

Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
Board Meeting
October 28, 2010

Time & Place: 7:00 p.m., Radnor Lake Visitor Center, Nashville

Present: T. Ganstine, C. Grissom, R. Karwedsky, G. Levine, L. McCarter, J. McCool, D. Pelren, M. Quarles, D. Safer, P. Shultz, Stacy, and B. Williams

Absent: D. Boone, J. Clapper, S. Davis, E. Fisher, S. Logan, J. Lyle, C. Wilkerson and F. Worthington

Guests: Clyde Gerstner, John Grimes and Scott Strausbaugh

President Trent Ganstine called the meeting to order.

MINUTES:

The September minutes were approved as submitted.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

We ended September with a surplus for the month and a surplus year-to-date of \$7,563.00. Revenue last month included reimbursement from TWRA for the Duck River Project of almost \$8,000.00, registration fees for basic river rescue and membership fees. Expenses included a \$1,000.00 contribution for the legislative scorecard production and some school expenses.

The financial report was approved as submitted.

CONSERVATION:

Rob stated that the contribution for Parks & Greenways (Cummins Falls) must still come out of our 2010 budget.

Rob reported that "Releafing Day" in Bellevue is scheduled for November 20, 2010. This is being sponsored by TEC and they expect to plant 300 trees in areas hit by the floods.

Dave reported that the Adopt-a-River program is getting some stream monitoring going in Polk County. They have about 20 adopters, but had not gotten out to monitor them yet. He expects to do a seminar in West Tennessee. Barnett discussed the possibility of using some of the old slides we have and converting them to a power point.

Donnie reported that the 2010 Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee is scheduled for November 5-6 in Lebanon. This will be the fourth annual summit.

COMMUNITY SHARES:

Lisa reported that we have now accumulated all of our 100 points for 2010, including the required 40% for access or fundraising points, thanks to our participation in (and Trent's contribution to) the Nashville Chili Cook-off in Centennial Park.

ACCESS PROJECTS:

Jane Polansky, the State Scenic Rivers Administrator, is working with a committee, including 5 of the original drafters, to amend the Scenic Rivers Act to make it more understandable and offer opportunity for more designations.

Park and Float, the effort of TDOT and TWRA to leave a driveway and a few parking spots near bridges for river access, is up and running. A number of TSRA Access members joined TDOT and TWRA people for a float on the Harpeth from one of the Park and Float access sites. Tennessee on the Wildside joined the float and that should be on TV in the next few weeks.

TDEC is working on a state blueway plan with Jane Polansky's involvement. Hopefully this will lead to having federal funds available in the future. The access committee is looking for a representative from TVA. Cumberland River Compact expects to send a member to our next meeting.

ADAPTIVE PADDLING:

Mark asked, since we were not selected for the AWA grant we had applied for, do we want to approve an expenditure for an adaptive paddler certification for our instructors? We could get twelve people trained during one weekend by two ACA instructors for \$900.00 plus their travel expenses and a pool rental. This could be in the neighborhood of \$2,000-3,000.00 expense total. Barnett mentioned that there is a River Runner program at Vanderbilt University. We had previously had little success getting a response from them. According to Barnett, five to six TSRA members participated in some training at Vanderbilt by a D.C. paddling group a year and a half ago or two years ago.

Discussion ensued regarding the demand and costs/benefits for this type of training. There should be a demand beyond disabled veterans. Barnett noted that in the late 90's the Board spent about \$4,000.00 training TSRA members in "play boating" instruction through NOC instructors, but we were never able to attract much public demand for these type classes (maybe had one or two at most). Heather pointed out that there are many factors that go into organizing this instruction: the types of injuries; modifications to the boats; the needs of different people with different disabilities; and the need for medical personnel. A suggestion was made that we do more research on this and possibly look into the Adaptive Paddling Symposium in Chattanooga that Patty mentioned. An informal committee will explore the matter further.

CREEKING CLASS:

Chris Grissom is considering chairing an introduction to creeking class in Tennessee, possibly on the Tellico. Chris approached the people at Jackson Kayak about assisting with this. He is thinking about the middle of March 2011 for this, but he needs to find a place to stay overnight.

"GREEN SCENE":

Gene will be starting a new column in our newsletter that focuses on "green" issues. He is asking for people to submit articles on why they are involved in conservation. Submittals can be sent to Gene and/or Mary Helen.

COSTUME FLOAT:

Barnett is leading this October 30th float at 3:00 p.m. on the Cumberland and the Meet-up paddling group will be sending several of their members. Barnett would appreciate any support boaters from TSRA.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Sherry coordinated this and we had a good speaker, Ed Owen with MDHA, who spoke about the plan for a development of downtown's river banks. There were only about 20-25 people at this meeting and Sherry is looking for suggestions on how to increase attendance for this event.

WEB SITE PAYMENT OPTION:

Trent stated that our authorized account has been set up and we hope to connect it to our web site in the very near future. Site Mason is facilitating this.

WEB SITE CALENDAR:

Trent circulated this earlier today. It could be searchable for past or future events. Site Mason may be able to help with changes to the navigation of our web site.

TRIAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Trent wants to offer these to people with some incentives, e.g. offering an Adopt-a-River seminar. Some discussion ensued regarding various options.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

Trent renewed last month's discussion about converting our entire membership to one uniform renewal date. There is also the possibility of allowing people to join for a number of years in advance. More discussion will be had on this next month.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Heather mentioned that Falling Creek Campground in Asheville, NC offers a summer camp for kids/teens and teaches them to paddle a little white water. One of the teens is from Nashville and his parents are looking for more paddling outlets for their son. Heather suggested this camp and possibly others may be a possible contact for TSRA. She will get more information.

Sam is working on an "ask" campaign for our membership. Trent wants to put a "donate" option on our web site once the payment option is fully available.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.