeting agenda) |                 |

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 when participants departed to attend the South Holston Lake and River Clean up barbeque at Observation Knob at the South Holston Dam. A future meeting date was not announced at this time.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:****Approved Budget for 2014-15**

| <b>Recurring Operating Expenses</b> |  |         |                |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------|----------------|
| National meeting                    | Participants' travel   | 2000.00 |                |
| State quarterly meetings            | Lunch and coffee   | 600.00  |                |
| Southeast Regional Meeting          | Subsidies: \$200 per chapter=\$1,600; \$400 for council                                | 2000.00 |                |
| Chairman travel                     | Visit chapters   | 500.00  |                |
| Liability insurance                 |  | 110.00  |                |
| Administration                      | Office, stamps, website  | 250.00  |                |
| Telephone                           | Conference calls   | 250.00  |                |
| Trout camp                          | Additional \$4,700 funded from license plate moneys for a total camp budget of \$6,200 | 1500.00 |                |
| <b>Total recurring</b>              |  |         | <b>7210.00</b> |
| <b>Other Expenses</b>               |  |         |                |
| Training event                      | All-chapter gathering  | 1000.00 |                |
| Chapter development                 | Memphis field day  | 750.00  |                |
| <b>Total other expenses</b>         |  |         | <b>1750.00</b> |
| <b>Total budget</b>                 |  |         | <b>8960.00</b> |

PDF copies of Financial Reports follow as pages 7 & 8 of this document. The reports consist of (1) License Plate funds transactions since October 1, 2014 and (2) Council operating expenses.