



Tennessee Council, Trout Unlimited

Chair, Ryan Turgeon, ryanturgeon76@yahoo.com

Vice Chair, Mike Kesselring, mikessell59@gmail.com

Secretary, Bill Watkins, billwatkinsca@gmail.com

Treasurer, Hunter Turgeon, turgeon@etsu.edu

National Leadership Council, Mark Spangler, Mspangl82@gmail.com

TU Council Meeting

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Riverview Baptist Church

1419 Broad Street, Elizabethton, TN 37643

- Ryan Turgeon called the meeting to order at 9:37AM
- Reviewed agenda – Ryan Turgeon
- New Officer Elections – Ryan Turgeon
 - Elections were held for Vice Chair and Treasurer for the next two years. Mike Kesselring was nominated as Vice Chair, and Hunter Turgeon as Treasurers. Both were elected unanimously.
- Roll Call – Rick Elliott
 - Attendance is attached at the end of the meeting minutes.
- New Positions Announced – Ryan Turgeon
 - Two positions on the council were announced as follows:
 - Climate Change Coordinator – Philip Tipton
 - Science and Technology Advisor – Sherrell Greene
- Approval of the previous minutes; approved.
 - 1. Philip Tipton 2. Rhett Morris
- Financial Report – Hunter Turgeon
 - The financial report for the period ending 3/31/23 was approved. The financial report is appended to the minutes. The financial report is attached at the end of the meeting minutes.
 - Hunter Turgeon reviewed the forecast for the 2023-2024 FY Budget. The budget was approved. The budget forecast is attached at the end of the meeting minutes.
 - Chapters reported their attendance for SE Rendezvous. The Council will reimburse the members for \$200 to go towards their expenses. Checks will be issued once Hunter is added to the bank account and he receives a checkbook. Below is a list of the number of people from each chapter that attended the rendezvous.
 - Cherokee – 2 people
 - Clinch River – 3 people
 - Overmountain – 1 person
 - Appalachian – 1 person
 - Little River – 1 person



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- The following individuals need to be removed from all Regions Bank accounts:
 - Francis Oates
 - Tony Gregg
 - Bill Fuson
- The following people need to be added to all of the Regions Bank accounts:
 - Ryan Turgeon
 - Hunter Turgeon
- Mike Givney is to remain on TIC account for Regions Bank
- TIC Update – Mike Givney via Ryan Turgeon
 - Still seeking a chiller manufacturer
 - Working with teachers and chapters to restock classrooms.
 - Mike will send an email out in July (after Trout Camp) requesting supply requests and then send them off to our distributor to be drop shipped to the chapter reps. That usually gets everything to them by mid to end of August to start tanks by the beginning of September.
- Trout Camp – Sean Fagan
 - 39 applicants this year
 - 3 girls, 9 boys, 2 boys pending
 - 2 Gold Star kids applied and accepted.
 - 4 Chapters sponsoring kids
 - Most of the kids accepted this year are from Tennessee, 1 is from Georgia
 - Lodging is an issue for non-local volunteers. Sean is working on some additional housing.
 - TCTU will sponsor 2 gold star kids @ \$1,100 – Approved unanimously.
- NLC Update
 - Mark Spangler could not attend, but some of the members that attended the rendezvous talked about their experience there.
 - There was a great age demographic with a lot of energy to carry out TU's initiatives at the SE Rendezvous.
 - A variety of topics covered from climate change to bugs to chapter social media tips and tricks.
 - Questions were raised during the Council Meeting about how to get more money into the SE Region from National TU.
 - NLC remains optimistic about receiving funds from TU National.
 - Members feel underrepresented at a national level.
 - Members expressed the need for more paid staff in our region.



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- Climate Change – Philip Tipton
 - Philip Tipton presented the case for climate change and requested that chapters select a leader to represent climate change for their chapter.
 - Climate Change Leaders should be chosen by next TCTU meeting.
 - Sherrell Green Requested all chapters to add him to their newsletters. TCTUScience@proton.me
- TN Conservation Grant Program Update – Pearson King
 - 4 Grants Received and Utilized
 - Music City - Moody Boat Ramp Project
 - Music City- Dissolved Oxygen Sensors
 - Hiwassee – Reintroduction Project, Technicians, and Equipment
 - TN Council – Strategic Wood Placement Projects
 - For more information and forms see the TN Conservation Grant Program on the TCTU Website.
- TU SE Report – Jeff Wright via Ryan Turgeon
 - Strategic Wood Loading – A crew of 4 started on February 6th and will complete their season on April 27th. We have had to work around a couple issues, specifically that a state permit was not approved in time for work on the North Zone and one individual took another job about halfway through. The crew conducted wood loading for 7 weeks and completed 1.5 miles of work in the South Zone. This includes 0.5 mile in the upper section of Sugar Cove Branch near North River. Their other 5 weeks have been spent on habitat surveys in the Laurel Fork watershed to prepare for next season. As long as the appropriate permits are completed, our year 2 plan is to work extensively in the Laurel Fork Watershed.
 - Community Science Wood Survey – I am hoping to get this program started back up in May/June. I'll be in touch with chapters once I can get some training dates set. I plan to expand this to the South Zone, as time allows.
 - Temp Monitoring – I'm looking for volunteers who would be interested in adopting a temperature monitoring site. We have two in the South Holston Lake Watershed, 1 near Erwin and 1 on Round Mountain in Cocke County that could use a volunteer. I am also going to be installing 8 in the Laurel Fork Watershed that could use volunteer support. If anyone is interested, they can contact me directly at jeff.wright@tu.org or 636.734.2055.
 - Little Jacobs Creek Crossing Replacement – This is a priority native Brook Trout stream near South Holston Lake. A culver that was being used as a barrier to non-native trout movement is now in the middle of the Brook Trout population segment. This location is going to be used for training a new engineer from The Nature Conservancy (and potentially TU) on how to properly design crossings. That will occur this summer, with an eye towards replacement in 2024. Strategic wood loading started 2/6/23 and the season will close on 4/27 in the South Zone.



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- Chapter Reports
 - Cherokee:
 - Chapter removed 2 culverts and provided wood loading/bridges in their area. This includes reintroduction of trout in 1 stream.
 - They are hosting a kid fishing day May 6th.
 - They discussed issuing raffle tickets for each chapter meeting attendee. The tickets will be drawn at the end of the year for donated prizes. This helps to bolster attendance.
 - Clinch River:
 - Hosted 8 weeks of intro to fly tying class with 10 participants.
 - Moving chapter meetings around to accommodate different member zip codes.
 - Hosted 2nd annual Women on the Pond Initiative with 20 participants.
 - Improvements on Clinch Weirs ongoing.
 - GSM:
 - Struggling with meeting attendance.
 - GSM chapter has no home water, and it is thought that this hurts conservation efforts.
 - Hiwassee
 - Hiwassee River Cleanup 2023 completed.
 - 1 on 1 fly fishing class ongoing with great participation.
 - Working with local Boy Scout Troops to achieve fly fishing merit badge.
 - Tellico Trout Fest May 5th and 6th.
 - Little River Chapter:
 - \$10,000 in donations received.
 - Contributed 1,500 volunteer hours in the GSMNP.
 - Contributed 3,500 total volunteer hours.
 - Cleanup hosted on March 11th.
 - 600 Kids are engaged in their TIC program.
 - They are exploring a partnership with Maryville College to attract new members.
 - They have 9 watersheds that volunteers take water samples from.
 - Overmountain:
 - Averaging 30+ per chapter meeting with a scheduled speaker for each.
 - Bill Beazell Tailwater Cleanup occurred on March 11th with 123 participants.
 - Chapter Deep Creek Fishing Trip on 4/21-4/23.
 - Thirsty Orange April 29th.
 - May 6th Erwin Great Outdoors Festival.
 - Women's Fishing Clinic in August.



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- Working with TVA to get SOHO weirs repaired so flows stay consistent.
- TCTU:
 - TCTU wants to be more of a resource to the chapters. Please feel free to reach out.
 - TCTU offered fundraising ideas:
 - There are many manufacturers that provide steep discounts to TU chapters for fundraising purposes. The companies include Abel. CD Fly Rod, Flymen Fishing Company, New Phase Fly Fishing, Lamson Waterworks, Orvis, Reel Threads, Ross, Sawyer Paddles & Oars, Scientific Angler, TFO, Thomas Bates, Trxstle, Wild River Press, Winston & Bauer, & Yeti.
 - Online auctions – A couple of the chapters have been using the new online auction for with great success. If you are interested in setting up an online auction for your chapter, you can contact Ryan Turgeon for assistance.
 - Montana Fishing Trip – North Fork Crossing Lodge on the Black River has donated a 3-night trip for 4 people valued at \$11,000 to TU. TU has created an online sweepstakes to sell chances to win this trip. If you are interested in participating just email Doug Agee so he can create an account for your chapter. All money raised on your chapter's entry page goes directly to your chapter.
 - Embrace A Stream
 - May 15 – Deadline to notify regional EAS representative of your intent to apply
 - July 1 – First draft applications sent to regional EAS representative (optional)
 - August 1 – Final application deadline
 - September 30 – Grants awarded at CX3 Spokane Embrace A Stream Banquet
 - There is training available online at tu.org
- Next Meeting:
 - August 5th with venue pending.
- Adjourn 12:25 PM



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TCTU FINANCIAL REPORT

The following tables summarize the Council's budget¹, expected income and expenses for the remainder of this fiscal year as of March 31, 2023:

Forecasted Budget

| <i>Item</i> | <i>Budget</i> | <i>Expected</i> | <i>Actual</i> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Income | | | |
| TU Membership Rebates | \$ 5,500.00 | \$ 5,500.00 | \$ - |
| TU Travel Reimbursement (s) | \$ 1,250.00 | \$ 1,250.00 | \$ - |
| Donations | \$ 500.00 | \$ 500.00 | \$ - |
| Total Income: | \$ 7,250.00 | \$ 7,250.00 | \$ - |
| Expenses | | | |
| Travel (National, SE Regional Meeting) | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ - |
| Travel (NLC National Meeting) | \$ 1,250.00 | \$ 1,250.00 | \$ - |
| Insurance (Accident) | \$ 155.00 | \$ 155.00 | \$ - |
| Registration Fees (State of TN) | \$ 125.00 | \$ 125.00 | \$ - |
| Administrative Expenses (website, etc.) | \$ 450.00 | \$ 450.00 | \$ - |
| Food/Beverages (Council Meetings) | \$ 2,400.00 | \$ 2,400.00 | \$ - |
| Total Expenses: | \$ 8,380.00 | \$ 8,380.00 | \$ - |
| Net Operating Income/(Loss)²: | \$ (1,130.00) | \$ (1,130.00) | \$ - |

Account Balances

| <i>Account</i> | <i>Book Balance (Reconciled)</i> | <i>Pending / Outstanding</i> | <i>Committed</i> | <i>Net Available</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Operating Account | \$ 23,385.36 | \$ - | \$ (155.00) | \$ 23,230.36 |
| Conservation Account | \$ 120,318.00 | \$ - | \$ (36,100.00) | \$ 84,218.00 |
| TIC Account | \$ 12,905.85 | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 27,905.85 |
| Thurman Trout Camp | \$ 3,649.37 | \$ 21,100.00 | \$ (1,000.00) | \$ 23,749.37 |
| Combined Balances: | \$ 160,258.58 | \$ 36,100.00 | \$ (37,255.00) | \$ 159,103.58 |

2023 Approved Grant Money

| <i>Sponsor/Project</i> | <i>Approved Amount</i> | <i>Amount Funded</i> |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| Beginning Account Balance: | \$ 120,318.00 | |
| Trout Adventure Camp Program ³ | \$ 21,100.00 | \$ - |
| Trout in the Classroom Program ³ | \$ 15,000.00 | \$ - |
| | \$ - | \$ - |
| Total 2023 Grants: | \$ 84,218.00 | \$ 36,100.00 |

¹ Revenue from State of Tennessee (License Plate Revenue) has typically been excluded in Council Budgeting.

² Excludes License Plate Revenue

³ Trout Camp and TIC are funded through the Conservation Grant Program. They are now a budget item and no longer have to apply through the grant process.



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Attendees

| Name | Email | Chapter | |
|--------------------|--|----------------------|------------------|
| Bernie Maloy | 52bazzman@gmail.com | Little River | 0 Appalachian |
| Bob Murray | wadefisher53@icloud.com | Overmountain | 3 Cherokee |
| Bob Stephan | bobstephan59@me.com | Clinch River | 3 Clinch |
| Brian Brase | jbbrase@hotmail.com | Cherokee | 1 Great Smoky Mt |
| Bruce White | bwhiteback@gmail.com | Overmountain | 2 Hiawassee |
| Clayton Berry | clb1@comcast.net | Overmountain | 4 Little River |
| Danny Sells | amberlynn@att.net | Overmountain | 0 Music City |
| Dennis Baxter | dsbaxter1@live.com | Clinch River | 17 Overmountain |
| Harold Spross | hespross@gmail.com | Overmountain | 0 TU |
| Hunter Turgeon | turgeon@etsu.edu | Overmountain | 30 Total |
| Jan Beggs | JMBeggs@aol.com | Overmountain | |
| Jeff Mann | jmann723@charter.net | Overmountain | |
| Jerry Whitted | jerrywhitted@aol.com | Cherokee | |
| John Dollard | jvdollard28@gmail.com | Overmountain | |
| Malcolm Bryce | brycekip@gmail.com | Cherokee | |
| Mike Kesselring | mikessell59@gmail.com | Little River | |
| Pearson King | dpk78111@hotmail.com | Hiawassee | |
| Philip Tipton | pgtipton1@gmail.com | Overmountain | |
| Rhett Morris | rhetflyfishingtn@gmail.com | Overmountain | |
| Rick L Elliott | hairfly27@yahoo.com | Overmountain | |
| Robert L Bishop Jr | bishmoose@sbcglobal.net | Little River | |
| Ryan Turgeon | ryanturgeon76@yahoo.com | Overmountain | |
| Sam Henry | slhenry415@yahoo.com | Overmountain | |
| Sara Ann Bishop | sacbishop@gmail.com | Little River | |
| Sean Fagan | tntroutstalker@gmail.com | Overmountain | |
| Shane Boyd | tuhi640@gmail.com | Hiawassee | |
| Sherrell Greene | sgreene@protonmail.com | Great Smoky Mountain | |
| Tom Kelly | jentom@btes.tv | Overmountain | |
| Wesley McCracken | mccrackenwesley@yahoo.com | Overmountain | |
| William Litty | flylitty55@gmail.com | Clinch River | |