

Tennessee Council Trout Unlimited
Winter Meeting
January 22, 2005
IJAMS Nature Center, Knoxville TN

Council Chair Steve Brown called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Attendees were: Steve Brown (Clinch River chapter), George Lane, Jerrod Gaertner, Rick Murphree (Great Smokey Mountains chapter), Juni Fisher, Bill Haggard (Cumberland chapter), Mike Cox, Don Denney, Beverly Denney, Jim Montfort and wife (Hiwassee Chapter), Joe Hatton, Mark Spangler (Little River chapter), Bob Viers (Overmountain chapter), William Bennett, Bob Ross (Cherokee chapter), and Steve Fry (Appalachian chapter).

Minutes for the fall meeting were approved. The current financial report was distributed and approved. The current balance in the checking account is \$10,019.14.

Current Back the Brookies Chair Mark Spangler announced that the BtB plan revision has been finished, and Steve Brown announced a BtB teleconference (tentatively scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Tuesday January 25) to firm up plans for the campaign. BtB leaders will soon be asking for time at chapter meetings to talk about the campaign. In the meantime, George Lane announced that there are two boxes of BtB merchandise (one of which was on display during and after the meeting) which can be taken to chapter meetings for sale. This merchandise was bought at sale prices to clear out the initial inventory Kim Ryals obtained, using a \$1000 loan from the council, so that BtB can realize approximately \$400 for the campaign with the sale of this merchandise. Taking the merchandise to chapter meetings will show TU members what it actually looks like – more can be ordered from the website www.brookies.org.

Brief chapter reports were given:

Great Smokey Mountain - new President Jerrod Gaertner was introduced.

Cherokee - youth fishing day was discussed; the chapter reported the success of their fly tying class and membership recruitment.

Hiwassee - river cleanup will be held March 19th.

Little River – the 2nd annual Trout Fest will be held June 3 thru 5. All are encouraged to participate.

Clinch – the chapter is planning a weekend workshop on the Coal Creek Watershed to educate other chapters (and possibly other organizations) on how the project came about, and how it can be used as a cookbook for other similar projects.

Cumberland - the possibility of converting the very successful Cumberland Chapter newsletter to a statewide newsletter, with participation by other chapters and also the state council, was discussed. Juni Fisher will prepare a proposal inviting all other

chapters to participate. The initial idea is that each chapter can contribute a page by either paying some fixed amount or by selling ads in that amount. The target date will be the March issue. Newsletters will be printed and bulk shipped to each chapter for distribution.

Overmountain – the chapter is preparing for its second fishing show day on March 5, and solicits raffle items. The chair volunteered to send a box of flies for auction.

Rick Murphree, National Grassroots Trustee, reported on current projects. TU is in good financial health. He asked the Council pledge \$1,000 to a match fund to be administered by National to encourage and fund Leadership training. Discussion included the fact that the leadership training the council has gotten from national has been crucial to the improvement in council effectiveness, and that the commitment could be covered by \$125 from each chapter, if need be. Bill Haggard moved to make the commitment, and the motion carried unanimously.

The chair announced that the Sierra Club has requested that TU help or sponsor the bill to establish a bottle deposit law in Tennessee. The consensus of the council is that nothing has changed since the last discussion of this matter, and it is still not in our mission. It was further made clear that we must be very careful about associating our good name with the Sierra Club. It was agreed to inform our membership of any bill and ask them to make up their own mind whether or not to support it individually, but not as TU members.

The Tellico River Cleanup will be March 12. The status of the ORV problem in the Tellico watershed was discussed and our continuing concern was expressed. Steve Fry is continuing to lead the project. There will be a meeting in Murphy NC on Friday, August 26, with participation by NC and TN NSFS and wildlife agency personnel, in addition to local Off Road Vehicle clubs and TU. TU members are welcome – anyone interested should contact Steve Fry or Steve Brown for details.

The annual McNabb Campout and Brook Trout census campout will be held August 26-28. Mc Nabb Campground will be reserved for TU and agency personnel participating in the Brook Trout Census electroshocking on Saturday morning. There will be a pancake breakfast on Saturday, and lunch after the census. Any interested members from all chapters are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Thanks to George Lane for taking minutes in the absence of the secretary.