

## **Cheoah River Resource Management and Enhancement Fund Annual Report 2015**

This annual report is submitted to satisfy the requirements of the Brookfield Smoky Mountain Hydro Project Relicensing Settlement Agreement (RSA) that requires the preparation and distribution of an annual report to Fund Board members and advisors, and that the Licensee (Brookfield) file the report with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (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 Environmental Quality (NCDEQ)—formerly Environment and Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service (USFS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI). The Licensee 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. The Fund Board delegated NCDEQ-Division of Water Resources (DWR), under the authority of the RSA, to administer and disperse the Fund.

### **2015 Board Activities**

The annual payment was received from Brookfield and deposited by DWR. The 2015 fiduciary report is included as Attachment 1.

The Fund Board held its annual meeting on October 13, 2015. The meeting agenda and minutes are included in Attachment 2.

The following projects were completed in 2015:

- Yellow Creek Falls trail signage (LTLT, now referenced as Mainspring Conservation Trust)

The Board continues to fund the following projects approved in prior years:

- Captive culture and reintroduction of fishes and mussels (NCWRC)
- Propagation of olive darters (Conservation Fisheries, Inc.)

The following funding proposal was received by the Fund Board, which is still under consideration:

- Long-term monitoring program (Ryan McManamay)

The Board did not receive any other new proposals for funding in 2015.

Brookfield maintains a website for central storage of Fund Board business items at:

[www.brookfieldrenewable.com/content/smoky\\_mountain\\_hydro/nc\\_fund\\_board](http://www.brookfieldrenewable.com/content/smoky_mountain_hydro/nc_fund_board)

**Attachment 1**

**CHEOAH RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT FUND**

**Fiduciary Report**

1/1/2015	<b>FY Starting Balance</b>			<b>\$94,648.50</b>
01/23/15	Deposit - Brookfield 2015 payment			\$31,011.00
06/30/15	Interest July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015			\$ 433.17
06/30/15	Disbursements FY 2014-2015			\$22,848.00
	<i>Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (08/12/14)</i>	\$	5,000.00	
	<i>Wildlife Resources Commission ( 12/09/14)</i>	\$	17,848.00	
12/31/15	<b>FY 2015 Ending Balance</b>			<b>\$103,244.67</b>
	<b>Funds encumbered by contract</b>			\$ 50,000.00
	<i>Conservation Fisheries, Inc. (04/15/14)</i>	\$	20,000.00	
	<i>Wildlife Resources Commission ( 04/23/14)</i>	\$	30,000.00	
12/31/15	<b>Funds available for contracting</b>			<b>\$ 53,244.67</b>

Prepared by:  
Darren England, NC Division of Water Resources  
February 22, 2016

## Attachment 2

### Cheoah River Resource Management and Enhancement Fund

Annual Meeting

October 13, 2015, 12:00 noon

US Fish & Wildlife Service Office Conference Room

160 Zillicoa Street

Asheville, NC

Meeting Notes

Participants: Mike Bolt (EBCI)\*Chair

Chris Goudreau (NCWRC)\*

Bryan Tompkins (USFWS)\*

Jason Farmer (USFS)\*

Fred Tarver (NCDEQ)\*

Myra Hair (Brookfield)

Marshall Olson (Brookfield)

\* indicates Board member

#### 1. Introductions

After introductions, Mike Bolt opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

#### 2. Update of Finances

Fred Tarver provided the financial report prepared by Darren England.

As of 10/07/15 the fund had \$53,397 for new projects.

### 3. Updates of Funded Projects

a. Yellow Creek Falls trail (LTLT)

Myra will ask Dennis Desmond about the sign.

b. Propagation of Olive Darters (CFI)

A two year no cost extension was approved to 2018

c. Captive culture and reintroduction of fishes and mussels (NCWRC)

Chris Goudreau provided a report on behalf of Steve Fraley.

A total of 12,185 mussels and 500 Spotfin chub are currently in the hatchery.

Stocking of adults will occur next week.

d. Gravel augmentation (NCWRC and others)

The best mussel habitat is in the upper two miles. Further discussion will be needed about feasibility of directing gravel augmentation to the upper section instead of throughout the entire 9-mile reach.

### 4. Review of Fund Proposals for 2015

A proposal from Ryan McManamay to establish a long-term monitoring program was discussed (again). It was decided a conference call will be needed with Ryan to determine the scope of work.

### 5. Other Fund Board Business.

Fred Tarver will obtain final LTLT report on invasive species @ Yellow Creek.

### 6. Select Chair for 2016

Jason Farmer was selected as Fund Board Chair for 2016.

### 7. Adjourn