

Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association Board Meeting

March 24, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Radnor Lake Visitors Center

Present: Trent Ganstine, Mark Quarles, Patty Shults, Barnett Williams, Donnie Safer, Charlie Wilkerson, Lisa McCarter, Jim McCool, John Grimes, Sally Barr, Daniel Boone, David Pelren, Gene Levine, Chris Grissom, Michael King

Absent: Steve Logan, Jack Lyle, Sam Davis, Craig Burr, Clyde Gensert, Brian Devine

Guest: Lucy Garrabrants, Eric Fisher, Scott Strausbaugh

President Trent Ganstine called the meeting to order.

Action Items:

Introduction of New Board members-Trent: Introduction of Michael King

Approval of February Minutes- Sally: Minutes were approved.

Approval of the Financial Report – Lucy Garrabrants: TSRA ended February with a deficit of \$4709 for the month and \$6924 year-to-date. The largest revenue items for the month were roll school \$1425, Rendezvous \$869, membership dues \$750 along with smaller amounts of interest and contributions.

Our largest expense was our annual lobbying contribution of \$6000 to Tennessee Conservation Voters in February. Our operating expenses were merchant account fees for our new shopping cart, web site and email, contract labor, storage, and P.O. Box renewal. Financial report was approved.

Information/Discussion Items:

Blue Ridge Paper Legal Action (Daniel Boone) Downstream users and river advocates today challenged a North Carolina Division of Water Quality wastewater permit that fails to require adequate reductions in color and thermal pollutants being discharged by the Blue Ridge Paper Products mill into the Pigeon River in Haywood County, N.C., about 40 miles from the Tennessee border. The North Carolina permit allows the paper mill to discharge wastewater into the Pigeon River that raises the temperature of the river beyond the limits allowed by state water quality standards. Daniel indicates that the paper company has until May to firm up the permit's terms and take steps to do what they need to do to get clean.

Conservation:TCV (Tennessee Conservation Voters) appreciate our contribution. The State Lands Acquisition Fund (SLAF) has been instrumental in the efforts to acquire lands for preservation and conservation across the entire state of Tennessee. This Land Acquisitions is now back in the budget.

Daniel has copies of the General Assembly directory w/ contact pamphlets available.

The 25th annual Mill Creek Cleanup will be held Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Blue Hole Road and Antioch Pike in the Antioch Middle School parking lot. Metro Beautification and Environment will co-sponsor and provide t-shirts, bags and trash removal. Nashville Greenways is working with us on canoe access at various locations. Extra canoes are needed.

Barnett Williams suggested that Stewart Clifton, Government Relations Officer with TVC come to talk to the board about how they are utilizing the money contribution. He also suggested that current bills be reviewed during each Legislative session and that a legislative member talk to board when session is out.

Donnie Safer suggested that we support the passage of bill SB 577/HB 291 on March 30th which will protect Tennessee's mountains, waters, natural environment and citizens from the ravages of mountain top removal mining. Mountaintop removal mining reshapes mountains, contaminates water, stifles economic growth and compromises the health of residents.

Donnie also encouraged all members to go to www.tnconservationvoters.org to get updates on current issues such as Radioactive Waste Bill. He also stated that the House Environment Committee will close out in mid-April. The next few weeks are key.

Mark Quarles discussed "fracking"-a procedure that involves extracting underground gas deposits by hydraulic fracturing of the rock. He indicated that much of what is going on has been under the radar. Well sites are going up in Fentress County. A final public hearing will be held in Knoxville on May 4, 2011. Gene Levine would like to host a showing of the movie "Gasland" to up the awareness of this process and its environmental hazards.

Concerning all environmental issues discussed, Charlie asked if we should file a comment as an environmental group. Barnett suggests we be more proactive to voice our opinions. It was recommended that we reestablish an active Conservation committee that will meet prior to each board meeting to review current bills and issues.

Community Shares: Lisa McCarter

Lisa provided information in gathering "access/fundraising" points for Community Shares (we must get at least 40 points annually). We can get up to 15 points for each and every employer/company that allows Community Shares to come in their door and give a presentation to employees. The company does not have to commit to partner with Community Shares and there is no minimum number of employees required. If a company does commit to partner, that could mean points depend on the # of employees at that company. If we know of a company that would be willing to let CS come in and do a presentation, let Lisa know and she will make arrangements for a presentation. At this point, we only have 20 access points; we need 40.

River Access update: Patty Shultz/Steve Logan

TSRA will be building an access ramp at Coley Davis Road on the Harpeth River on April 9 and 10. This ramp will provide an access point five miles downstream from the Highway 100 access and five miles upstream from the Newsom's Mill access. Volunteers are needed.

Charlie suggested that all access points be put on the website. Trent suggested that we develop a "build it /clean it/paddle it" day as a way to get more people involved in clean up.

Creeking Clinic on Tellico-Chris Grissom

Six people participated in clinic. Jim, Charlie, Craig, Eric and Woody assisted. \$370 spent for the clinic. We gained two new members out of the clinic. This could be a good fund raiser is at least 15 people sign on next year.

Rendezvous Update

The deadline to sign up is March 27th. We still need trip leaders, especially flatwater leaders. As of March 16th, only 28 people had signed up. More donations of good boating items are need for the auction. Donnie noted that the TN Parks and Greenways have donated a Jackson Rec boat for the auction.

Paddle Fest at REI-Eric Fisher

Festival of paddling at REI is set for April 9, 2011. Chuck Robinson is organizing it and asked if TSRA could get involved. This would be a good opportunity to get our name out to community. Eric would like for TSRA paddling trip videos or slides to be shown in the conference room. We could promote access building at the same time. Information on Community Shares could be available. Eric stated that REI contributed 5,000.00 to building accesses. Michael King will represent Paddle Adventure Plus.

Paddle Fun Day – Michael King

This is the 3rd year for Paddle Fun day. Paddle Adventure plus has 170 members and 60+ boats attending the April 23, 2011 Paddle Fun Day from 11-4pm. This day is followed with a bonfire and music. This is a great opportunity to introduce more folks to paddling and allow people to try out different boats and ask questions. All TSRA members are invited to attend. Volunteers are needed to teach basic paddling, rope throwing, etc. Michael is open to folks bringing boats, teach clinic, promote conservation, etc.

Eric stated that Paddle Adventure Plus people are interested in whitewater. TSRA could lead a trip to see if they would be interested. It was estimated that 45 Paddle Adventure members would be interested. Discussion on planning trip was held..

Donnie suggest C&K school needs to be offered to Paddle Adventure Plus members.

Dates of clinics and schools were discussed.

River Rescue/Youth Paddle (John Grimes)

John offered to start an Intro to paddling day on the Harpeth teaching the buddy system, how to pack a rope, safety issues and community involvement. He will start with a youth day on the Harpeth. Mark suggested as the section between Hwy 100 to new Bellevue takeout would be great. Basic conclusion was that we need to step up and introduce kids to paddling and be sure to offer training in safely.

It was decided that Michael King, Jim McCool and John Grimes with meet before our April meeting and develop a plan to get the youth river rescue and paddle day organized.

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Dragon Boat- Trent :Not much to report at this meeting.

Other Discussion:

Charlie Wilkerson indicated that he is working on a distribution list of members as well as modifying the Board member handbook with the new Bylaws.

Barnett Williams indicated that a PR committee needed. Issues such as access building or repair, fracking, schools and clinics need to be publicized better. Trent indicated that there are many different paddle clubs within 300 miles that should be sent information.

A motion was made to adjourn by Charlie Wilkerson. Lisa McCarter seconded the motion.

