

**CMC Council Meeting**  
**Thursday May 5, 2011**  
**6 P.M. to 9 P.M.**  
**West Asheville Library Haywood Rd.**

**Council Members Present**

Danny Bernstein, Barth Brooker, Tish Desjardins Charlie Ferguson, Don Gardner, Ashok Kudva, Jim Reel, Becky Smucker

**Council Members Absent**

Peter Barr, Marsha Bromberg, Stuart English, Nan Needs, Pete Petersen

**Guests**

Lenny Bernstein, Chair of the 2013 ATC Biennial, Tim Hawkins, CMC representative to the Buncombe County Parks, Greenways and Recreation Advisory Board

The CMC Council minutes for February 10, 2011 were approved with no changes.  
The Treasurer's report was approved with no changes.

**1. ATC update by Lenny Bernstein**

Planning for the 2013 ATC Biennial is going well. Most of the critical positions have been filled. CMC has filled all its positions.

Bruce Bente will work with Gail Lehman of Nantahala Hiking Club on the hiking schedule for the Biennial. The big push for volunteers will come about a year from now.

Southern Regional Partnership Committee (RPC).

The RPC comprises the five southern hiking clubs - Georgia Appalachian Trail Club, Nantahala Hiking Club, Carolina Mountain Club, Smoky Mountain Hiking Club, and Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoe Club - and its partners, the US Forest Service and the National Park Service. Joe DeLoach of Tennessee Eastman, is currently the chair. Philip Royer of Smoky Mountain Hiking Club will take over as Chair in July. At the last meeting, the following was discussed:

- Revision of ATC invasive exotic species policy
- Bridge policy - bridges should be able to sustain a 100-year flood
- No commercial use of the A.T.

The North Carolina A.T. license plate program brings in \$130,000 a year and gave out \$35,000 in grants. Each club has a representative on a A.T. license plate committee which decides on grant applications. Jim Reel was appointed to represent CMC by Barth Brooker.

2. Tim Hawkins, CMC representative to the Buncombe County Commissioners and the Parks, Greenways and Recreation Advisory Board, gave a presentation on the state of Buncombe County Greenways. See [www.buncombe.org](http://www.buncombe.org) for a map of the Greenways.

The commission is looking for maintenance help on the Greenways. Barth explained that CMC could do some work from November to March, when maintenance crews try to stay at a low altitude.

Tim invited the CMC Council to an event to kick off the Buncombe County Greenways and Trails Master Plan Update at the NC Arboretum on Friday, June 10 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Call 828-250-4264 to confirm, if you're coming.

### 3. Education Committee

Nan Needs has resigned as chair of the Education Committee. The main concern is the Wilderness First Aid course. Previously it was taught by Landmark Learning, [www.landmarklearning.org](http://www.landmarklearning.org). CMC offers the course every two years and it should be offered again in 2012. Jim Spicer has been teaching the one day American Red Cross First Aid course. We discussed if and how we should subsidize the Wilderness First Aid Course. Ideas ran from no subsidy at all to paying half of the course. The decision was tabled.

### 4. CMC Nominating Committee

The CMC Nominating Committee, headed by Becky Smucker, is seeking nominations for several offices. The following offices need to be filled: President, Vice President, Councilor Education, Councilor for Hiking Councilor for Membership, and Councilor at Large.

5. The Blue Ridge Parkway has requested that sawyers now have a certificate separate from that of the US Forest Service. Sawyers can still cut trees that are laying on the trail.

6. CMC receives many requests to work on trails. It was decided that these requests should be passed on to the Trails Forever program in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The contact is Christine Hoyer, [christine\\_hoyer@nps.gov](mailto:christine_hoyer@nps.gov).

## **Committee Reports**

### 1. Conservation

The Conservation Committee has written comments on the proposed US Forest Service rules. CMC approved their comments. See the attached.

### 2. Education - no report

### 3. Hiking

The hiking committee is working on the third quarter hiking schedule. Brenda Worley is taking over the Wednesday hiking schedule from Charlie. We need more hike leaders, especially for the 3rd. quarter because so many members are on vacation.

### 4. Maintenance - no report

### 5. Challenge - no report

### 6. Communications

The committee is trying to recruit more members to help edit the website.

Respectfully Submitted

Danny Bernstein, Secretary

## **Attachment**

DEAR COUNCIL MEMBERS,

THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE HAS BEEN HOLDING NATIONWIDE MEETINGS AND ON APRIL 4, 2011 SEVERAL OF OUR CMC CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDED THE MEETING AND PRESENTATION FOR THIS REGION AT THE ARBORETUM. YOU MAY REFERENCE INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE PRESENTATION AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/collab/nationalroundtables/presentations>.

SINCE THIS MEETING, THE CMC CONSERVATION HAS CREATED COMMENTS FOR THE FOREST SERVICE WHICH NEED YOUR APPROVAL BY 5/16/11 A.M. IN ORDER TO MEET THE FOREST SERVICE'S COMMENTS DEADLINE BY THE END OF THE DAY ON 5/16/11. LISTED BELOW IS SOME BACKGROUND AND THE COMMENTS:

### **BACKGROUND**

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS PROPOSING A NEW PLANNING RULE TO GUIDE LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR ALL UNITS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM UNDER THE NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976. THE PROPOSED RULE SETS FORTH PROCESS AND CONTENT REQUIREMENTS TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT, AMENDMENT, AND REVISION OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS TO MAINTAIN, PROTECT, AND RESTORE NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS WHILE PROVIDING FOR SUSTAINABLE MULTIPLE USES, INCLUDING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, SO THAT NFS LANDS CONTINUOUSLY PROVIDE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY. THE AGENCY IS REQUESTING WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED RULE WITH A DEADLINE OF 5/16/11.

### **POSITION OF CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB COMMENTS**

- \* THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC INPUT ARE VAGUE.
- \* SECTION 219.4 (REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION) -- THIS SECTION DOES NOT HAVE WORDING FOR SPECIFIC RECREATION GROUPS. HIKERS HAVE BEEN UNDER-REPRESENTED. THERE ARE VARIOUS SPECIFIC GROUPS NAMED AND, THEN, THE PUBLIC. WHAT DOES THE PUBLIC MEAN? IT LEAVES TOO MUCH UP TO THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL.
- \* SECTION 219.3 (ROLE OF SCIENCE IN PLANNING) -- A SURVEY OF FOREST USERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL SO THAT THEY CAN

SHOW A SCIENTIFICALLY-BASED DETERMINATION OF USE BY RECREATION USERS.

\* PAGE 8486 -- WE AGREE WITH YOUR STATEMENT "A SUCCESSFUL PLANNING PROCESS MUST BE SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE IN ORDER TO ADEQUATELY REFLECT THE RANGE OF VALUES, NEEDS, AND PREFERENCES OF SOCIETY, AND, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO MAY BE AFFECTED BY LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING"

THANKS, TISH

## **CMC RENEWAL POLICY**

The Website Project Team submits the following proposed renewal policy for Council consideration:

**All members who joined before Jan. 1, 2010 will have a continuing renewal date of Jan. 1.**

**Anyone who joins (joined) on or after Jan. 1, 2010 will be due to renew yearly on their date of joining.**

In order to transition to the above policy, those who joined from Jan. 1, 2010 through Aug. 31, 2010 will not be renewing on Jan. 1 as they were presumably told. They will be due to renew at a later date, exactly one year after joining. Those in that group who have already rejoined this year will be given credit until their joining date of 2012. Those who join(ed) between Sept. 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2010 will be asked to renew a little earlier than expected, on their date of joining rather than the following Jan. 1.

This is not perfect for everyone, but is the quickest, easiest way to do the transition. We hope it seems fair enough to most members.

DRAFT  
Protocol for Handling Volunteer Requests

The purpose of this protocol is to provide guidance when responding to requests to the CMC from groups who want to: help out with maintenance; schedule a work day on the trail; schedule a youth group activity “in the woods”; or use CMC assistance with any activity related to trails we hike and maintain.

- The CMC will only work with established groups or organizations (e.g. Boy and Girl Scouts; schools, etc.).
- The group must be able to show evidence that individuals participating in the activity are covered by the group’s liability insurance.
- Use of power tools will not be allowed.
- The CMC will only provide tools with prior written agreement that any damage or loss will be covered by the sponsoring organization.
- Unless training in use of tools is specifically requested and agreed to, CMC will not be responsible for training volunteers in proper use of tools.
- When working with youth groups the sponsoring organization must provide adequate adult supervision.
- The CMC will not provide or identify housing or transportation for groups from outside the Asheville area.

*The CMC Council approved the support of the purchase of the Headwaters of the East Fork of the French Broad River. Below is a letter sent by the Conservation Committee to Senator Richard Burr.*

December 6, 2010  
Senator Richard Burr  
2000 W. First Street  
Suite 508  
Winston-Salem, NC 27104

Dear Senator Burr,

The Carolina Mountain Club, a hiking, trail maintaining and conservation non-profit organization requests your support for the purchase of the French Broad River's East Fork Headwaters tract by the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy and its partner, The Conservation Fund. Funds would be required from the federal and state level for these two partners in order to complete the purchase. The land would ultimately be managed for the public by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission after the purchase.

Background:

At over 8,000 acres, the East Fork Headwaters tract is the largest remaining privately owned tract in western North Carolina, and possibly the entire southern Appalachians. It is the last opportunity for acquisition of such a sizable and significant tract in the southern Appalachians for public ownership ever again. The tract is bounded on its entire southern boundary by a corridor of tens of thousands of acres of publicly protected land. On the NC side, the tract sits mid-way between the 10,000 acre DuPont State Forest and the 7,500 acre Gorges State Park. The property's connection to large swaths of existing conserved land helps to create wildlife corridors crucial to species migration and long-term survival.

“The Carolina Mountain Club strongly urges federal and state funding to enable the purchase of the French Broad River's East Fork Headwaters Tract, an 8,000 acre privately-owned tract that includes over 9 miles of the Foothills Trail.”

Please support the purchase to have this natural beauty of western NC as public land.

Respectfully,

Letitia Ann Desjardins  
Carolina Mountain Club  
Conservation Chair