

Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association
Board Meeting
September 24, 2009

Present: Ambrose, Beard, Boone, Clapper, Davis, Ganstine, Hart, Karwedsky, Koonce, Logan, Lyle, McCarter, Shultz, Spencer, Strausbaugh, Wilkerson, Williams

Absent: Boord, Fisher, Kelsey

Guests: Lucy Garrabrants, Shirley Amitrano, John McFadden

President Jim Clapper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Radnor Lake Visitors Center, Nashville, Tennessee.

TWRA Grant Opportunity – John McFadden. John presented a program on the Duck River Opportunities Program (DROP) pursuant to asking TSRA to administer a new TWRA grant for the program. There was discussion about whether the administrative costs could be recouped, at least partially, through the grant. John, Marshall Spencer, and Lucy Garrabrants will explore this. Barnett asked if the bio-diversity of the Duck River was being promoted. The answer was yes, by a number of organizations in the watershed.

Minutes. Sherry Beard presented the August minutes, which had been sent to Board members in advance, for approval. Minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Report. Sam Davis and Lucy Garrabrants presented the financial report. The August financials were approved as presented. An “ask” letter will be going out to the Board and Life Members. President Clapper stated that it was important that we have a high percentage of Board participation in contributing to the organization.

Substitute for Scott on newsletter. He has decided to put this off for a while. The position will be posted in the newsletter at the appropriate time.

2009 Membership Directory. A motion to skip the 2009 directory and publish the 2010 directory as early as possible was passed. A notice will be put in the newsletter that folks need to update their information by December 1st.

REI “Get Involved Day”. Saturday, October 24th. Jim and Sherry will staff a booth.

Daniel Boone noted that there was a boat trip on the Cumberland on October 31st. Per Marshall, the Swan Creek trip has been rescheduled for October 24th.

Annual Awards. Trent will send an email to last year's winners and the awards will be given at the Holiday party.

Jack Lyle will host the Holiday party on December 5th.

Note of Meeting Change. Please note the meeting change information. In November, the meeting will be Thursday, 19 November at REI from 6:30 – 8:30. December's meeting will also be at REI on 10 December, 6:30 – 8:30.

Conservation Committee. Rob Karwedsky said there was no report. Daniel reported that the Legislative Scorecard was finished and printed and there would be a press conference to announce it.

Brenda reported that the lawsuit with the TMDLs is over. There was another meeting. TSRA agreed to the disposition but not to the way they were set up.

Charlie reported that the tax on non-motorized boats will come up next legislative session. Sam asked what TSRA's position was – the answer was that TSRA is against the tax. Barnett stated that it will cost more to manage than it brings in. Jim asked the Conservation Committee to keep an eye on this bill as it progressed.

River Access. Patty and Steve reported on the HRWA blueways brochure – TSRA was not credited on the brochure. Henry is now on the HRWA board. Stickers will be purchased to add TSRA. Charlie was asked to get a price for 200 stickers and email to the Board for a vote on Friday. They attended a meeting with TWRA regarding the access wish list and the park and float initiative. Steve and Jane Polansky will present at the Southeast Watershed Forum.

Community Shares. Jim reported that we have more than 100 points. Could have as many as 120 and he and Lisa are trying to figure out how to defer some of those to next year. There were plenty of tickets sold for the pancake breakfast but only 45 or 50 people actually attended.

Nominating Committee Report. Trent reported on how the election is going. To date there had been 158 ballots cast online. Marshall brought up a point regarding Life Members – do household members of a Life Member have to pay a separate membership fee to vote? A committee – Barnett, Steve, and Shirley – will explore this issue.

Enhanced communication with the membership. Trent reported. In order to enhance communication with the membership, a "Message from the President" should appear more often in the newsletter and have an "Ask the President" page on the website to generate an FAQ. It was suggested that another forum for questions could be added to the message board and a question would be picked each month to publish in the newsletter. We should also make the financial information available in some fashion. It was suggested that a pie chart with percentages for revenue and expenses be published. Lucy will generate a chart and send it to the Board for review. We should also use the web to point to the newsletter and vice versa as well as the message board.

Membership Survey. Trent suggested that a membership survey will help us to get to know our members better as well as help to devise future events. A committee of Trent, Brenda, Jim, Charlie, and Henry will explore this.

Director of Operations. Jim Clapper asked Shirley and Lucy to leave the meeting during this discussion. Shirley has received a lot of compliments. The Board chose option 1: Cutting her hours back to 15 per week and contracting with another person for an additional 15 hours. Priorities will be changed to best utilize staff time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry K. Beard