



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 conference call held December 30, 2015 (U.S. Toll-Free Access: 1-855-355-4218 7-Digit Access Code: 5992604)

PRESIDING: Dick Geiger, Chair (CR)

TOTAL NUMBER PRESENT:

COUNCIL OFFICERS PRESENT (Home Chapter in parentheses)

Mike Bryant, Vice Chair (LR)	yes	George Lane, Treasurer (GSM)	yes
Linda Good, Secretary (OM)	yes	Don Denney, Web (Hiawassee)	no
Steve Brown, NLC Rep. (CR)	no	Frances Oates, Communications (CR)	yes

CHAPTERS REPRESENTED (Other than Council Officers)

CHAPTER	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE
GSM	John Reinhardt	john711111@yahoo.com	(865) 556-3141
West TN	Jack Betchick	jbetchic@comcast.net	(901) 309-8127
Overmountain	Ron Harrington	roneharrin@bvu.net	(276) 669-4948

* Appalachian, Cherokee, Cumberland and Hiwassee Chapters not represented.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The council meeting conference was called to order at by Dick Geiger, Council Chair.

- Dick extended gratitude to Chapter treasurers for submitting AFRs on time. He added that 990Ns were to be submitted to the IRS by February 15, 2016 with a copy to National.
- Dick discussed the required reporting to maintain chapter tax exempt status. Reporting requirements are attached as page 4 of this document.
- Dick requested Chapter Presidents get their reports relative to Conservation funding to the Conservation Committee by January 31.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from the August meeting were approved.

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/Conservation Fund—The 4th Quarter deposit from the State of TN is \$16,230.75.

Council Operating Expenses—The General Account has a balance of \$8,344.91.

Revised/New Policies—for Financial Controls and Risk Management being sent to Chapter Presidents separately with discussion planned for the February Council meeting.

West Tennessee Members Gathering: Planning continues for the Monday, January 18 gathering of West Tennessee TU members at the Agricenter in Memphis, TN

Southeast Regional Meeting: Roanoke, VA Friday, May 20 – Sunday, May 22, 2016. Council funding will be distributed to Chapter presidents to motivate member attendance. The Presidents will distribute at their discretion. The agenda for this meeting is currently being developed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Actions: Hearings were held on July 16, 2015 on US Senate bill S.755 (Tennessee Wilderness Act) with no progress in the first session. This bill 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 Representatives Phil Roe and Chuck Fleischmann in the House. Dick Geiger requested support in the form of letters be sent to Senators and Representatives (Roe and Fleischmann).

National Leadership Council:

In Steve Brown's absence, Dick Geiger encouraged participation in the Tailwaters Working Group being led by Malcolm Leaphart-(SC) and Jason Carpenter (VT). Dick reported that Dennis Baxter (CR) cannot participate in the working group due to employment conflict of interest (TVA). A request that Ron Harrington ask Shannon O'Quinn if the same conflict applies to him; if not, Shannon will be asked to participate in the Working Group.

Chapter Reports: Not included in the Conference call. Chapters will update their news via the TU Council web site.

Other New Business: At the conclusion of the call, Frances Oates discussed the council web site and asked for input to the current rendition. Additionally, she asked for a vote on spending \$119.88 for an annual subscription to the premium version of Weebly from

iPage for web site development. (This request was later made via email as the conference call was inadvertently closed down due to technical issues.)

Trout Camp: Pints for a Purpose raised \$331.95 for 2016 Camp. These funds will go into the General Fund and be earmarked for Trout Camp.

Miscellaneous: Congratulations were extended to recipients of National recognition including Frances Oates who was awarded for her work in Communications; and everyone for their contributions to the TN Council Excellence Award. The National award focused on the coordination and use of partners by TU Chapters and the Council.

SUMMARY OF UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED MOTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Description	Made By	Seconded By
Approval of August meeting minutes	George Lane	Ron Harrington

ACTION ITEMS INITIATED

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE DATE
Chapters to submit reports to the Conservation Committee concerning where these funds are being spent	Chapter Presidents to advise Treasurers	January 31
Feedback requested by Frances to Council Web site and expenditure of funds for development software	Attendees	

The conference call ended abruptly at approximately 8:30 due to technical issues. Follow up to take place via emails from Dick Geiger, Frances Oates and Linda Good.

NEXT MEETING

Coldwater Meeting to be held at Lawson-McGee Public Library, Knoxville 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Council meeting to follow 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Justin Murdoch from TN Tech will speak to the group. Jason Henegar, TWRA will report on the Caney Fork laser mapping project. TVA and NPS will also update us on their activities. All officers and other members are encouraged to attend.

TN Trout Unlimited Required Chapter Reporting

Annual:

- AFR/CEI (submitted to TU National)(Council/chapters)
- 990-N (submitted to IRS, copy to TU National)(Council/chapters)
- charitable organization exemption request (submitted to TN Dept of State/Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming)(chapters with <\$30K per year in revenues)
- charitable organization registration/registration renewal (submitted to TN Dept of State/Division of Charitable Solicitations and Gaming)(Council/chapters with >\$30K per year in revenues)
- specialty license plate funds accounting (submitted to TN Comptroller) (Council)
- status of conservation funds expenditure (submitted to TN Council Conservation Committee)(chapters)

As Needed/Requested:

- changes in points of contact (TN Dept of Revenue) (Council/chapters)
- signature cards with banks (submitted to various banks/credit unions)(Council/chapters)
- registration for sales and use tax exemption (submitted to TN Dept of Revenue) (Council/chapters)