

PUBLICITY

We feel that there is much potential interest in the topic of our next meeting and that we should therefore advertise it as much as we can. For this reason, the format of this Newsletter has been altered to make the meeting announcement independent and suitable for posting on bulletin boards, neighborhood storefronts (you may wish to trim off "Suggested Reading") etc., or just for passing around. Extra copies are available on request. Please publicize this meeting as much as you can -- it should be most informative. We feel that, with proper public support, the Tennessee Legislature, in its second session, may be able to pass an intelligent and effective stripmine law.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 85 paid-up members. If you know of anyone potentially interested, please tell Jean Bangham, 432 Villanova Road, 483-9862, who will be glad to send out information and membership blanks. Recently joined members who would like copies of past Newsletters should request these from L. B. Russell, 130 Tabor Road, 482-2153.

REPORT OF LAST MEETING

The panel discussion on "How can we keep some of Tennessee's rivers free-flowing?" revolved mainly about the Little Tennessee -- accounts of efforts to save it from impoundment by Tellico Dam and analyses of the failure of these efforts. Fred Moses' place on the panel was ably taken by John Lackey, president of the Association for the Preservation of the Little T; the other four participants were as originally listed in the program. Audience participation was great and discussion had to be cut short in the interest of time.

It became clear from the program that resistance to the dam was and is great and widespread. Nearly 60 organizations officially went on record in opposition, thousands of letters were written, and there was efficient lobbying in Washington. The organization that was set up ^{with} ~~under~~ the TVA Tributary Area Development Program (LTRVDA) to boost the dam actually became predominantly anti-dam and elected anti-dam directors -- after which TVA lost interest in it and ^{organized} ~~created~~ another association. The Tennessee Outdoor Writers Assn. News Bureau compiled a list of 54 documented and highly impressive facts, showing why the dam was unfeasible and destructive. These arguments could not be refuted and were simply ignored. It was almost impossible to get Tennessee newspapers to publish anti-dam facts and arguments without simultaneous editorial comment to the contrary. The forces opposing the dam were pictured as a handful of selfish trout fishermen trying to deprive the region of progress. Apparently, TVA was pushing Tellico Dam hard in order to establish a precedent for the concept that industrial development and land re-sale for profit were TVA functions. (Actually, it was argued by panelists, the cold-water river has greater industrial potential than a reservoir would have, and it is the 25-year-old threat of flooding for a dam that has held up development in the region.) In spite of this, the Tellico-dam proposal could probably have been defeated in Congress, had it not been presented as part of a big package appropriation in which too many Congressmen had stakes for other reasons.

The panelists felt that the Tellico fight has "shaken" a lot of people and has made it known that large numbers of Tennesseans are not automatically happy with all dam proposals. It may now be possible to convince our Representatives in Congress and our State government that it is not necessarily political suicide to argue against TVA dam proposals. This may help us in our efforts to preserve other rivers in their free-flowing condition.

It was felt by those present at the meeting that, even where the Little Tennessee was concerned, hope should not be abandoned. So far, only \$3,000,000 has been appropriated out of the total of \$46 million requested. (P.S. The President has just asked for another \$7 million). The membership voted to write to the President and Bureau of the Budget urging the withholding of further funds. We have done this and sent copies to over 50 organizations that had in the past expressed opposition to the dam, urging them to send similar communications. (Many thanks for this effort to Ernie Dickerman, John Lackey, Ruth Young, Jean Carver, Lee Russell). A tape recording of the meeting can be heard by members on request to R. A. Lorenz.

REPORT ON OTHER ACTIVITIES

This Newsletter will summarize only recent efforts on behalf of preservation of rivers. Other TCWP activities will be reported at a later date.

Ernie Dickerman is exploring, through contact with national organizations, the feasibility of Congressional Hearings on "How should the remaining free-flowing rivers in America be managed?" Such hearings could be based on the recent National Academy of Science's report cited in the last Newsletter.

Various TCWP directors and members have had meetings with Senators Gore and Baker and with Congressman Duncan, and have presented their views on preservation of Tennessee rivers, especially the Obed and Big South Fork of the Cumberland. We have also written to Governor Ellington and to the new Commissioner of Conservation, E. Boyd Garrett, but have not had replies.

The Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association has submitted to Governor Ellington a fairly detailed proposal for establishing a Tennessee Scenic Rivers system that would include 10 rivers throughout the State.

The Emory River Watershed Development Association (a Tributary Area Development group working with TVA) voted retroactively to limit its membership in such a way as to exclude residents of Anderson and Scott Counties (in both of which anti-dam feeling runs high). In an interview with Willard Yarbrough of the News Sentinel, they stated that this was done to "purge infiltrators". We had been to several meetings of this group and had hoped to work constructively through them, but it has become clear that this is impossible. Mr. Yarbrough accepted an invitation to hear our side of the story and subsequently presented it in another News Sentinel article. The Oak Ridger also has given our efforts very fine coverage, both in an editorial and in a front-page article by W. L. Russell.

We have met Mr. Ramke of TVA-TAD program to discuss our point of view and particularly our relations with ERWDA. Mr. Ramke suggested that TCWP might wish to work with TVA in developing the float-stream potentials of the upper Clinch and upper Powell Rivers.

We have had various kinds of Obed publicity. Dr. and Mrs. Cunningham have arranged for illustrated talks by W. L. Russell to three civic groups in Harriman (the center of pro-dam sentiment). Gene Joyce made available the dining room of the Alexander Hotel for a display of Obed photographs and a short write-up. Two movies are being produced -- one 16 mm by Dick Reed and the Whitewater Club (recently shown at Jefferson Junior High School, together with a professional Wild Rivers film), and one 8 mm by W. L. Russell.

DON'T FORGET STRIPMINE MEETING!!!

TENNESSEE CITIZENS FOR WILDERNESS PLANNING

Thursday, February 9, 1967, 8:00 p.m., Unitarian Church, 1500 Oak Ridge Turnpike

"TENNESSEE'S STRIPMINE PROBLEM: HOW CAN WE SOLVE IT?"

Chairman: Robert A. McNees, Oak Ridge City Councilman; president, Tennessee Municipal League.

1. Background and technical information -- Evan Means, Outdoor Writer, The Oak Ridger.
(Types of minerals mined in surface operations. Mining methods. Direct and indirect damage.)
2. Reclamation procedures -- Thomas G. Zarger, TVA Division of Forestry Development.
(Restoration of terrain, control of run-off, re-planting. Comparison of methods; possible pitfalls.)
3. Legislation controlling surface mining and reclamation -- Robert S. Lefler, Teacher, Jefferson Junior High School.
(Comparison of existing State laws -- Kentucky, Pennsylvania, W. Virginia, etc. Proposed federal legislation.)
4. Tennessee and stripmining -- Herman E. Baggenstoss, former editor and publisher, Grundy County Herald; regional vice pres., Forest Farmers Assn.; vice pres., Keep Tennessee Green Assn.; pres., Tennessee Outdoor Writers Assn.
(The role of TVA, past and present. Prior attempts to introduce stripmine laws, and reasons for their failure. Direct and indirect political and economic damage to State.)
5. Stripmine laws and the 1967 Tennessee legislature -- Members of the current legislature.
(Discussion of legislation already introduced, its strong and weak points. Desirability of introducing amendments or alternate bills.)
6. Open discussion.

SUGGESTED READING IN CONNECTION WITH MEETING

1. "Study of Strip and Surface Mining in Appalachia." Interim report by the Secretary of the Interior to the Appalachian Regional Commission. -- Available for \$1 from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.
(For anyone desiring further reading, this has a very good bibliography.)
2. Geological Survey Circular No. 526: "Stream Quality in Appalachia as related to Coal Mine Drainage. -- Available free from U.S. Geological Survey, Washington, D.C. 20242.
3. Tennessee House Bill No. 4 (Sponsor, William J. Pope, Pikeville) and Senate Bill No. 10 (Co-sponsors, Ray Baird, Rockwood, and D. Moore, Chattanooga). Available from your Representative.

All publications listed, and others, are in our files. Call R. A. Lorenz, 483-4742, if you wish to look at them.