

Cheoah Fund Board Annual Meeting  
October 25, 2006  
USFS Office, Asheville

Attendance: Jason Farmer (USFS), Ray Johns (USFS), Chris Goudreau (NCWRC), Mark Cantrell (USFWS), Steve Reed (NCDENR), Bob Smet (APGI), Jody Cason (Longview), Sutton Bacon (American Whitewater), Bob Hathcock (representing Cheoah outfitters)

Michael Bolt (EBCI) called in and designated Mark Cantrell as his proxy.

Bob H. and Sutton described the problems with in-channel vegetation for boaters and rafters and the need to clear vegetation at least from two very congested areas. They view this as part of river restoration. Mark discussed the need to avoid impacting spiraea. Steve invited Bob to join the group on the river tomorrow to point out the major problems. Ray reminded everyone that permits and reviews would be needed before any work was conducted. Chris recommended that the proponents of this work prepare a comprehensive proposal, including who would do the work, amount of funds requested from the Board, and matching funds from other sources.

A fiduciary agent has not been determined yet. Options include USFWS (as an interim agent), Community Foundation of NC, and NCDENR.

The Board discussed the need to modify the Operating Protocol to state that the funds should be in an interest-bearing account. It was suggested to set it up now as non-interest bearing and could make it interest-bearing later. After discussion, it was decided that the Operating Protocol does not need to be modified (see 8/29/06 email), and the June 19, 2006 version of the Protocol would remain in effect.

Chris gave an update on preliminary field work being done by Virginia Tech under Andy Dollof using the USFS funds from 2005. The intent is for Virginia Tech and the agencies to develop a more robust research plan for the next several years. Chris is looking at how NCWRC can continue funding this work using its funds. A big problem might be a big overhead charge by Virginia Tech, but it is hoped that could be waived, as has been done by other universities. The USFS money expires on June 30, 2007.

The Board had no formal grant proposals before it. Members discussed their ideas on what types of projects should be funded and receive priority. The following proposals would be considered high priority: spiraea monitoring, vegetation management, continuing Virginia Tech work, mussel rearing and restoration, fish restoration. Proposals should be solicited from those the Board knows are doing these kinds of projects. A standardized proposal format should be developed. A deadline of January 5, 2007 was set for proposals.

**Cheoah River Resource Management and Enhancement Fund Board**

**US Forest Service, National Forests in NC Offices**

**Asheville, NC**

**October 25, 2006 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**A G E N D A**

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| 1. Vegetation Management and Boater Safety       | Bob Hathcock   |
| 2. Status of DENR as Fiduciary Agent             | Steve Reed     |
| 3. Proposed Modifications of the Board's Charter | Steve Reed     |
| 4. Update on VPI Survey Work                     | Chris Goudreau |
| 5. Other New Business                            | Board Members  |
| 6. Future Meetings and Action Items              | Steve Reed     |