

**Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
Board Meeting
December 10, 2009**

Time & Place: 6:30 p.m., REI, Brentwood

Present: H. Ambrose, D. Boone, J. Clapper, E. Fisher, T. Ganstine, R. Karwedsky, J. Lyle, L. McCarter, P. Shultz, S. Strausbaugh, C. Wilkerson and B. Williams

Absent: S. Beard, B. Boord, S. Davis, B. Hart, B. Kelsey, B. Koonce, S. Logan, M. Spencer.

Guests: Lucy Garrabrants, Gene Levine, David Pelren, Mark Quarles, and Fanci Worthington

President Jim Clapper called the meeting to order.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Lucy noted that we experienced a deficit of \$1,210.00 for November and a deficit of \$307.00 year-to-date, but we should be receiving a check from Community Shares this month. November revenue included membership dues and donations. Expenses included sponsorship for the Southeast Watershed Forum of \$500.00 and recurring expenses of web site and administration. The financial report was approved as submitted.

MINUTES:

Lisa presented the November minutes in Sherry's absence. They were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY SHARES:

Lisa reported that we will be receiving our end-of-year check from Community Shares next Tuesday. The amount is not known at this time, but it should be roughly commensurate with the check we received in July (around \$5,000.00). A question was raised concerning what percentage, if any, Community Shares takes off each workplace giving donation. Jim indicated it is usually 20 %.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:

Scott is working on this, but he's having trouble transposing all family members' names from the database into a workable program, because he has to do a mail-merge. Eventually he will put it all in Excel and then he'll be able to manipulate it. Henry provided some suggestions for using Excel and Scott will talk to Charlie Jordan who is familiar with our database. Daniel advised he sent Shirley new addresses on legislative members some weeks ago, so Scott will look for this. Eric suggested we consider having a database that more than one person can access and manipulate. Henry recommended "Sales Force" as a program that may facilitate this effort. He then moved that the 2010

Board do some research on this and look for a more accessible program. This motion was approved.

TENNESSEE CONSERVATION VOTERS:

Jim mentioned that Mary Helen had requested that TSRA donate a school certificate to TCV's annual fundraiser and auction, which is in February. The Board approved doing so.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID :

Trent mentioned that Jim McCool had spoken to Justin Knowles of Landmark Learning about doing a wilderness first aid course at Radnor Lake in 2010 during the last weekend of March. The course would be two days long and would cost between \$155-165.00 per person based on a class of at least twelve and a maximum of 18 people. Two of the participants will be park rangers, so TSRA would need to fill up to 16 spots. They are asking for a deposit of \$800.00 to save that weekend. If we can fill up the class, we should not be out any money, since TSRA members would pay tuition directly to TSRA. If we do not fill up the class, we will not get our deposit back. The Board approved going forward with this and we will promote it as costing \$160.00 per person. Daniel suggested that we publish notice in the January and February newsletters with a deadline.

ROLL SCHOOL:

Jack reported that he'll be sending out a request for instructors in a few weeks, as well as for someone to man the registration desk and a "boat cop" to make sure all boats entering the pool have been washed. The school will be at TSU again in 2010 on Wednesday evenings and will start around the end of February and go through March.

TRIP LEADER SEMINAR:

Jack will be hosting a trip leader seminar on January 29, 2010 at his house. That is a Friday night.

WALDEN'S RIDGE WHITE WATER:

Charlie talked to Mark Cumnock at waldens'ridgewhitewater.com. They are a group that does serious white water runs like Henderson Creek and they are building a web site that monitors creeks and includes gauges. They have even identified gauges that are out of repair and need recalibration. They are asking TSRA for a \$275.00 donation in 2010 to help with their gauge reading contest (\$75.00 of the \$275.00 would cover the cost of their server for the web site). In return, they would put TSRA's logo and a link to our web site on their web page. Charlie says they have done much work on streams that don't have any GIS. They have indicated they could also use some general guidance on administration. Charlie had some discussions with them about partnering with TSRA. They are not a recreational club or a 501(c)(3) at this point. Mark Cumnock is also not a

TSRA member. A suggestion was made that he try to come to a TSRA meeting and give a presentation.

A motion was made to donate the \$275.00 if Cumnock joins TSRA and we invite him to a meeting. The motion was approved.

OBED OUTDOOR OUTFITTER:

Trent reported that this outfitter is closing its doors (in Wartburg) on December 12, 2009, after having only opened earlier this year. We will announce this in our next newsletter. It was noted that we had considered them as a possible partner or creating a separate TSRA chapter up there.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:

Trent noted that we need to do more work and research on this concept of creating chapters. He has done a review of our database over a four year period to see where members cluster around major cities and what the approximate size of those clusters are. Barnett suggested that we try to see if we have had a membership shift geographically. Trent noted that we have as many members in Lexington, KY and in Cincinnati as we do in the Chattanooga area.

Scott pointed out that we have many people in our database whose membership has expired since 2006. Henry suggested that we send out postcards to expired members to remind them to re-up and to existing members to thank them for membership and ask them for donation. Trent has a pre-printed postcard that he will send to Scott for addresses and mailing out. It was also suggested that anyone whose membership had expired up to 2008 not have their data printed in the 2010 directory.

FINANCIAL CHART/ ANNUAL REPORT:

Sam cannot be available tonight due to a work conflict. According to Henry, Beth has suggested that Sam prepare a pie chart and that administrative costs be allocated into separate itemized costs rather than aggregated into one. Beth will prepare a page for e-mail distribution and for the newsletter. We will also include the names of recent donors to TSRA.

CONSERVATION:

Rob reported that we agreed to sign onto the letter addressed to TDEC Assistant Commissioner Paul Sloan and Water Pollution Control Director, Paul Davis regarding wet weather conveyances.

John McFadden has asked TSRA for a donation to fund TEC's efforts for the "Conservation Day on the Hill" that they do each year now to educate the public and our representatives. Although TEC has suggested we donate as much as \$5,000.00, the Conservation Committee is recommending a donation of \$2,500.00 for this event, which

will take place in February 2010. Daniel made a motion that we donate \$2,500.00 toward expenses for this conservation education day. Henry suggested this be a joint TEC/TSRA event and that they list us as a co-sponsor so that we get more publicity out of this. Others suggested that \$2,500.00 may be too much for this event, since much of the funding will go to TEC's salaries. A friendly amendment was made by Patty that we donate \$1,000.00, rather than \$2,500.00 for this event. Lucy suggested that we know in advance what, if any, quid pro quo there is for our donation. A final friendly amendment was made to the motion such that we donate \$1,000.00 to TEC to defray the costs for food and space for the after-party event. This motion was approved.

BOARD NOMINATIONS:

Two nominations have been made by Jim McCool: 1) Chris Grissom; and 2) Jim Ledbetter (contingent on our having the capacity to set up conference calls for him). Others nominated Donnie Safer, the current president of TEC. Donnie and Chris were both on the 2009 ballot. Trent pointed out that the logistics of long distance connection for board meetings is not something we are ready to embrace yet. The Board will recommend Donnie Safer and Chris Grissom for the 2010 Board.

OTHER MATTERS:

Lucy reported that there is a grant available from TWRA in the amount of \$500.00 to plant trees (riparian work). As with other grants, this one would require that we do the work and then seek reimbursement. A suggestion was made that Sherry Beard be contacted regarding the need for such work on the Duck or Harpeth Rivers.

Henry thanked the Board for the Founders' Award having his name on it. He also expressed his excitement about the past and upcoming boards.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa McCarter