

## **Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association Board Meeting**

August 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Radnor Lake Visitors Center

Present: Barnett Williams, Donnie Safer, Mark Quarles, Dave Pelren, John Grimes, Daniel Boone, Craig Burr, Sally Barr, Clyde Gensert, Sam Davis, Trent Ganstine, Lisa McCarter, Michael King, Patty Shultz, Jack Lyle, Gene Levine, Jim McCool, Charlie Wilkerson

Absent: Steve Logan, Chris Grissom

Guest: Lucy Garrabrants

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Trent Ganstine

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of July Minutes (Trent Ganstine):** Daniel Boone moved to adopt the July minutes as corrected. The minutes were approved by the Board.

**Approval of the Financial Report (Lucy Garrabrants):** TSRA ended the month of July with a surplus of \$10,345 and year-to-date with a surplus of \$8716.

July revenue included a \$5000 grant from REI for river access, TWRA reimbursements of \$7854 for DROP and two river clean-ups, training revenue from Swiftwater, dues, interest and indirect donations from United Way.

July expenses included training expenses/reimbursements of \$2473 for ACA insurance for schools, expenses for Swiftwater, Basic River Rescue and Intro clinic.

We are approved for another Hatchie clean-up grant of \$1000 from TWRA. Conner Franklin will be featured in the next issue of the Tennessee Conservationist.

Daniel Boone moved to adopt the Financial Report. Craig Burr seconded the motion. The Financial Report was approved.

### **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Conservation Committee updates (Daniel Boone/ Donnie Safer):**

Mark Quarles gave an update on the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the Tennessee Oil and Natural Gas Association, as well as members of the public's proposed regulations necessary for the oversight of the use of hydrological fracturing, or "fracking." Mark shared information at the public forum today. Donnie Safer indicated that the number of applications for drilling has diminished in Tennessee but that when all the gas has been extracted in Pennsylvania, they will be looking for another place to drill.

Daniel Boone shared information on the ongoing Blue Ridge Paper Legal Action lawsuit. A total of fifteen motions have been filed since July. Half of the motions are on our side and the other half on Blue Ridge Paper's side. A hearing has been set on September 30, 2011 to sort through the motions. There is a question as to whether or not TSRA has the right to be attached to the lawsuit as our organization is more than twenty five miles downstream from the paper mill.

Southern Environmental Law firm provide legal support gratis. We have paid one half of what we committed to for expert witnesses and filing of fees. Daniel notes that the estimated length of this process may be well into March of next year or even longer.

Daniel Boone recommended that TSRA contribute \$1,000.00 of our budgeted conservation funds to go toward the publication and distribution of the Legislative scorecard published by TCV to provide an objective way to understand and evaluate each legislator's voting record on key legislation. Tennessee Conservation Voters, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of Tennessee's environment, will contribute \$1,000.00. TCV consists of representatives from twenty-seven member organizations, all of which are dedicated to the preservation of the state's natural resources through effective legislative and administrative advocacy.

Discussion was held as to the possibility of other conservation groups contributing to the cost and how important it is to continue to support our environmental lobbyists, Kim Sasser Hayden and Stewart Clifton.

Jim McCool made a motion to contribute \$500.00 instead of \$1,000.00. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Adopt-A-River Stream Study Seminar (David Pelren):** David will lead stream study seminars on September 10, 2011 at Norris State Park and on October 8, 2011 at Moss Wright Park in Goodlettsville, TN.

**Community Shares (Lisa McCarter):** Discussion was held concerning the need for another four year strategic plan as the 2008 plan expires this year. Lisa explained that our good standing with Community Shares is based not only on accumulation of points but also on the peer-reviews, which in turn are based on whether we are meeting certain best practices or minimal standards that include goal setting and strategic planning. Without a new strategic plan in place, we risk flunking the peer-review evaluation process.

**River Access (Patty Shultz):** TSRA Access committee had a meeting on Monday with 11 representatives from numerous state and volunteer agencies. Park and Float work continues with a number of completed projects and others in process. Currently, you can find a great 4 ½ minute video on the Park and Float program with Ken Tucker and the TN Wildside crew. Michael King suggest we get this video out to our members to support the program. Access building plans are in place for the RTP access site improvement at Newsom's Mill in September with Clyde Gensert and Woody Woodall. Our next access site will be at Hwy 70.

**Dragonboat Races (Trent Ganstine):** Trent reports that there were 37 boats total at the Dragonboat races. TSRA came in 6<sup>th</sup> place and we provided 23 volunteers. This was the smoothest event since it started. The estimated money earned for TSRA's conservation efforts should be \$5,000 to \$6,000.00.

TSRA Board nominations (Trent Ganstine): Trent indicated that, at this time, no nominees for Board member have signed up online. One thousand five hundred TSRA August newsletters have been sent out.

**Annual Meeting:** Discussion was held regarding date, time and location of this year's Annual Meeting in October.

**Membership Poll (Mark Quarles):** As our last membership poll was in 2004, it has been suggested that we should send our membership another poll to best evaluate the organization. Discussion involved type of questions and number of questions to be on the new questionnaire. A motion was made that Mark Quarles, David Pelren, Barnett Williams and Jim Clapper will head up the membership poll. Jim McCool moved that the above mentioned members will develop a membership poll or questionnaire to present to the board. The motion was seconded.

Ongoing discussion was held regarding updating TSRA's website and the need of an operations manager or public relations personnel.

Motion was made by Daniel Boone, and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sally Barr.