

Cheoah Fund Board
Conference Call
June 3, 2009

Board Members: Chris Goudreau, Chair (NCWRC), Mark Cantrell (USFWS), Jim Mead (NCDWR), Jason Farmer (USFS)

Advisors: Dick Eyestone (Friends of Lake Santeetlah), Dave Meeker (Cross Creek Property Owners Association), Gerrit Jobsis (American Rivers)

Chairman Goudreau opened the call and listed two items for action – revisiting the grant proposal from Land Trust for the Little Tennessee (LTLT) to control exotic vegetation in the Yellow Creek area, and review of a new grant proposal from Conservation Fisheries Inc. (CFI).

Mike Bolt (EBCI) was not on the call, so according to the Cheoah Fund Board Operating Protocol, any decisions would be considered tentative. The tentative decisions will be sent to non-present Board Members in writing by the Chair. The non-present Board Member(s) has 14 calendar days to object to the tentative decisions, otherwise the tentative decisions are final.

Goudreau provided a quick recap of the LTLT proposal and the earlier tentative decision not to fund the project at \$10,000. Members discussed that the tentative decision was primarily based on available money in the Cheoah Fund, not the efficacy of vegetation control. After discussing several options, it was tentatively decided that there was no consensus to fund the project as originally submitted, but LTLT should be asked if they would be interested in a partial funding for 2009 not to exceed \$5,000. Goudreau said he will call Paul Carlson of LTLT to ask if that were acceptable.

Goudreau provided an overview of the CFI proposal, which is for \$8,000 annually to continue propagating and stocking selected fish species into the Cheoah River. Cantrell said that the USFWS had been supporting these efforts for a number of years, but their funding had recently expired. Funding by the Cheoah Fund would enable the propagation and stocking work to continue. All members and advisors on the call agreed that the proposal should be funded for 2009-2010 at \$8,000 each year, provided that favorable progress it made each year.

Quick updates on other Cheoah Fund projects and responsibilities were provided.

- Cantrell reported that larval fish identification had yet to be performed under the contract with Jeff Wallus. The contract expires at the end of June, so the samples will have to be done quickly.
- Goudreau reported that the 2008 contract with NCWRC to propagate fish and mussels also expires at the end of June. However, the Fund Board decided in January 2009 to continue funding this work. NCWRC and NCDENR personnel are determining if a new contract will be prepared or the existing contract will be amended to reflect the 2009 approval.
- Goudreau reported that the annual report of the Cheoah Fund Board was being prepared and will be sent to APGI for submittal to the FERC by June 30.

- Cantrell reported that the 2009 grant proposal to design and maintain a website to house documents for the Cheoah and Tallassee Fund Boards has been sent to a subcommittee of the Tallassee Fund Board.

There being no further business, the conference call was ended.