

**Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
Board Meeting
March 25, 2010**

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

Present: J. Clapper, S. Davis, E. Fisher, T. Ganstine, C. Grissom, R. Karwedsky, G. Levine, S. Logan, J. Lyle, L. McCarter, D. Pelren, M. Quarles, D. Safer, P. Shultz, C. Wilkerson and F. Worthington

Absent: D. Boone, J. McCool, H. Stacy, and B. Williams

Guests: S. Strausbaugh,

President Trent Ganstine called the meeting to order.

MINUTES:

Lisa presented the February minutes. They were approved and adopted as submitted. Lisa mentioned that the minutes from board meetings have not been posted on our web site in the archives section since last July. Trent stated that we need to get the minutes to Scott for posting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

In February, expenditures outpaced receipts, but this was primarily the result of our annual \$6,000.00 contribution to Tennessee Conservation Voters. We don't have all the expenses yet for Roll School (still don't know what the pool rental will be). Charlie asked that we try to determine what TEC used the money we contributed to Conservation Day on the Legislative Plaza for. Donnie Safer stated that the money was well spent since many contacts with legislators were made that day. While John McFadden had asked us in general for funds for the Legislative Plaza Conservation Day, it was pointed out that the board decided to focus our contribution specifically on the after-event party. Trent expressed concern that we not give an organization a blank check, but instead provide funds on the back end after expenses are known.

The financial report was approved as submitted.

TSRA BROCHURES/ EVENT BOOTH:

Trent stated that we need a group of volunteers to propose ideas for updating our brochure and booth by the next board meeting. Gene volunteered and Jack will ask Mary if she has time to help, since she is a professional writer. Scott may be able to help and Chris also offered to help. It was suggested that we also look into getting an intern from Belmont to assist on this.

MEETING TIMES/NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

Trent suggested that we need to publish the minutes in the newsletter, but the deadline for publication usually precedes the Board meeting. We need to get information out to the membership sooner. Lisa stated that a few years ago we used to publish a “summary” of the minutes from the prior month’s meeting before they had been officially approved by the Board and we put a footnote in the summary to reflect that. We may need to consider doing that again.

CONSERVATION:

Donnie reported that the bottle bill died in subcommittee and legislation on mountain top removal mining is on life support, because speaker Ramsay is aggressively opposing it. Restoration of the Land Acquisition Fund is touch and go and will likely not be decided until the end of the session.

Trent asked Mark Quarles to report on the status of the permit for the *Roberta Landfill* in Scott County. Mark, who is a geologist, passed out a draft letter under his signature to the Tennessee Director of Solid Waste Management providing detailed comments on why the landfill permit is deficient and attaching technical findings. Only a few other environmental organizations even have this landfill, which is in close proximity to the Big South Fork, on their radar. Mark stated that the landfill requires both a solid waste permit and a water quality permit (ARAP), because the proposed landfill would involve filling a small wetland and several hundred feet of a perennial stream upstream of the BSF. The concern is that the landfill may be used for the deposit of (dry) coal ash from TVA’s Kingston steam plant, 60 miles away. The permit application has just under a three year life span for 24 acres of landfill, but Mark suspects the permit applicant has much more long term disposal plans in mind for it, including acceptance of the TVA coal ash. There also appears to be some conflict between the two TDEC divisions responsible for permitting this, with one characterizing the impacted stream as “perennial” and another calling it just “perched water” (isolated or temporary).

A motion was made that we approve the draft letter, with some very slight stylistic changes, and that Trent will supply a cover letter to go with it on behalf of the TSRA Board by April 5, 2010 (the end of the public comment period). This motion was approved with three members abstaining on the vote (Karwedsky, McCarter and Pelren).

Finally, Trent noted that Vic Scoggins had contacted him regarding potential pollutants in Sims Branch, a tributary of Mill Creek here in Nashville. This has been covered by local television news and TDEC officials are investigating it.

ACCESS PROJECTS:

Patty reported that TDOT’s park & float crew is having a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Highway 249 near the Harpeth River and TSRA is invited to participate. It appears that Friends of Greenways, which is headed up by Renee Bates, may be willing to give us some money (for an access site on Mill Creek). The Bellevue site is still having problems related to our getting access to it. The clean-up on Whites Creek in Davidson County is this weekend and we are advocating to build a take-out at Hartman Park on the Whites Creek Greenway. Finally, Patty and Steve

reported that Metro is putting a access point on Mill Creek near Thompson Lane and it should be ready this summer.

COMMUNITY SHARES:

Lisa reported that we can get some fundraising points by donating a scholarship certificate to one or more of our schools to Community Shares' big fundraiser "Circle of Change" next month in Knoxville. The number of points we can get are based on the dollar value of the donation we make. Trent pointed out that we have no one as yet to chair our introductory paddling school, generally held in May in Nashville. Trent will sign a certificate for our Canoe and Kayak School in June. Trent and Jack will be appearing on the Middle Tennessee Community Shares radio show on April 2, 2010. This is on Radio Free Nashville and gives us an opportunity to promote our efforts and our upcoming schools and events.

WILDERNESS FIRST AID CLINIC:

In Jim's absence, Trent reported that there are fifteen people signed up for this class, which takes place this weekend. It appears that TSU may also be having one of these classes in the near future.

ACA/ L.L. BEAN GRANT:

Scott has discovered that there is a grant from ACA/ and L.L. Bean for \$1,000.00 for access, land acquisition and tree planting activities. It does not appear to have due date on it. This might be a good candidate for work on Mill Creek access. Steve and Patty will work on it.

ONLINE EVENT REGISTRATION:

Scott has talked to Henry Ambrose about this. We need an easier way for people to register online. Our current system with Paypal software has so many line items to complete and then you just pay a total amount. There is no way to break it all out after payment is made. Lucy, who is absent tonight, may have some input, so we should put this off until next month. Mark stated that he uses a shopping cart for his business for online purchases. A committee of Mark, Charlie, Scott and Trent will look at this and try to report next month.

OBED WATERSHED GROUP

Trent, Eric and Chris went up to talk to the Obed Watershed Community Association a few weeks ago and made a presentation about TSRA. They are interested in paddling and conservation and their director will be coming to Rendezvous. They have been active for five years and they are interested in exploring the possibility of becoming a TSRA chapter.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES:

Trent stated that we have received a number of invitations from different organizations. We have been asked to participate at an all-day sustainability fair in Crossville on April 29, 2010, but

that is a week day. They have suggested that we bring some brochures and perhaps some boats and equipment.

We have also been asked by the Tennessee Central Basin Grotto to give a presentation on paddling to their members. They meet the first Monday of every month in Murfreesboro.

Connor Franklin, a TSRA member who lead a clean-up on the Hatchie River last year, has been approached by a corporation in West Tennessee that would like to provide some financing for future TSRA projects. If we accept this money, we will need to provide a significant presence at the event.

TSRA FUNDRAISING:

Trent emphasized that he would like us to explore the idea of doing more of our own fundraising, rather than relying on grants. Chris Grissom has offered to put something together by way of a fundraising dinner, since he has the facility to do the cooking, but we would need help with marketing and a venue for the event. Sam asked who our target audience would be, who we would seek to raise the money from. Donnie, as Executive Director of TEC, which does its Green Tie fundraiser every year, pointed out that these events are labor-intensive and the field is very crowded. Fanci suggested that perhaps we try to tie our event to another event that is already scheduled and Sam suggested that we host an event with another paddling club.

WHITE WATER RENDEZVOUS:

Trent said that, per Jim Shelton, we have 66 registrations as of March 23rd. We are hoping to break 100-150

INTRO PADDLING SCHOOL:

Trent repeated that we have no one as yet to lead this school and we will not be able to put anything in the April newsletter as a result. This has been a break-even event in the past. Sherry Beard, however, is apparently going to chair a recreational paddling school this year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.