

Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
Board Meeting
July 22, 2010

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

Present: C. Wilkerson, D. Boone, D. Pelren, B. Williams, M. Quarles, J. Clapper, J. Lyle, S. Davis, G. Levine, T. Ganstine, E. Fisher, D. Safer

Absent: C. Grissom, R. Karwedsky, S. Logan, L. McCarter, J. McCool, P. Shultz, H. Stacey, F. Worthington

Guest: Lucy Garrabrants and Scott Strausbaugh

President Trent Ganstine called the meeting to order.

MINUTES:

The May were not ready for approval, the June Minutes were approved as submitted.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Sam reported that we are still running a deficit for the year. Sam said that the deficit is very low as compared to our total income so he is not concerned about this. It was also reported that we have been very successful at obtaining grants.

The financial report was approved as submitted.

Blue Ridge Paper Legal Action:

Daniel reported that the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) asked us and 5 other environmental groups (to be listed below) to assist them with an administrative appeal filed in North Carolina with the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) that allows the Blue Ridge Paper Company ("BRP") (formally Champion Paper) to exceed the states thermal, and color variance discharges. BRP received the variance because it stated the it would be an economic hardship to meet these standards. A report that the EPA produced said it would not be an economic hardship for the mill to meet these standards. This will be the basis for the appeal.

Daniel reminded us that TSRA was very involved with cleaning up the river in the mid 90's and that now the river is cleaner it has become an important economic and recreational resource for the area. Barnett added this is a very important issue for a lot of our members and we could probably start a fund to cover cost if it becomes more expensive than anticipated. Sam and Jim stated that this seems to be our mission, "this is why people pay dues". Sam and others expressed concern that the agreement that SELC proposed, did not limit us to the cost of our part of the cost estimate, which was \$5000.

The five other groups that have agreed to join SLCE in this appeal are CLean Water

Expected for East Tennessee, Clean Water for North Carolina, Western North Carolina Alliance, Cock County of TN, Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

A motion was made to allow SELC to represent us in the administrative appeal of the issuance of this permit to the DWQ with a limit to our financial responsibility to \$5000 without further action by the board. This motion passed. It was generally agreed that if expenses the \$5000 limit we would readdress the issue at a later date.

Attached to the minutes will be the Retainer Memorandum from SELC

Conservation:

Daniel reported that the the Quarry adjacent to Richland Creek that was flooded when Richland Creek re-channelized into the quarry during the flood in May, will be restored close to the original channel. This was viewed as the best possible outcome. Thanks to the Richland Creek Watershed for their work on this.

River Access:

Lucy reported that we received a grant from REI, for river access in the amount of \$6000. Lucy also reported that she attended the meeting for the Blue-way grant.

Lucy proposed that we dedicate the Bellevue access that we built on the Harpeth river to Tom Brenner. Tom recently past away. Tom went above and beyond what was expected with his work on river access and the tree planting projects for TSRA. We had planned on recognizing his work and all agreed that this would be a good gesture. Tom will be missed.

Donation request to improve Ocoee access:

Trent reported that Robert Jordan is building covered bench much like the one at the take-out on the Hiwassee for his Eagle Scout project. Robert requested that we help with material cost of \$300.

A motion was made to do so and was approved.

AW Grant:

Mark reported on his effort for TSRA to receive a grant from AW / Cliff Bar. His idea is to start an Adaptive Paddling Program for TSRA, to assist handicapped individuals to paddle. We would use the grant money to have a number of TSRA instructors trained by the ACA to be certified to instruct handicapped individuals. And may also adapt some boats to be outfitted for easier use by handicapped. It was generally agreed that we (Mark) should continue with this idea.

Lost Loon Race:

Jim reported that we need paddlers to help with the race to be held Aug. 29th at Long Hunter State Park.

Updating Brochures:

Scott unveiled the new updated TSRA brochures. Everyone thought they were great.

SWR Update:

Charlie reported that the last class went real well. There were eight Metro Fireman in the class. We are adding one or two new schools this summer do to the demand. Do to the resent floods the is a big interest with governmental organizations in using the knowledge of or SWR instructors to improve their skills in the area.

Harpeth River Canoe Day:

Jack reported that he has been asked to assist with this event. The event is to highlight the value of the Harpeth River to the Belvue area. No date yet. It will be in the fall. "Stay tuned to help with a fun day on the river".

Dragon Boat Races:

Trent reported that we had a least 42 boats signed up so far. He said we need paddlers and volunteers. We discussed ways to get the volunteers out to the event.

Annual Meeting and Board Nominees:

Trent reported that there was no date or time for the meeting yet. The meeting and nominations need to be taken care of soon (nominations need to be in by the end of the month). Ideas of a meeting places and dates were discussed and will be pursued.

Website Payment options:

Trent reported on his research to streamline the signup and payment for our events online. He presented a few options available to us. All options increased our cost with monthly and transaction fees an a percentage of transaction fees. Trent pointed out that these systems would make managing our schools much easier and would give us the option of selling merchandise. It was generally agreed that the benefits outweighed the nominal increase to our cost.

Jim made a motion to approve the new option of using the online signup and payment. The motion passed.

Gift Memberships:

David discussed the program of gift memberships. This would be possible with the new online system.

Great Outdoors Initiative:

Trent reported on President Obama's "Great Outdoor Initiative". He thought we should have a representative at this meeting. We are standing by for volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.