



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, August 5, 2023

Appalachian Room

Norris Dam State Park

- Ryan Turgeon called the meeting to order at 9:45AM
- Reviewed agenda – Ryan Turgeon
- Roll Call – Dick Geiger
 - Attendance is attached at the end of the meeting minutes.
- Approval of the previous minutes; approved.
- Financial Report – Ryan Turgeon
 - Ryan presented the financial report in the absence of Hunter.
 - The financial report for the period ending 8/1/23 was approved. The financial report is attached at the end of the meeting minutes.
 - There were no changes to the summarized budget.
- Hibbs Island Repair (Clinch River) and South Holston Weir Update – Jeff Ogden (TVA Project Manager)
 - Remediation of Hibbs Island is nearing completion. Estimated completion of the work is 9/23/23.
 - TVA's goal is minimum constant flow for both the Clinch River and the South Holston
 - Hibbs Island: lack of maintenance of floats on the upstream of the weir is restricting flow through the weir. In addition, erosion of the downstream portion of the island is allowing uncontrolled flow over. When the work is completed, the weir berm will be 3-6 feet higher, and the minimum flow rate will meet the 200 cfs.
 - South Holston weir: lack of maintenance on flow valves is restricting flow through the weir. TVA has completed cleanup of the weir and installed instrumentation to check water levels in the weir to meet their minimum flow commitment.
 - Jeff entertained questions from the membership. Interest was focused on upgrading or replacing equipment in the Reservoir Release Improvement (RRI) program and upgrading/replacing the oxygen diffuser lines.



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- TU Southern Appalachians Project Status – Jeff Wright
 - Jeff provided an update on the Strategic Wood Loading, Little Jacobs Creek Crossing Replacement, the North Zone Temperature Monitoring, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park Barrier Surveys. Jeff also provided information on the new Southern Appalachians staff members. Greater detail is provided in his slides attached at the end of the meeting minutes.

- TIC Update – Mike Givney
 - Mike has resolved the problems of getting equipment and maintenance suppliers. He has found a chiller manufacturer and the program maintenance issue has been resolved. Chapters are working with him to restock classrooms for the teachers in the program.
 - Funding available, but not spent in 2022-2023 will be available in 2023-2024. This year the funding for TIC from the license plate monies is a little more than \$26K.
 - This year there are about 45 classes with supplies able to meet the demand. This year there has been a big uptick in classes. Music City alone has 6 new classes.
 - There was some discussion re: coordination with the 5 Rivers program and citizen science. Ty There was additional discussion by members who had questions whether we should consider approaching Pellissippi State and Roane State re: citizen science effort.
 - The state of TN has recognized TIC as satisfying ag science class requirements/s in high schools and offers a pathway to college for ag students.
 - 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
 - Despite the fact that Trout Camp was wet this year, the campers enjoyed the experience as evidenced by all campers fishing the evening session at Norton Creek in the pouring rain.
 - There were 13 campers (2 girls, 11 boys), of which 10 campers were financially supported by Chapters.
 - This year Pete Van Valkinburg of Appalachian Chapter created and edited a manual for the campers. The manual included links and QR codes to videos and information on nearly every activity they participated in during the week.
 - Lodging remains an issue for non-local volunteers, but Sean is working on some additional housing and will likely know something definite in the November-December timeframe.
 - Trout Camp will be June 17-22, 2024, and there is thought to increasing the number of campers to 18 (14 boy and 4 girls). This will require increased additional volunteer help and chapter participation. Please contact Sean to volunteer and for more information.
 - Far Bank is donating 42 rod combos for camp with the initial plan to offer them to the campers at a discounted rate.



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- National Leadership Council (NLC) Update
 - Mark Spangler described the mission of the NLC is to set the national conservation agenda. He is a member of the Climate Change and New Initiatives Working Groups.
 - Working Groups are not limited to membership on the NLC, but are open to any TU member interested in addressing a specific issue of concern to TU.
 - In his NLC update, Mark noted some of the highlights of the TU brand, including revenues, chapter and council resources and total grassroots man hours for FY2022.
 - Of particular interest to us are two new staff dedicated to the Southeast, which addresses an issue that members expressed at the April meeting.
 - Mark noted the great accomplishments by TU Chapters and members in the state.
 - Mark's complete presentation is attached to these meeting minutes.
- Climate Change – Sherrell Green
 - Only 2 chapters in TN have named coordinators (Little River and Cherokee); chapter representatives are needed.
 - TVA and TN have climate change plans.
 - Rough draft of TU climate change plan by fall 2023; projects to start in 2024.
 - TN Council is the only one with a climate change coordinator.
- TN Conservation Grant Program Update – Pearson King
 - The schedule for grant applications.
 - August 1: applications submitted to the Grants Committee.
 - August 31: decisions on grants made.
 - September 30: checks distributed to awardees.
 - For more information and forms see the TN Conservation Grant Program on the TCTU Website.
- Chapter Reports
 - Appalachian:
 - Chapter planning a presence at the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting in Chattanooga. There was a question re: whether there would be a TN Council presence.
 - August 26 is the Tellio fish survey.
 - Cherokee: (no report)



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- Clinch River:
 - Continue to follow the progress on the Hibbs Island weir.
 - Scheduled meeting with James Everett re: releases and low water levels
 - Continuing activity on aquatic insect surveys
 - Supporting Casting for Recovery on Norton Creek (September 8)
- GSM: (no report)
- Hiwassee:
 - Working with Appalachian Chapter to offer Fly Fishing 101 and 102 courses.
- Little River:
 - Continuing to perform stream surveys.
 - Will receive eggs from TWRA in September for TIC projects.
 - Little River cleanup September 23 at Metcalf Bottoms
 - Chapter will have an exhibit at the Townsend festival (September 29-30).
 - Chapter is in preliminary discussions with Maryville College re: starting a 5 Rivers Club
 - Chapter website is being updated.
- Music City:
 - Updating 1998 Water Quality Manual
 - August 8 (Smith Co. public meeting)
 - Chapter is starting a 5 Rivers Club with Vanderbilt University. Chapter is very positive about the faculty advisor from VU.
 - New TIC projects under the guidance of Heather Lukenbill
 - Bill Fuson former TN Council treasurer passed away.
 - Chapter developed a science-based position re: releases from Center Hill Dam. The Council will also send a separate letter or email stating the same position.
- Overmountain:
 - Women's Fishing Clinic in August.
 - Chapter Deep Creek Fishing Trip on 4/21-4/23.
 - Thirsty Orange April 29th.
 - May 6th Erwin Great Outdoors Festival.
 - Fundraising banquet October 2 with online raffle tickets available. Contact Ryan Turgeon for assistance.
 - October 14 will be the boat access cleanup sat the Watauga and South Holston
 - Discussions with TVA re: increasing flows on the Soho. There has been a 36% drop in sampled fish populations by TWRA.
 - TVA worked on the South Holston weir and installed new instrumentation to meet minimum flow commitments and consistent flows.
 - Working with TVA to get SOHO weirs repaired so flows stay consistent.



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- TCTU:
 - Request to sponsor 2024 Southeast Regional Meeting
 - TU National has indicated the 2024 Southeast Regional meeting is to be held in Nashville and has requested the TN Council to host. TU National's reason for locating the meeting in Nashville is Tractor Supply's headquarters are in Brentwood. There was a small group discussion after the meeting to evaluate the TU National position.
 - Ryan Turgeon wrote to National stating the Council did not agree with the reasoning for having the meeting in Nashville and laid out the reasoning why it should be located further east in TN.
 - The two major reasons for a more eastern location were (1) it would be closer to the TU members in the southeastern chapters and councils and (2) that support from the TN chapters and council would be difficult considering that 7 of the 8 chapters in TN are in the eastern part of the state.
 - Ryan discussed the effort of hosting a regional meeting with John Reinhardt, a principal in planning the last regional meeting hosted by the TN Council. The decision was made for the Council to not host the meeting, but the Music City Chapter to provide whatever man hours they could to support the meeting.
- Trout Camp Funding Request
 - Sean Fagan indicated a need for a storage unit (\$1200/year) and wading boots (\$4000) for next year's camp. The members approved the expenditure of \$5200 for both items.
- Next Meeting:
 - ??????? with venue pending.
- Ryan adjourned the meeting.



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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 August 1, 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	\$ 1,600.00
Travel (NLC National Meeting)	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -
Insurance (Accident)	\$ 155.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 155.00
Registration Fees (State of TN)	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00	\$ -
Administrative Expenses (website, etc.)	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 187.01
Food/Beverages (Council Meetings)	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,263.54
Total Expenses:	\$ 8,380.00	\$ 8,380.00	\$ 3,205.55
Net Operating Income/(Loss)²:	\$ (1,130.00)	\$ (1,130.00)	\$ (3,205.55)

Account Balances

<i>Account</i>	<i>Book Balance (Reconciled)</i>	<i>Pending / Outstanding</i>	<i>Committed</i>	<i>Net Available</i>
Operating Account	\$ 23,073.94	\$ -	\$ (2,863.54)	\$ 20,210.40
Conservation Account	\$ 135,056.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,056.30
TIC Account	\$ 26,282.56	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,282.56
Thurman Trout Camp	\$ 21,670.01		\$ (12,923.75)	\$ 8,746.26
Combined Balances:	\$ 206,082.81	\$ -	\$ (15,787.29)	\$ 190,295.52

2023 Approved Grant Money

<i>Sponsor/Project</i>	<i>Approved Amount</i>	<i>Amount Funded</i>
Beginning Account Balance:	\$ 171,056.30	
Trout Adventure Camp Program ³	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00
Trout in the Classroom Program ³	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
	\$ -	\$ -
Total 2023 Grants:	\$ 135,056.30	\$ 36,000.00

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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Attendance

Name	Email	Chapter	
Arthur Smith	asmith@cricpa.com	Music City	1 Appalachian
Bernie Maloy	52bazzman@gmail.com	Little River	0 Cherokee
Bob Bishop	bishmoose@sbcglobal.net	Little River	11 Clinch
Bob Stephan	bobstephan59@me.com	Clinch River	1 Great Smoky Mt
Buzz Buffington	Buzz.buffington@gmail.com	Clinch River	1 Hiwassee
Clayton Gist	gistclayton@gmail.com	Clinch River	9 Little River
Dick Geiger	geigerdick8@gmail.com	Clinch River	1 Music City
Ernest Frey	ernest.frey@comcast.net	Little River	4 Overmountain
Hans Ahlstedt	tennswede@gmail.com	Hiwassee	1 Unknown
Harry Fetterman	hefetterman@gmail.com	Little River	1 TU
Jeff Ogden	jtogden@tva.gov	TVA	1 TVA
Jeff Wright	jeff.wright@tu.org	TU	31 Total
Jeffrey D Reynolds	Jdrlacy@yahoo.com	Clinch River	
Jerry Triplett	jrytrplt@aol.com	Clinch River	
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Steve Fry	fryfisherman@gmail.com	Appalachian	
Tony Gregg	tgregg@inbox.com	Clinch River	
William T Fuller	impaction72@gmail.com	Unknown	