



# Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited

Chairman, Mike Bryant, [mjbryant1954@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com)  
 Secretary, Jim Herrig, [jimherrig@juno.com](mailto:jimherrig@juno.com)  
 Treasurer, Mark Spangler, [m.spangler@charter.net](mailto:m.spangler@charter.net)  
 National Leadership Council, Steve Brown, [wsbrown08@gmail.com](mailto:wsbrown08@gmail.com)

## Minutes of Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited

Saturday, Aug 18, 2018 (9:30 to 2:00 cst) at the Fairfield Glade Community and Conference Center, 128 Stonehenge Drive, Crossville, TN

**PRESIDING: Mike Bryant, Chairman (LR)**

**TOTAL NUMBER PRESENT: 21**

### COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT (Home Chapters in parentheses)

Mike Bryant, Chairman (LR)	Y	Jim Herrig, Secretary (AP)	Y
Steve Brown, NLC Representative (CR)	Y	Mark Spangler, Treasurer (LR)	

### COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT (Home Chapters in parentheses)

John Reinhardt, 5 Rivers (GSM)	N	Steve Fry, Conservation (AP)	Y
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### CHAPTER and AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

CHAPTER/AGENCY	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
Appalachian Chapter	Steve Fry	<a href="mailto:fryfisherman@gmail.com">fryfisherman@gmail.com</a>
	Jim Herrig	<a href="mailto:jimherrig@juno.com">jimherrig@juno.com</a>
Cherokee Chapter	Jon Jensvold	<a href="mailto:jonjensvold@aol.com">jonjensvold@aol.com</a>
Clinch River Chapter	Steve Brown	<a href="mailto:wsbrown08@gmail.com">wsbrown08@gmail.com</a>
	Tony Gregg	<a href="mailto:tgreeg@inbox.com">tgreeg@inbox.com</a>
	Frances Oates	<a href="mailto:franceshoates@gmail.com">franceshoates@gmail.com</a>
Great Smoky Mountains Chapter	Bernardo Rico	<a href="mailto:bnrico40@gmail.com">bnrico40@gmail.com</a>
	Jack Hammond	<a href="mailto:ugjackh@comcast.net">ugjackh@comcast.net</a>
	Chuck Taylor	<a href="mailto:chucktaylor@gmail.com">chucktaylor@gmail.com</a>
	Terry Whitney	<a href="mailto:twhitney47@gmail.com">twhitney47@gmail.com</a>
	Ray Brigance	<a href="mailto:rlbrigance@yahoo.com">rlbrigance@yahoo.com</a>
	Don Hazel	<a href="mailto:don.hazel@gmail.com">don.hazel@gmail.com</a>
Hiwassee Chapter		
Little River Chapter	Ernest Frey	<a href="mailto:ernest.frey@comcast.net">ernest.frey@comcast.net</a>
	Mike Bryant	<a href="mailto:mjbryant1954@hotmail.com">mjbryant1954@hotmail.com</a>
	Mark Spangler	<a href="mailto:m.spangler@charter.net">m.spangler@charter.net</a>
	Joyce Frey	<a href="mailto:jmfrey@comcast.com">jmfrey@comcast.com</a>
Music City	Blake Parsons	<a href="mailto:blakeparsons1@gmail.com">blakeparsons1@gmail.com</a>
	Bill Fuson	<a href="mailto:wlfuson@gmail.com">wlfuson@gmail.com</a>
Overmountain Chapter	Jeff Wright	<a href="mailto:overmountaintu@gmail.com">overmountaintu@gmail.com</a>
	Mike Ginney	<a href="mailto:mikeginney@gmail.com">mikeginney@gmail.com</a>
	Sean Fagan	<a href="mailto:sp220f@aol.com">sp220f@aol.com</a>

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

The council meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Mike Bryant, Council Chair.

### OLD BUSINESS

After welcoming everyone, covering the agenda, and thanking Bernardo for setting up the meeting at Fairfield Glade, Mike asked for self-introductions.

A motion was made by Steve Brown to approve the minutes from the previous meeting (2/10/2018) and was seconded by Ernie Frey. Motion was approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mark Spangler presented the proposed budget (see Attachment 1) A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Ernie Frey and seconded by Tony Gregg. The motion was approved.

### COUNCIL AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE ELECTIONS:

The following nominees were presented and unanimously elected.

- Chair – Frances Oates
- Vice-Chair – to be determined
- Secretary – Jim Herrig
- Treasurer – Mark Spangler
- NLC Representative – Steve Brown

### VOLUNTEERS – VICE CHAIR, COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR, and NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER

Volunteers are needed to fill these positions.

The Communications Chair is responsible for the Council webpage (need to add a donation box to the webpage and to Amazon) and new releases.

The National Leadership Committee member – Steve Brown will finish his term in 2019. The NLC member participates in the following:

- Planning national campaigns
- Establishing conservation agenda
- Fomenting ideas for expanding TU

See URL for full position description

(<https://www.tu.org/file/nationalleadershipcouncilmanual2017vspdf>)

### SOUTH HOLSTON RIVER ACCESS

Jeff Wright asked that the above topic be discussed during this TU Council meeting.

Unfortunately, the topic was overlooked and not discussed. Jeff provided the following notes:

“I realized after we left the meeting that I did not mention anything about the South Holston River access like I said I was going to. We still might contact the Access Working Group to get their opinion and see if a higher level of TU would be interested but have not done so yet.

For the past 2 years we have had a small number of landowners claiming property rights to the river midline but have not seen any issues outside of this one location. Recently, a chapter member was confronted by the local property manager while in the river. Apparently, these two had a heated conversation but the chapter member continued to work his way through the section. He was then met by a Sullivan County Sheriff's Deputy who suggested he move past the property line as quickly as possible.

So, the question becomes, is this legal for a landowner to do? This revolves around the definition of navigable vs. non-navigable waterways. If you begin to look around at relevant documents or enforcement agencies, you are greeted by a variety of opinion on what the law says. In the past week, we were finally able to link up with an attorney to have them look over relevant case law to see if they could make sense of it. This individual confirmed that, according to Acts of Tennessee 1899 chapter 118, the South Holston River upstream from Bluff City is classified as a non-navigable river, meaning property owners can own the river bottom. He was going to have a couple other lawyer friends look it over to confirm but no one has found anything that supersedes this.

The OMTU board agreed that we are going to work to better inform our membership about the current situation and provide them with the best information available. Part of this will be confirming legal property descriptions to make sure these individuals do own the river bottom. Beyond that, we are not going to pursue any formal chapter action to modify the designation of the river. Action at this level would be extremely costly in both time and money and would take us away from the conservation mission we want to focus on.

How does this affect your chapter? Well, the majority of rivers in Tennessee do not have a formal designation. You can find a list of the ones with a designation at the end of [the "State Test of Navigability" section here](#). As more individuals purchase land on rivers for outdoor recreation, I believe we will see these same issues pop up across the state and potentially see court cases to determine what right the public has to access state waterways. Feel free to let me know if you have any questions and I'll answer to the best of my abilities.”

### **NASHVILLE AREA CHAPTER PLANNING**

Blake Parsons, Music City Chapter President, gave the following notes on progress in forming a new chapter in the Nashville area:

- Chapter name will be Music City
- TU needs a centralized voice for the Caney Fork
- A Board of Directors has been set up
- Hope to have kick-off this fall
- Over 640 members are possible
- Issues that unite the membership:
  - Need for a minimum flow in the Caney Fork
  - Striper incursions into the Caney Fork
  - Working with Corps of Engineers and TWRA

Steve Brown agreed to send Blake a copy of potential by-laws; TU Council needs to continue its efforts to establish additional chapters in central Tennessee.

Update (9/5/2018) on the Music City chapter was provided by Jeff Yates:

“All set with an EIN from the IRS – your chapter EIN is 83-1799324. Here are your EIN letter from the IRS, TU’s tax exempt status determination letter and a letter of chapter in good standing. Those are typically the documents you’ll need to establish a bank account for the chapter. Let me know if your bank requires anything else. I have asked our IT team to add your chapter to the “Leaders Only” section which will give your board members access to download chapter rosters, email chapter members, file financial reports and a slew of other tools. Stay tuned and I will email your entire board once we have that setup and they can start using the tools. For your board members, this [TU Volunteer Leadership Manual](#), may be a good document for a pre-read prior to your board meeting. I know it’s quite long, but it is comprehensive and offers a great overview of the roles, responsibilities and functions of a chapter and council. Looking forward to working with all of you!”

### **NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE – CONSERVATION AWARD (GARY BARRINGAR)**

Gary was on the Board of Directors for over 20 years. He has been a driving force behind replacing culvert barriers with bottomless culverts including work on the Left Prong Hampton Creek. Gary will be going to the TU National Leadership Conference where he will receive his award which may be live broadcast.

### **LICENSE PLATE CONSERVATION FUNDS REQUESTS**

Steve Fry listed the following ongoing grant projects:

- Appalachian Chapter - TWRA/USFS brook trout genetic study \$10,000
  - Problem had been getting study implementing because the main researcher died
  - Appears research is ready to go; Frances will present a check to TWRA at a future TWRC meeting
- Overmountain Chapter - Briar Creek culvert replacement
  - Passage problem for brook trout
  - USFS is monitoring
  - \$129,000 has been contributed to this project
- Overmountain Chapter – Left Prong Hampton Creek road and weir work for brook trout
- Overmountain Chapter – Tennessee Aquarium is raising brook trout for stocking into Little Stony Creek

Steve Fry listed the following grant request for this year:

- TU Council - Trout Camp - \$900
- TU Council - Trout in the classroom (Lori Paris) - \$500
- Appalachian Chapter – Tn Aquarium rearing brook trout for Little Stony Creek - \$10,000
- Cherokee Chapter – TWRA – Temperature loggers - \$2000
- Hiwassee Chapter – TWRA – Temperature loggers - \$1350

- Overmountain Chapter – Handicap pier in Watauga Reservoir - \$15,000
- Overmountain Chapter – Access improvement on the Doe River fishing trail - \$3360
- Little River Chapter – Trout Camp – Fly rods for fishing instruction - \$2250

Total new requests - \$57,960

Discussion regarding the process for funding projects included the following:

- Steve Fry
  - Minimum request is \$1000; maximum is \$10,000
  - Every request, to date, has been funded
  - When should process changes be made
- Jeff Wright
  - Funds should not be carried over year after year
  - Chapters should not be limited to \$10,000
- Mike Bryant
  - Review all changes to process at each fall TU Council meeting
- Jim Herrig
  - See Attachment 2 for original process direction
  - At the February 10, 2018 TU Council meeting the following recommendations for changes to the grant process were made:
    - Grant committee to be composed of – Steve Fry, Steve Darnell, Bill Watkins and Bill Fuson
    - Key calendar dates for applications needed to be set
    - Chapter contacts need to be identified
    - Chapters need to review Agency and NGO contact lists; the contact list will be placed on the Council webpage
    - Jeff will also place it on Google Docs for those with gmail accounts

#### **TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM – Joyce Frey**

- Ten trout in the classroom projects ongoing
- Over 700 kids participated in releasing trout fry
- More than 1000 fry were raised
- Thanks for the support

#### **CHAPTER BOUNDARY SIMPLIFICATION**

- Maps of Zipcode boundaries are available on TU National webpage
- Individuals may choose whichever chapter they want
- TU Council must approve boundary changes
- Mike directed:
  - Each chapter president to list the Zipcodes they thought should be in their boundary
  - TU Council will review controversial boundaries
  - TU Council will look for opportunities to start new chapters

**PROPOSED SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL VOLUNTEER COORIDATOR**

- Concerns expressed included
  - Most TU resources are located in Asheville
  - This position is proposed to be located in Asheville
  - Cost per Council would be \$2500 per year
- Total cost for the position is \$75,000 per year
- South Carolina has opted out
- Mike proposed that the TU Council contribute \$500 and each of the 8 chapters contribute \$250 per year (total Tennessee contribution would be \$2500 annually)
- Mike will email the position description to each Chapter President
- Need to define evaluation criteria
- Motion to support Mike's proposal of \$2500 per year from Tennessee (\$500 TU Council; \$250 each chapter) was by Tony Gregg and seconded by Mark Spangler. The motion passed with Jeff Wright abstaining.

**CHAPTER UPDATES:****Great Smoky Mountains Chapter – Jack Hammond**

Want to start a kids camp of their own

**Clinch River Chapter – Tony Gregg**

Hosting a swap-meet for fund raising

Women on the Water event 9/22/18; Flytying, entomology, fishing (12:00- 3:00)

**Little River Chapter - Ernie Frey**

Charlie Chmielewski received the Southeast Park Service Volunteer of the Year Award

Little River Chapter received a conservation award from TVA

**Cherokee Chapter – John Jensen**

Working with 4 LLBean fishing outlets for kids fishing days which were very successful

**Overmountain Chapter – Jeff Wright**

8/24-25/2918 Meet the Mountains Festival

Continue water monitoring

Womens' clinic similar to CRC

Stream cleanup events

Casting competition 10/6/2018

Annual dinner auction 12/8/2018

**Appalachian Chapter – Steve Fry**

Trout monitoring with TWRA on North Fork Citico Creek 8/24-25/2018

Flyfishing Film Tour 11/2/2018

Annual Xmas party 11/29/2018

**Music City Chapter – Blake Parson**

Reviewing Dr Brad Cook (TN Tech U) on the Caney Fork

Plan to launch the new chapter in the spring

**SUMMARY OF APPROVED MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Made By</b>	<b>Seconded By</b>
Approval of 2/10/2018minutes	Steve Brown	Ernie Frey
Approval of proposed budget	Ernie Frey	Tony Gregg
The following nominees were presented and unanimously elected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair – Frances Oates</li> <li>• Vice-Chair – to be determined</li> <li>• Secretary – Jim Herrig</li> <li>• Treasurer – Mark Spangler</li> <li>• NLC Representative – Steve Brown</li> </ul>		
Proposal to provide \$2500 (\$500 from TU Council and \$250 from each of the chapters) per year for the SE Regional Volunteer Coordinator position	Tony Gregg	Mark Spangler

**ACTION ITEMS INITIATED**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
Chapter Presidents to list their Zipcodes	Chapter Presidents and Frances Oates	Next meeting
Mail SE Volunteer Coord. Job description to chapter presidents	Mike Bryant	Next meeting

The next TN Council meeting will be November 10, 2018; this meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Herrig

Attachments include:

TU Council Proposed Budget for 10/1/2018 – 9/30/2019

Tennessee Chapter Grants 2016 Program Summary

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**TU Council Proposed Budget for 10/1/2018 – 9/30/2019**

TU Tennessee Council Proposed Budget  
 Versus Actual Projected to Sept 30, 2018

(Oct 1, 2017 - Sept 30, 2018)	Budget	Actual & Projected 10/1/2017 - 9/30/2018	Proposed Budget 10/1/2018 - 9/30/2019
<b>Income:</b>			
TU National Dues Refund	\$5,500	\$5,490	\$5,500
NLC Meeting - TU National Reimb	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
(Donations / Regional Meeting Income)	\$500	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$6,490</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Travel(National, South East Regional)	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Travel - NLC National Meeting	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Travel to Chapters - Chairman	\$500	\$210	\$200
License Plate - Development	\$500	\$0	\$0
Insurance	\$150	\$150	\$150
Admin/Awards/Web Site	\$350	\$320	\$350
Food/Bevg - Quarterly Meetings	\$500	\$1,080	\$800
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	<b>\$6,760</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>
<b>Actual State Council Bank Balances 8/18/2018</b>		<b>Projected - 9/30/2018</b>	
License Plate Account (Regions Bank)	\$63,905	\$80,005	
Note! \$10,000 reserved future Grant TWRA			
<b>Operating Account(First TN Bank)</b>	<b>\$12,021</b>	<b>\$9,761</b>	
<b>Financial Goals:</b>			
Maintain \$500 Minimum in License Plate Acct.			
Maintain \$7,000 in Operating Account			
Reported By Mark Spangler - Council Treasurer			
Tennessee Council Trout Unlimited 8/18/2018			

## ATTACHMENT 2

### Tennessee Chapter Grants 2016 Program Summary



## TENNESSEE CHAPTER GRANTS 2016 Program Summary

#### Grant Program Description

The goal of the Tennessee Chapter Grants Program is to provide funding for projects that support cold water fisheries conservation. The Tennessee Chapter Grants Program (TNCG) is for Tennessee Trout Unlimited Chapters. The grant program encourages partnerships and joint ventures where the local chapter serves as the primary coordinator. Projects should support the goals of TU's conservation model.

1. **Protect** (*Public lands policy, Land trust partnerships, Defense from unwise development, etc.*)
2. **Reconnect** (*In-stream flow enhancement, Water law advocacy – surface or groundwater, etc.*)
3. **Restore** (*Watershed and habitat restoration projects, Policy to provide restoration incentives and funding, Improved hatchery design, Private landowner stewardship recognition, etc.*)
4. **Sustain** (*Youth education, Trout in the classroom, Coalition building, Chapter Strengthening, etc.*)

The maximum grant amount is \$10,000, and minimum amount is \$1,000. These grants do not require a percentage match. The Chapter grantee is encouraged to match the TN Chapter Grant funds with an equal amount of funds, contributions, donations, in-kind services, and/or volunteer labor in order to leverage the most total funds per project. (In addition to the grant award request amount, project proposals should provide matching contribution information.) TNCG grant funds may also be used to apply for matching grants from TU National.

#### Project Examples

Eligible projects may include enhancement and/or restoration of critical rivers, streams and waterways related to salmonid species, their riparian areas and natural environment. For example:

- Riverbank, stream edge and/or trails development and similar capital projects related to enhancement of the natural environment. This may include project proposals for the assemblage of lands, expanded natural areas, greenways, or the creation of public access.
- Proposals may include kiosks, displays, marketing, and other communications programs that promote clean water policies and fisheries conservation.
- Public involvement is encouraged and local chapters may propose projects that enhance communities with clean-up efforts, interpretive signage, riparian plantings or stream restoration as well as education venues and student learning modules. Projects that demonstrate new technologies and best management practices for improved water quality are also encouraged.

#### Eligible Applicants

Each affiliated local chapter of Trout Unlimited for the state of Tennessee may submit one application per grant cycle. The Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited may submit one application per grant cycle. Chapters may apply jointly for a project, in addition to including partnering agencies and/or organizations. The applicant must show significant involvement in the planning and execution of the project to warrant funding. Local, state and federal land managing agencies are eligible as partners as

well as non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) status or any agency with which the grantee Chapter or TN Council has a relationship. The TNCG does not fund advocacy campaigns tied to political causes or for legislative purposes.

#### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS**

Grant applications shall be submitted **ONLY** during the announced application submission period. TNCG has announced the application to all Trout Unlimited Chapters in Tennessee through electronic notification.

The TN Chapter Grant applications may be submitted beginning June 24, 2016. The grant application **DEADLINE is Friday, JULY 29, 2016**. Applications may be delivered by the following means:

1. Regular mail postmarked by end of business day of July 29, 2016 (5:00 P.M. EST)
2. Email forwarded by the end of business day of July 29, 2016 (5:00 P.M. EST)
3. Delivered in person to the TU TN Chapter Grants Committee no later than Saturday 7/30/16 (with advance notice of intent to apply.)

Applications submitted after the deadlines listed above may be ineligible and may be returned to the applicant. The Tennessee Chapter Grant Program Awards Committee reserves the right to award or deny any/and or all applications based on sufficient presentation of information, completion of submittal requirements and set deadlines. The TNCG program has the authority to determine partial funding or lesser awards than application grant submittal requests.

#### Grant Period

The grant recipient has one year from the beginning date of the project contract to complete the project. Generally projects should be started and completed during the fiscal year of October 2016 to September 2017. If circumstances due to weather or other unforeseen occurrences are involved, the Chapter may request an extension of their contract with written documentation of delay, challenges and to note any potential changes to the grant project.

#### Distribution of Funds

Grants are awarded by TNCG on a project-by-project basis to those applicants earning the highest rating following evaluation of eligible program applications. Grant recipients will receive funds through a disbursement process established by TNCG. Funded programs are to be announced within two months of application deadline (by September 30, 2016).

TNCG grant funds must be spent on actual project costs that are accountable in terms of services, materials, equipment, research, etc. (i.e. grant funds should not be used to pay for volunteer labor or the salary of a "volunteer" project coordinator.) A **PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT** with all pertinent documentation, **MUST be submitted by grantees to TNCG no later than September 15, 2017**. (Note: For chapters of past grant awards, failure in reporting may result in the ineligibility of your chapter application for future grant awards.)

Upon Completion of Application, please return to:

**Steve Fry, TNCG Committee Chairman**

[fryfisherman@gmail.com](mailto:fryfisherman@gmail.com)

**P.O. Box 22401**

423-432-2210

**Chattanooga, TN 37422**