

TCTU Spring Council MEETING MINUTES as approved on July 26, 2003
Saturday 26 April, 2003 Morning
Held during the 2nd Annual Trout Unlimited Southeast Regional Rally at Camp Ton A
Wandah in Hendersonville, NC

Quarterly Business Meeting

Call to order Approximately 11:00

Minutes of Winter Council meeting. It was moved (Haggard) that the minutes be accepted, the motion was seconded (Denny) and put to a vote, passing unanimously. Now posted to web site "as approved".

Treasurer's report. None as George Lane could not attend due to illness. Prior verbal report to members is that there is an uncommitted balance of between and \$8,000 and \$9,000. We may not have received a bill from ICL for the Council 101 Workshop from last year (**about \$1500-subsequently confirmed, we have not received a bill**) and Steve Brown will ask Steve Fry (who could not attend this meeting because of a family commitment) about the possibility that some of these funds may have been committed for a specific purpose, hence be restricted. The pending Finance Committee is responsible to prepare a budget.

Chapter reports

Cherokee. About 30 attend meetings, have newsletter, programs focused on fishing, working to build up interest in chapter, will let us know how it goes.

Cumberland. 60-65 of 200-300 attend. Focused on new members, "how to" programs, fly tying, raffles.

Appalachian. 15-20 of 200 attend. Have a new President; newsletter, projects and raffles help attendance.

Hiwassee. About 12 attend regularly.

Little River. About 30 attend regularly. Good speakers, all fishing experience oriented, raffle, newsletter and projects help. Newsletter electronic available to send or at site. Web site reconstruction in process.

Clinch River. About 30 or 30% of members attend regularly. Programs are better, have main meeting, then break into smaller groups for mini-topics after main program like fly tying, hot flies, etc.

Chapters were asked by Steve Brown to prepare, report in future on: (Steve will design a form, forward prior to next meeting)

Number of members

Average attendance

Best meeting idea

Meeting dates

Event Dates past and pending

If increase in membership and /or attendance, Why do you think that happened?

Best Ideas/why/lessons learned

Lousy ideas/ why/lessons learned

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In the new structure of TU national, the National Resource Board (NRB - composed of three representatives from each of ten regions) will be dissolved and be replaced by the National Leadership Council (NLC), composed of one representative from each State Council. The regional structure, and the position of regional vice president (RVP) will be dissolved, and the RVPs, who formerly sat on the Board of Trustees, will be replaced by new positions called Grassroots Trustees, who will have all the same rights and privileges as other trustees. Each state council may place one name in nomination for a Grassroots Trustee, and the NLC will form a committee to select eight nominees to be voted on by the entire TU membership at the national meeting.

The TCTU nominating committee, consisting of Steve Fry (chair), Bill Haggard, and Don Nalls, nominated Rick Murphree for our NLC representative, and he was elected by the council. In addition, the nominating committee recommended Rick Murphree as our nominee to the NLC for the position of Grassroots Trustee, and the council voted to follow the committee recommendation. Rick will serve as NLC Representative until October 2004, unless he is voted in as a Grassroots Trustee, in which case he will resign from the NLC and we will elect someone to fill out his term.

Old Business:

National is working on a new policy and has dropped the new member fee to \$17.50?, most of that may come to the chapters. We await the policy.

Regarding joining the TCL. Research was needed. We recalled options including a \$100 plan and a \$25 per council member plus \$4 for other members receiving newsletter plan. Rick Murphree will research further and make a recommendation.

-TU License Tags - No decision was made. The suggestion was made at a prior meeting by Mark Spangler and accepted with enthusiasm that a full color brookie on the plate would have widespread marketability and appeal. Tom has subsequently reported that: Contacted the State of TN Title & registration (615-741-3101 ext 158) folks today and was told the following:

1. A TN Legislator must introduce a bill for a plate like we talked about. Suggest that someone on the council contact a legislator that they know.
2. That a minimum of 1000 individuals must be prepared to pay \$35, or \$70 if personalized, for the license plate. Mark or someone will need to pick this one up and work it.

The agreement with GSMNP is to be posted to the web site for our review by Steve and Don working together. It will expire in August, is nearly 10 years old, and is 6 pages long. It has been very successful, needs to be renewed and a PR splash announcement/event when renewed.

Other New Business:

TU has a written request to chapters for donations. It was discussed whether we should send a donation. It was moved and seconded that we not send a donation. The motion passed.

There was discussion on supporting a TN state bottle bill. The Overmountain Chapter supports such legislation and there seemed to be general agreement that it would be a good thing but does not fall within our mission statement so no action was taken at this time.

The Little River Chapter has been awarded a Mott Grant to fund a PR workshop for all the chapters in TN and NC (15 chapters total). It will be held in Townsend TN. There will be no cost to attendees. Tom Eustis is the contact and will soon set a date not to conflict with the TN football schedule. It will be managed by the Institute for Conservation Leadership; can include 1-3 people per chapter, total 25-26 people. Contact Eustis on date suggestions, questions, early bird names to attend.

There was discussion regarding whether the TCTU should pay for meals when we meet. There seemed to be general agreement that as a rule, each person would pay for his or her meal.

Committee staffing - volunteers for each committee, suggestions for chair and other members - Not enough volunteers have come forward at this point. Those participating should consider and let Steve know plus think about others in their chapter who would serve well and speak to them and Steve.

Committee staffing - Trish Patterson has agreed to chair the Stewardship Committee. Hurray, thank you Trish, this is an important position and important work to be done.

Mark and Bill Haggard are part of a SE delegation going to visit SE US Congressional officials on behalf of the Smokies and the Brookie, departing directly from this weekend retreat. (Report is on the web site now)

Mark Spangler attended a clear air symposium in Knoxville on Friday that included county commissioners, other elected officials, GSMNP, University of TN, TVA and other leadership. With 14 million visitors per year, I75 and I40 traffic and intersection, Power Generation (#1 acid rain contributor), industrial plants,

diesel engines, two cycle engines all contributing. This organization (TCTU) needs to review the data and take positions in the future.

-TCTU Policy statements - determine what we need and assign writers.

Announcements:

-Visit the TCTU web site and the web sites of the other TU state chapters in NC, GA, SC, VA, and WV? in our region.

-TU organization will change this summer at the Denver convention and is expected to push resources and money to the state organizations.

-Steve Brown has been working on an updated state roster which will be available soon. Decisions to be made about what to post, what to distribute to members.

- Other Calendar Postings:

July 26, 2003

TCTU meet Following TU/TVA coldwater meeting at Knoxville

October 4, 2003

TCTU meet Cumberland Mountain State Park

Adjourn at 12:00 noon

Thanks to the leadership of Brown who keeps these meeting moving and the work of Kim Ryals to organize and manage this weekend.

Sincerely, Howard Kingsbury, TCTU Secretary

The following notes are from an **informal TN meeting** was held during the SE Region Annual gathering and before the TCTU Quarterly business meeting.

-Science.gov is a web site available for a range of government data. However, Steve Moore told us that his information is not posted so in many cases; we need to go directly to agencies.

-See NWF.org for "Toll From Coal" publication on effects of coal burning by utilities

-TWRA did not expand quality zone on Wautauga. The action caused too big an issue with property owner. TCTU decided to remain out of the issue. We generally agree that TU/members have an "elitist" reputation; we want to put that behind us basing our positions on real world science and our mission. This issue prompted the position paper the Howard had worked on at the request of Steve Brown and with editorial input (all incorporated) from Steve Moore and Jim Habera.

-We will focus on local rules and regulations. We recognize that development is a supply and demand event. Sevier County has no added water quality regulations, Blount does and Knox is rewriting theirs now. The clean water act is now imposed on counties and municipalities.

-We believe that fishermen/women want bigger fish, quality not quantity. (But kids and beginners want quantity)

-See North American Salmonid Policy from TU. At website or contact Rick Moyer at TU.

-Dick Geiger, Tom, Kim and Mark are working on the Brook Trout Campaign.

-Committee chair people are to develop list of slots/descriptions and ask for help.

-Steve Moore, GSMNP spoke to us. Budget cuts are making things difficult for fisheries mgmt in the park. A new Radio system park-wide, "All Taxa Biodiversity Program" (this writer believes that this program is diverting resources from other options including the fisheries, hence doing harm to alternatives that need resources), security issues/law enforcement as a focus, COL increases, road construction projects and other are making funds scarce.

-Note that United Way has grant writers/hence people we can possibly get help from/learn from.