



Overmountain Chapter Trout Unlimited

President – Rhett Morris, rhettflyfishingtn@gmail.com

Vice President – Sam Henry, shenry415@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Ryan Turgeon, ryanturgeon76@yahoo.com

Secretary – Philip Tipton, pgtipton1@gmail.com

Minutes of meeting held at Poblano 8/12/25

PRESIDING: Rhett Morris, President

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Rhett Morris, Ryan Turgeon, Rick Elliott, Michael Fick, Nichole Fick, Jeff Mann, Jon Kempton, Evan McDougall, Sam Henry

OTHERS PRESENT:

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Rhett Morris. A review of the agenda gone over.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Previous Meeting Notes: Approved - Yes Motioned: J. Mann
Second: J. Kempton

NEW BUSINESS**Financial Report:**

OMTU Financial Report

July 2025



\$ 10,425.66 Starting Balance (Bank of TN)
 \$ 50,384.76 Starting Balance (Edward Jones)
 \$ 60,810.42 Starting balance as of 7-01-2025

\$ 10,184.93 Ending Balance (Bank of TN)
 \$ 50,556.48 Ending Balance (Edward Jones)
 \$ 60,741.41 Ending balance as of 7-31-2025

DEPOSITS

\$ 171.72 Dividend (Edward Jones)
 \$ 0.44 Interest (Bank of Tennessee)
 \$ 172.16 Total Deposits

EXPENSES

\$ (188.75) Iron Fly Materials
 \$ (52.42) Website - Calendar app
 \$ (241.17) Total Expenses

AVAILABLE BALANCE AFTER COMMITMENTS

\$ 48,363.95

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS

\$ (2,136.00) TIC
 \$ (857.65) DRIFT
 \$ (265.64) meetings/speaker meals
 \$ (315.00) Gift Memberships
 \$ (100.00) sign board updates
 \$ (500.00) small display board for pint nights, etc.
 \$ (550.00) Trout Camp for one
 \$ (123.94) Raffle fees and tickets
 \$ (75.00) Chili Cook-off supplies
 \$ - Iron Fly
 \$ (43.90) Meet the Mountains
 \$ (395.38) Picnic
 \$ (1,500.00) Raffle Ticket Sales
 \$ (2,200.00) Storage Unit
 \$ (1,500.00) Tailwater Roundup Food
 \$ (1,200.00) Thirsty Orange
 \$ (100.00) Todd Burleson Cleanup prizes
 \$ (500.00) Watauga Riverkeeper
 \$ - Website - calendar
 \$ (14.95) Website - domain
 \$ (12,377.46) Total Commitments

***Board Members on Bank of TN account:** Ryan Turgeon, Rhett Morris, Philip Tipton, Rick Elliott, and Evan McDougall*

Approve Financial Report: Approved - Yes Motioned: R. Elliott
 Second: S. Henry

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER NEW BUSINESS**Membership Update (Jeff Mann):**

- Total: 274

Recovery Help (Ryan):

- No word yet from Sally Petre (TWRA) regarding the stream restoration work in our area. We will talk to Jim Habera (TWRA) next week about this at our chapter meeting.
- Roan Mountain may need some help from us for some stream bank restoration in the community park. Rick will be getting more details for us on this.

Fishing Days and Pint Nights (Evan):

- We had a Blue Line fishing day at Horse Creek on July 19th, seven people attended.
- Future Blue Lines Fishing Days include the following:
 - Roan Mountain – August 23rd @ 8:00AM
 - Laurel Fork – September 21st @ 12:00PM
- Planning to do the Blue Lines Fishing Days next year also since we had such a good turnout and we seem to be getting a different crowd attending.
- We have our Cataloochee Fishing Trip on October 18th, five people have signed up so far.
- Just added two fly tying socials to the calendar at Mulligan's:
 - October 2nd @ 6:00PM
 - December 4th @ 6:00PM
- Evan completed the online stream map for our region. He is going to add links for the for the temperature and flow data that we have available. He is also going to add the access locations for the DRIFT Trail.
- Going to schedule another cleanup on Clarks Creek in November

Women's Initiative (Rhett/Nichole):

- Nothing new at this time
- We are looking for a date in April to schedule the next class.
- We are waiting for the Bristol Race date to be published so we don't overlap the race
- Easter is April 5th, so the event will be held on April 18th or 25th depending on the race

TIC (Michael):

- Things will ramp back up next month
- Egg delivery should be in September

Tri-Fly Donation (Ryan):

- Rick and Ryan were able to get permission from landowners on Beaverdam Creek, Doe Creek, and Laurel Fork to install the monitors.
- Ryan is going to purchase the materials needed to install them. We budgeted \$500 for the materials.
- We need to schedule a work day to install the monitors.

Raffle Tickets (Ryan):

- Please continue to sell your raffle tickets
- The drawing will be Tuesday, August 19th during our member meeting

DRIFT Trail (Rick):

- Rick is waiting to hear back from the county

TN Council (Ryan):

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 25th via Zoom
- There is a Grant Committee Meeting on August 21st
- Four chapters have submitted grants for this year.

Rocky Fork Hiker's Jamboree (Evan):

- Had a decent turnout at the event
- The forecast of rain probably scared some people away.
- Sold some raffle tickets and merchandise

Meet the Mountains (Ryan):

- August 15-16
- Volunteer slots for Friday are all filled
- We still need volunteers for Saturday
- Rick and Ryan will be meeting at 5:00PM on Thursday to setup the booth

Brochures / Business Cards in Fly Shops (Ryan):

- Ryan mocked up a brochure and showed it to everyone. We agreed to proceed with the purchase of the brochures.

Hampton Creek (Ryan):

- As related to the FishAmerica grant, J.B. Hill and Lisa walked the fence line below the fish barrier last week and she's waiting on him to send a quote for the job. He said finishing by the December 31st deadline would not be a problem. Lisa will send the quote to us as soon as she receives it. We will have the same arrangement as previously when he fenced the upper part of Area G, he will bill OMTU directly. We will pay for the fencing up front and FishAmerica will reimburse us after we submit the invoices.
- OMTU will conduct a day or two of volunteerism to help clean up fence lines and dispose of old fencing. Probably September or October timeframe. Lisa hasn't thought on where the project would be best yet, that will require more site visits. Lisa is approaching the county for a demolition dumpster.
- TWRA is still waiting for a reply from FEMA on the fish barrier.
- Lisa started refining ideas for the upper cove to install exclusion area fencing to reduce runoff from overuse areas. She feels confident that she's found good by-passes for the cattle to travel.
- With the state park, they have repaired all the OVNHT crossings except the highest one, which will have to be bridged. They've had a contractor there to discuss the project. They have to determine several things and this will take some time to do. If everything goes well, the bridge may be built sometime in 2026. It is passable on foot at low water.
- Lisa has spoken with the NRCS area engineer about re-directing flow in the lower reach of the Left Prong back into the old channel to stop flooding the trailhead area. They have surveyed the stream, but have not produced drawings yet. The area engineer is moving to Vermont and a new staff person is taking over the project. The issue is on their radar. The idea is to re-direct some, but not all of the flow, allowing the new flow to provide water to the flat area of the trailhead to produce wetland vegetation. Once done, an extended boardwalk will be necessary to get hikers to the lower pedestrian bridge.

Member Meetings (Rhett)

- August – Jim Habera (TWRA)
- September – Lisa Huff (TDEC)
- October / November – Rhett is looking into speaker for these months. He reached out the USACE to see if they are able to resume travel yet. They would be talking about the work on the Nolichucky River.

Spending Vote (Ryan)

- Materials for level sensors – \$500
- Brochures – \$310
- Brochure holders – \$60

Approve spending vote: Approved – N/A Motioned: J. Kempton
Second: M. Fick

ACTION ITEMS INITIATED

ITEM	WHO	DUE	DONE
Design new display banners	Rhett	9/15	
Send Rhett digital copy of brochure to use for banner	Ryan	8/15	
Order brochures	Ryan	8/15	
Order brochure holders	Ryan	8/15	
Talk to Food City about holding member meetings there	Ryan	8/25	
Buy materials for installing level monitors	Ryan	8/31	
Complete stream map	Evan	9/15	
Meet with ETSU 5 Rivers officers	Rick / Ryan	9/15	

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Motioned by: R. Turgeon

Seconded By: R. Elliott