

**Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association Board Meeting**

**October 27, 2011, 7:00pm, Radnor Lake Visitors Center**

**Present: Trent Ganstine, Charlie Wilkerson, Sally Barr, Craig Burr, Jack Lyle, Michael King, Dave Pelren, Lisa McCarter, Daniel Boone, Patty Shultz, Jim McCool, Clyde Gensert, Sam Davis, Barnett Williams, Donnie Safer, John Grimes, Gene Levine**

**Guest: April Wilkerson, Deborah Seckman**

**Absent: Brian Devine, Chris Grissom, Steve Logan, Mark Quarles**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Trent Ganstine.**

**Action Items:**

**Approval of September Minutes: Motion was made by Daniel Boone, and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.**

**Financial Report – Lucy Garrabrants: TSRA ended September with a surplus of \$1466 for the month and a surplus of \$8956 year-to-date.**

**September revenue included a generous donation of \$1500 for Swiftwater training certification expenses, indirect donations from the HCA Foundation and United Way, revenue from Rec Boat School and Winter Paddling Clinic and membership dues.**

**September Expenses included our contribution for the Legislative Scorecard production of \$500, reimbursements for Canoe & Kayak School and Swiftwater Rescue and our usual monthly membership and overhead expenses.**

**October will have additional expenses for building river access sites, reimbursements for Rec Boat School and Winter Paddling Clinic.**

**Motion was made by Jim McCool, and seconded by Craig Burr to adopt the financial report. Motion carried.**

**TSRA Donation - Deb Seckman: Deb's workplace, Corrections Corporation of America, has designated donations given by employees on 'blue jeans' day this month to go to TSRA. Many thanks to Deb for her participation in this financial contribution to TSRA.**

**Conservation Committee-Mark Quarles, Donnie Safer, Dave Pelren, Daniel Boone:**

Daniel announced that Tennessee Scenic Vistas Act /aka Mountain Top Removal will be very active this next year. Mountaintop removal/valley fill is a mining practice where the tops of mountains are removed, exposing the seams of coal. Mountaintop removal can involve removing 500 feet or more of the summit to get at buried seams of coal. The earth from the mountaintop is then dumped in the neighboring valleys. Grants amounting to \$20,000 have been given to grass roots organizations in Tennessee to get this issue in front of people and legislature.

**Blue Ridge Paper Legal Action lawsuit update :** Daniel related information on the motions filed in this lawsuit and the outcome. TSRA, CWEET and Cocke County were found by the judge to have no standing going forward in the lawsuit. The only Tennessee group still officially involved is the Tennessee Sierra Club. CWEET or Clean Water Expected in East Tennessee is an organization of raft guides and others that strive to provide the most up-to-date information about the health of our rivers and streams in the South East; currently focusing on the Pigeon River and NPDES permit status of the Canton paper mill. The trial date will be set at the first of the year.

Daniel proposed we stay involved on a financial basis even though we have been eliminated by the judge. Donnie Safer reminded the Board that we have committed to pay \$5,000.00 for fees pertaining to the lawsuit. A bill has not been received yet as to our portion of fee. A motion was made that we will remain involved on a financial basis and that we will do so by linking with one of the active organizations against Blue Ridge Paper Mill. Patty Schultz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Tennessee Sustainable Economy Summit will be held October 28-29, 2011 at Lipscomb University in Nashville. Donnie Safer relayed information about this event and encourage us to participate.

TDEC is in the process of generating new water quality standards. Daniel Boone will be participating in this discussion.

David Pelren noted that he had good participation in the stream study at Manskers Creek near Hendersonville. David suggests that we need to think about ways to make adopting a river more compelling. Barnett Williams ask that Dave send us a list of rivers and who has adopted what stretches of these rivers. Trent noted it would be helpful to map the rivers and provide this information on the website. Dave stated that he is working with TEC to develop a report of adopted rivers.

**Community Shares- Lisa McCarter:** Lisa represented TSRA by competing in the Music City Chili Cook-off on October 15, 2011 in Centennial Park. This earned TSRA 30 fundraising points for Community Share. Gene Levine and Daniel Boone served Lisa's "veggie" chili to the public. We need 6 more points to reach our goal of 100 points.

**River Access update - Patty Schultz:** Clyde Gensert and Woody Woodall have been invaluable with their assistance in planning and constructing the Newsom's Mill access along with help from David Pelren and John Grimes.

The Hwy 70 and Cedar Hill Road access on the Harpeth River near Tip- A- Canoe is half way complete. Patty will put next work day on TSRA's website and also try to get in information in the Tennessean.

Patty stated that Richard Quinn has put together a river access points database for the ten counties in the Cumberland Region.

REI has offered TSRA a table to gift wrap. We will be able to keep the donations given for wrapping gifts as well as be able to hand out information on our organization. Lisa McCarter has offered to head up the gift wrap table.

**Roll School – Jack Lyle:** Roll School at TSU will start in early to mid-February. Jack notes he has received good support from TSU and TSRA members. General roll instruction, free nights, stroke clinics and rescue instruction will be provided from February to mid-May. School breaks will probably close two Wednesday night practices.

Discussion of pros and cons was held concerning TSRA membership being combined with ACA membership. TSRA is required to have insurance in order to rent the pool. Discussion was also held on how to monitor members coming to each class along with handling waivers.

**2012 Canoe and Kayak School –Sally Barr:** Canoe and Kayak School date has been set for June 22-24, 2012. Sally will be sure to place this information on the website calendar.

**TSRA Newsletter - Lisa McCarter, Charlie Wilkerson:** Lisa has volunteered to work on editing the newsletter for Mary Helen Clark until the end of the year. It was noted that Mary Helen spent 15 to 20 hours a month on each newsletter. But Lisa pointed out that the real need and issue at the moment is the lack of someone to design and layout the newsletter each month. That requires specific computer skills and considerable additional time. There is no one to supply either of those. Discussion was held on how to best help supply articles for the newsletter as well as the need for hard copy newsletters verses website newsletter. Daniel Boone suggested that write-ups on all trips, clinics, etc. should be submitting for the newsletter in a timely manner. It would be ideal to have five to six people commit to monthly articles that can help bring interest to

the newsletter. It was suggested that we see what the member survey reveals as to this matter. Charlie announced that he is working on an annual report of all activities throughout the year to be published.

**Fall Fling- Charlie Wilkerson:** Trip leaders for trips on the Hiwassee, Ocoee, Nantahala and Tellico Rivers are in place for Fall Fling to be held the weekend of October 29, 2012. This is a free event that will be held at Ocoee River Rats. Robert Gregga will be cooking 20 pounds of pork Saturday night. Paddlers are asked to bring dishes to complete the meal. At this date, 40 people have signed up to attend Fall Fling.

The Annual TSRA meeting will be held Saturday night. Ballots will be available for voting for 2012 Board members. Highlights of 2011 will be reported along with reports concerning Access building, Community Shares, conservation efforts and Adopt a River program.

Thanks to April Wilkerson who has provided support and help in organizing Fall Fling.

Motion was made by Jim McCool to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sally Barr.