

Cheoah River Resource Management and Enhancement Fund

Annual Report 2010

This annual report is submitted to satisfy the requirements of the Tapoco Project Relicensing Settlement Agreement (RSA) that requires an annual report be prepared and distributed to Board members and advisors and that Alcoa Power Generating Inc. (APGI) file the report with FERC by June 30 of the following year. The Cheoah River Resource Management and Enhancement Fund (“Fund”) (listed in the RSA as the North Carolina Resource Management and Enhancement Fund) was established through the Tapoco Project RSA and is to be administered by the Fund Board composed of authorized representatives of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR), USDA Forest Service (USFS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI). APGI is required to provide an initial deposit of \$100,000 then annual deposits of \$25,000 (both in inflation adjusted dollars) except for the final 3 years of the new 40-year license.

2010 Board Activities

The annual payment of \$28,554 was received from APGI and deposited by NCDENR. The beginning balance for 2010 was \$140,298.70 and the ending balance was \$73,822.29. These funds were all obligated for ongoing projects. The following projects were in progress in 2010: Virginia spiraea monitoring & management, restoration ecology of fishes, captive culture and reintroduction of fishes and mussels, propagation of wounded darters, management of Yellow Creek exotic vegetation, gravel stockpile, and gravel installation.

APGI established a website for central storage of Fund Board business items. The Fund Board also agreed to continue funding the captive culture and reintroduction of fishes and mussels, and additional exotic vegetation control on the Yellow Creek tract. The Fund Board selected Jason Farmer as the Chair for 2011. See attached October 6, 2010 meeting minutes for additional details related to specific projects.

Cheoah River Resource Management and Enhancement Fund
Annual Meeting
October 6, 2010, 9:00 a.m.
USFWS Office and Conference Room
160 Zillicoa Street
Asheville, NC

Meeting Notes

Participants: Chris Goudreau (NCWRC)*
Jason Farmer (USFS)*
Mark Cantrell (USFWS)*
Jim Mead (NCDWR)*
Jody Johns (Long View Associates)
Jane Hargreaves (Hargreaves Associates)
Philip Moore (LTLT)
* Board member

Chris Goudreau called the meeting to order and noted that all Board members were in attendance except Mike Bolt. Since all members were not present, the Cheoah Fund Operating Protocol states that any decisions made by the Board at the meeting are considered tentative.

1. Update of Finances

Chris Goudreau provided a copy of the financial report for 2010 through September 22 (Attachment 1). Currently, there is \$99,206.32 in the account. After subtracting outstanding financial obligations, the Fund has approximately \$20,000.00 remaining without considering APGI's 2011 contribution. We are now at a point where income and disbursements must be carefully considered to avoid cash balance problems.

2. Reports of Funded Projects

a. Appalachian elktoe genetics (USFWS & NCWRC 2007)

Chris passed along a verbal report from Steve Fraley (NCWRC) that a draft genetics report has been received from Dr. Morgan Raley, with a final report due soon.

b. Virginia spiraea monitoring & management (USFWS, USFS, Hargreaves 2007)

Jane Hargreaves provided a verbal summary of her written report (Attachment 2). She reported that exotic invasives have been greatly reduced over the past 16 months of treatment. Kudzu is still a problem at Spiraea site 1. The USFS contractors (using ARRA stimulus funds) are doing a great job and will continue their work until 2014. Jane will complete her Cheoah Fund work by October 31, 2010.

c. Restoration ecology of fishes (Virginia Tech 2007)

Chris handed out copies of the written report prepared by Ryan McMannamay and received just one day prior to the meeting (Attachment 3). Ryan is currently preparing his dissertation and several manuscripts. Don Orth has requested an extension in the contract, but no additional funds will be required.

d. Captive culture and reintroduction of fishes and mussels (NCWRC 2009)

Chris provided a verbal summary of the written report provided by Steve Fraley (Attachment 4). Much knowledge and experience has been gained this past year in producing both fish and mussels. Outlook for 2011 is very good.

e. Propagation of wounded darters (CFI 2009)

Chris referenced the written report (Attachment 5) prepared by CFI and indicated that the darters were raised and stocked as indicated. New personnel at DENR (fiduciary agents) have held up the contract paperwork for the second year of this grant. Chris is working with DENR to create a new contract.

f. Management of Yellow Cr. exotic vegetation (LTLT 2009)

Philip Moore reported that efforts to control privet seem to be working, but kudzu and oriental bittersweet are an ongoing problem. They are replanting privet areas with red maple, sycamore and persimmon, while letting the herbaceous layer recover on its own. Alder might also be planted. A written report is provided (Attachment 6).

g. Gravel stockpile (NCWRC, LBM Industries 2010)

Chris reported that mixed gravel was obtained earlier in the year. The intent was to purchase two cycles (200 cubic yards) of gravel, but due to a misunderstanding by the vendor, we have 300 cubic yards of material, which is enough for three cycles of gravel augmentation. The total cost was about \$16,500.00, which is about \$5,500.00 per cycle. Even when installation costs are added, it is expected that the new gravel will be considerably less than the \$24,000 cost of the first installation in 2008.

h. Gravel installation (NCWRC, ?? 2010)

Chris reported that this project is currently in the bidding process. Once a vendor is selected we still need to obtain the 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers. The target completion date for gravel installation of the gravel is November 24.

3. Other Updates

a. Website (APGI)

Jody Johns said that there are two website pages – one for the general public (http://www.alcoa.com/tapoco/en/info_page/nc_fund_board.asp) and a second one that is password protected. The protected page is intended to house copies of emails and other documents to be archived for the long-term history of the Fund.

b. Monitoring Plan (added to the agenda at the meeting)

A general discussion was held regarding revisiting the draft “monitoring plan” for the Cheoah River prepared during relicensing. In particular, the Board needs to review the recovery and monitoring objectives of the plan, identify focus areas and techniques, and then update the plan. Each organization was tasked with identifying the appropriate personnel that should be involved in the process.

4. Review of Fund Proposals for 2011

a. Captive culture and reintroduction of fishes and mussels (NCWRC 2010)

The Board members present agreed to fund this proposal of \$10,000 for 2011. The propagation and stocking efforts meet the central goal of the Fund and should be continued. The decision is tentative, pending agreement by Mike Bolt.

b. Yellow Creek exotic vegetation (LTLT 2010)

The Board members present agreed to fund this proposal as written, \$6,000 per year for four years. The LTLT will match the Cheoah Fund grant by nearly 2:1. Again, the decision is tentative, pending agreement by Mike Bolt.

5. Select Chair for 2011

After some discussion, Jason Farmer was tentatively selected to be the Fund Board Chair for 2011.

6. Review Action Items

- a. Jane Hargreaves – Submit final report and spreadsheet.
- b. Chris Goudreau – Forward VT report to group. [Done]
- c. Chris Goudreau – Contact DENR regarding CFI contract.
- d. Chris Goudreau – Contact COE regarding 404 permit for gravel installation.
- e. Chris Goudreau – Update information for posting on website.
- f. Chris Goudreau – Send monitoring plan to group.
- g. Chris Goudreau – Send email to Mike Bolt describing tentative decisions. [Done]
- h. All Board Members – Identify people to be involved in updating the monitoring plan.

7. Adjourn

Note – Subsequent to the meeting, Mike Bolt concurred with the tentative decisions reached by the Board (Attachment 7).

Attachment 1

CHEOAH RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT FUND
Fiduciary Report
2010 (through September 22)

1/1/2010	Fund Balance		\$ 141,593.77
2/5/2010	Alcoa 2010 deposit		\$ 28,554.00
Disbursements 2010			
1/26/2010	Hargreaves Associates	\$ 6,200.00	
2/9/2010	Virginia Tech	\$ 12,305.83	
2/9/2010	Land Trust Little Tennessee	\$ 5,000.00	
4/13/2010	Conservation Fisheries	\$ 8,000.00	
5/18/2010	WRC mussel propagation	\$ 5,000.00	
5/18/2010	Virginia Tech	\$ 1,190.02	
6/25/2010	WRC mussel propagation	\$ 5,000.00	
8/10/2010	Virginia Tech	\$ 7,253.60	
8/24/2010	WRC (gravel)	\$ 16,592.00	
pending	Hargreaves Associates	\$ 6,900.00	
	Total 2010 Disbursements		\$ (73,441.45)
1/1/10 – 12/31/10	2010 Interest Added (est.)		\$ 2,500.00
9/22/2010	Fund Balance		\$ 99,206.32
Outstanding Obligations			
	Virginia Tech (2010-11)	\$ 59,812.64	
	Hargreaves Associates	\$ 1,500.00	
	CFI wounded darter (2010)	\$ 8,000.00	
	Gravel placement (est.) (2010)	\$ 10,000.00	
	Total Outstanding Obligations		\$ (79,312.64)
	Available Funds		\$ 19,893.68