Tennessee Valley Authority Regional Resource Stewardship Council June 6-7, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Regional Resource Stewardship Council (RRSC or Council) convened for the second meeting of the ninth term at 8:30 a.m. EST on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at the Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 W. Summit Hill Avenue, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

Council members attending:

Avis Kennedy, Chair	Lee Brown	Robert Englert
Brock Hill ¹	Richard Holland	Mark Iverson
Kim Klinker	Brad Kreps	Tom Littlepage
Will Nelson	Jack Simmons	

Designated Federal Officer: Dr. Joseph Hoagland

Facilitator: Lee Matthews

Appendix A identifies the TVA employees, members of the public, and others who attended.

Appendix B is the agenda for the meeting.

Appendix C is the Formal Council Advice provided by the Council.

Copies of the presentations given at the meeting can be found at http://www.tva.gov/rrsc/.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to presentations by TVA staff about the current status of the Ecotourism Benefit of TVA's Management of Public Land and Economic Development, and updates on River Operations and Natural Resources activities and programs, and answering questions asked by Council. Council members asked clarifying questions and offered individual suggestions to the information sought by TVA. Formal Council advice was also provided by the Council at this meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions

A. Mr. Matthews, Facilitator, welcomed the Council and reviewed meeting protocols and provided a safety moment. Mr. Matthews asked the Council introduced themselves.

B. Dr. Hoagland, Designated Federal Official (DFO), welcomed the Council and summarized the purpose of the meeting which was to provide updates on TVA Natural Resources Stewardship, the Comprehensive Lands Planning EIS, Floating Homes, River Operations, and Dam Safety topics and to seek advice on the Ecotourism Benefit of TVA's Management of Public Land. The advice will be utilized to help TVA manage the requests for events on public lands and waters and balance those requests with all the competing interests. Dr. Hoagland thanked long-standing Council member, Jack Simmons, for his service and for his

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¹ 6/6/17 in person and 6/7/17 by phone

work on this Council and the RERC Advisory Council. TVA presented Mr. Simmons with a print as a small token of appreciation.

C. Avis Kennedy, Chair, welcomed the Council. Ms. Kennedy also provided an overview of the questions the Council will be addressing.

2. Designated Federal Officer's Report and RRSC Meeting Protocols

A. DFO Report

Dr. Joseph Hoagland thanked the Council for its prior advice and reiterated that TVA will be providing updates on TVA Natural Resources Stewardship, the Comprehensive Lands Planning EIS, Floating Homes, River Operations, and Dam Safety topics, and is seeking advice on the Ecotourism Benefit of TVA's Management of Public Land. Dr. Hoagland informed the Council that TVA has been on a defined path consistent with the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). For more information about the IRP, please go to: https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Environmental-Stewardship/Integrated-Resource-Plan. He stated that TVA is retiring coal plants previously approved for retirement, has completed one new combined cycle plant and is finishing another combined cycle plant. Additionally, Mr. Hoagland provided an update on Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, Unit 2. He remarked that Unit 2 was completed earlier this year and is online and running. For information about Watts Bar Nuclear Plant, please go to https://www.tva.gov/Energy/Our-Power-System/Nuclear/Watts-Bar-Nuclear-Plant. Mr. Hoagland informed the Council that he was happy to relay that TVA reached an agreement with the Ocoee River Outfitters, and there are still many details to complete. He also mentioned that TVA is working toward reaching an amicable solution with stakeholders on aquatic weeds located in TVA reservoirs.

B. FACA Briefing (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)

Kendra Mansur, attorney from TVA's Office of General Counsel, highlighted the importance of this second meeting of the ninth term and she thanked the Council, on behalf of TVA, for its participation in past meetings and in this current term. She reiterated that the Council complies with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and regulations. She remarked the recommendations of the Council are greatly appreciated by TVA. She discussed voting protocols and quorum issues, and complemented the Council on its balanced membership and achievements.

3. Land and River Management (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)

David Bowling, Vice President of Land & River Management, provided introductions into the topics for the meeting. Mr. Bowling has presented to the Council in the past on the River Operations Study and River Management/Dam Safety issues. He remarked that all of the issues that TVA brings to the Council involve river management or natural resources, and there are competing interests to balance. He stated that TVA runs the river system and TVA operations in an integrated manner.

A. River Operations Update

Melissa Lindquist, a lead civil engineer in TVA's River Forecast System, provided a River Management update. She explained that in 2016, TVA has the driest year since 2008, and this year, there is a lot more water in the reservoirs. She stated that this development has allowed TVA to fill nine out of the ten major tributary lakes at target levels or above by June 1. And in April 2017, TVA saw the wettest April since 1998. In these type of events, TVA will store water in its tributaries to prevent flooding to downstream communities. River Management, along with Natural Resources, Government Relations, and Communications & Marketing hosted TVA's 9th annual spring river/recreation media tour. TVA visited nearly sixty local media outlets, participated in 8 stakeholder briefings and engaged in a media event to provide information about the current reservoir level status and outlook for this summer. River Management also worked with Communications and provided stories and real-time information on social media, dozen of River Forecast Center tours, and staff to speak in numerous events across the Tennessee Valley.

Jim Bryant, Senior Program Manager in TVA's Dam Safety, provided information about TVA's Dam Safety program. TVA owns and operates 49 river dam projects throughout the southeastern United States in a seven state region. Mr. Bryant provided some specific facts about dams. He also stated that TVA has some semblance of a Dam Safety Program since the inception of TVA. In 1976, Teton Dam in Idaho failed. In 1979, Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety were developed. TVA accepted and adopted those guidelines, and the program became more formalized and rigorous. TVA's Dam Safety program is recognized as a model both nationally and internationally. Mr. Bryant explained some significant components of TVA's Dam Safety program include inspection, maintenance and repairs, health checks, and construction for dam safety improvements. Mr. Bryant discussed some issues related to the Boone Dam Remediation Project, Little Bear Creek Dam, Pickwick Landing Dam South Embankment Modernization, Cherokee Dam, and Douglas Dam.²

The Council was supportive of TVA's efforts and asked questions. Several members indicated appreciation for the work of TVA on Dam Safety and River Management.

B. TVA's Natural Resources Update (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)

Bucky Edmondson, Director of Natural Resources, provided Natural Resources updates. Mr. Edmondson stated that Natural Resources issues about one thousand five hundred (1,500) to two thousand (2,000) Section 26a permits each year. He remarked that means TVA staff are in the field advising residents what they can and cannot do under Section 26a of the TVA Act, which is a very hard job. Floating Cabins have been a high interest topic of conversation. As you may know, in May of 2016, the TVA Board approved policy to address floating cabins. Congress

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For more information, please go to https://www.tva.gov/Newsroom/Boone-Dam-Project, https://www.tva.gov/Energy/Our-Power-System/Hydroelectric/Little-Bear-Creek-Dam-Seepage-Statement, https://www.tva.gov/Newsroom/TVA-Begins-Prep-Work-for-Construction-at-Pickwick, https://www.tva.gov/Energy/Our-Power-System/Hydroelectric/Cherokee-Reservoir, and https://www.tva.gov/Energy/Our-Power-System/Hydroelectric/Douglas-Reservoir.

then enacted the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation ("WIIN") Act, which has removed a sunset period approved by the TVA Board and recommended by the RRSC. TVA will be developing modifying regulations and comply with the law. TVA is working with stakeholders to address concerns. More information can be located at: https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Shoreline-Construction/Floating-Houses.

Mr. Edmondson provided information on other issues Natural Resources has been addressing on TVA's eleven thousand miles (11,000) miles of shoreline. Mr. Edmondson stated that TVA has approximately eleven thousand (11,000) known archeological sites, which on average, is one archeological site per shoreline mile. TVA has a big emphasis on protecting archeological sites. TVA hosted a field school at Hiawassee Island on Chickamauga Reservoir to train federally recognized tribes on archeological field techniques. TVA met with the tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office. TVA's archeologists and staff interfaced with the regulatory folks. David Bowling, TVA staff and Mr. Edmondson went to Huntsville, Alabama, for a five year event activity, to meet with federally recognized tribes and to discuss programmatic agreements and repatriation. TVA continues to repatriate Native American burial remains and funerary objects excavated from TVA lands. Another significant topic that TVA's Natural Resources and Enterprise Relations have been addressing is aquatic plants. Mr. Edmondson remarked that Dr. Joe Hoagland and his staff have been helpful. TVA has been in discussions about Guntersville Reservoir, and there is agreement on where to spray. That result is significant. TVA is in discussions with other stakeholders on other reservoirs. Natural Resources has also been actively involved in outreach and is working with TVA's Communications group to produce literature and social media updates. Natural Resources supports partnerships throughout the Tennessee Valley and provides environmental education, as well as a host of other programs throughout the Valley.

Council asked questions about Natural Resources programs and complimented Natural Resources in the work it is doing and for incorporating the RRSC's past advice on partnership and outreach opportunities.

4. Economic Development and Ecotourism (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)

A. Economic Development

Millie Callaway Parkes, from TVA's Economic Development, presented on economic development in the Tennessee Valley. TVA's Economic Development group engages our communities, local power companies, and local, state, and federal agencies. TVA recruits and attracts companies in the Valley and identifies opportunities in the Valley. TVA has field representatives that work in the Valley. She stated they are the boots on the ground and are plugged into local leadership, Chambers of Commerce, elected officials, companies, etc. Ms. Parkes discussed various Economic Development programs. Megasite programs have been Economic Development's flagship program. TVA has other programs such as Valley Sustainable Communities, and TVA has a research group within Economic Development which produces research for project driven requests. Economic Development also has targeted marketing and a website called TVAsites.com, and it houses thousands of properties. For more information, go to: https://www.tvasites.com/home.aspx. TVA is doing a lot of brand

management and it is amazing when TVA staff travel internationally, there are a lot of people that know about TVA.

Council asked multiple questions about how TVA promotes its work and seeks input.

B. Ecotourism

Jerry Fouse, Recreation Strategy Specialist for TVA's Natural Resources, stated he had the privilege of handling recreation strategy and tourism development activities for Natural Resources. He indicated that TVA's mission of service is to make the TVA region the best in the country to live, work and play. And the three-fold mission is to provide clean, reliable energy at the lowest possible cost, maintain environmental sustainability and good recreational opportunities for people in the Valley, and diligently support economic development. Mr. Fouse explained that TVA has many programs to help enhance and protect the environment. TVA programs and activities which sustain and benefit outdoor tourism and recreation include river scheduling, tailwater oxygenation, land availability by zones, partnerships, ecotourism studies, hunting and fishing (hatcheries), wildlife viewing opportunities and destination areas involving water and land-based recreation such as trail sports, biking, boat racing and white water rafting.

Mr. Fouse introduced Dr. Neelam Poudyal, Associate Professor of Natural Resources Policy and Human Dimensions at the University of Tennessee. Mr. Fouse stated that Dr. Poudyal has co-authored over 40 peer reviews for articles involving technical and academic journals and contributed to various chapters for numerous textbooks.

Dr. Poudyal provided information on "Results from visitor and property owner surveys on Chickamauga, Norris, and Watts Bar Reservoir in summer 2016" for TVA. Dr. Poudyal stated that the purpose of the study was to first estimate the recreational use and economic impacts associated with recreational expenditure on three TVA reservoirs (Chickamauga, Norris and Watts Bar) and then to extrapolate that data to estimate the recreational use and economic impact for the entire TVA reservoir system. Dr. Poudyal and a team of researchers from the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture used on-site observations, brief visitor interviews, and a mail survey to obtain information about the nature and length of visitors' recreational reservoir use and related economic expenditures. 476 surveys were collected: 200 were obtained at Norris, 198 at Chickamauga, and 58 at Watts Bar. Dr. Poudyal stated he and the team talked to TVA staff who work on those 3 reservoirs and the team visited every single site in those three reservoirs to document the level of use for all the areas such as boat ramps, marinas, picnic grounds, and campgrounds. There were approximately 26 categories that were accounted for like gasoline spent, cost of entertainment, license fishing fees, and all other items of direct spending which totaled about \$3.77 billion annually. Dividing the direct expenditures by the shoreline mile becomes \$352,000 per shoreline mile. The majority of the expenditures comes from public and commercial recreational users. They spend \$3.13 billion annually. Private access users, which are the property owners on the shorelines, spend approximately 600 million annually. From an economic standpoint, recreational use by the public is more significant in that they bring more money in and help grow the economy. The annual total impact is almost 12 billion dollars, which is about 1.1 million per shoreline mile. 1.1 million per shoreline mile is not the direct expenditure by the people engaging in recreational activities; it is the totality of the

impact of water-based recreation. Based upon these numbers, Mr. Poudyal would not be surprised if TVA was the second largest water-based recreation provider in the United States behind the United States Army Corps of Engineers, which manages about five times more shoreline miles than TVA. Dr. Poudyal stated that the number of jobs created by economic expenditures is approximately 130,000 annually for the entire TVA reservoir system. For more information, please go to https://www.tva.gov/Newsroom/Press-Releases/UTIA-Study-Finds-1-Million-Per-Mile-Economic-Impact-of-TVA-Reservoirs. Or to access the study directly, please go to https://ag.tennessee.edu/fwf/Documents/Poudyal-TVA-Whole-Report-2017.pdf

Jerry Fouse followed up with some more information for the Council to consider. Council members thoughtfully asked questions of Dr. Poudyal. TVA then adjourned for lunch and for the field trip to tour Cherokee and Douglas Dams.

5. Day 2 Welcome and Discussion of Advice Questions

Dr. Hoagland and Mr. Matthews welcomed the Council to the second day of the second meeting of the ninth term. TVA stated that it looked forward to hearing from the Council. Council commented that it appreciated the wealth of valuable information provided on Day 1 and that it really enjoyed the tour of Cherokee and Douglas Dams. The Council commented that it appeared that TVA staff took a great deal of time and effort in preparing for the tour, and it was appreciated. The Council participated in discussions to formulate its advice and asked further clarifying questions about ecotourism benefits.

Mr. Matthews reviewed the advice questions with the Council, and the Council asked many questions. Natural Resources and TVA staff provided responses to the Council.

6. Comprehensive Land Plan and Future RRSC Topics (Presentation can be found at www.tva.gov/rrsc)

Bucky Edmondson provided a detailed update about TVA's Comprehensive Land Plan. TVA is responsible for the proper stewardship of the public lands entrusted in its care. Natural Resources staff are tasked with managing approximately 293,000 acres of reservoir lands. Reservoir Land Management Plans (RLMPs) establish, through a systematic method, how the 293,000 acres of land may be used. Each RMLP allocates TVA-managed land for specific uses consistent with TVA policy and guidelines and applicable laws and regulations. There have been five public meetings in the month of January across the Tennessee Valley. TVA is finalizing the Environmental Impact Statement. More information can be found at: https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Environmental-Stewardship/Land-Management/Updates-to-8-Reservoir-Land-Management-Plans-and-the-Comprehensive-Valleywide-Land-Plan. Future RRSC topics by Natural Resources could include aquatic weeds and Natural Resource Plan updates.

7. Public Comment Period

No public comments were received.

8. Council Formal Advice Questions

The Council deliberated and finalized its advice. The Council formally moved to adopt the Formal Advice attached herein as Exhibit C. The Council unanimously approved the Formal Advice at approximately 11:30am EST.

9. Closing Comments

Dr. Hoagland thanked the Council for its efforts and advice. He said that the meeting was very productive and generated great ideas. TVA will finalize the minutes for the meeting and submit it for Chair approval. (The next meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 2017, and the date and location will be determined in the near future.) The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m. EST.

Minutes Approved:

Avis Kennedy, RRSC Chair Date: 10-3-17

Appendix A Non-Council Meeting Attendees

TVA

Dr. Joseph Hoagland, DFO	Lee Matthews, Facilitator
Rebecca Tolene, Deputy General Counsel and	David Bowling, Vice President of Land &
Vice President Natural Resources	River Management
Bucky Edmondson, Director of Natural Resources	Tiffany Foster
Jerry Fouse	Husein Hasan
Millie Callaway Parks	Mike Bradley
Jim Bryant	Rachel Terrell
Melinda Lindquist	Scott Lea
Rusty Smith	Amber Wissemann - TVAP
Cody Hudson - TVAP	Barbie Perdue
Kendra Mansur	Michael Scalf
Kelly Baxter	Milli Warren
Liz Upchurch	

Members of the Public		
None		

Others	
Jennifer Torregiano, TVA Office of the Inspector General	
Jennifer Short, Elite Reporting	
Dr. Neelam Poudyal	

Appendix B

Meeting Agenda 9th Term Regional Resource Stewardship Council (RRSC) June 6-7, 2017

TVA

400 W. Summit Hill Avenue **Knoxville, Tennessee 37902**

Day 1 – September 20

8:30 – 8:40	Welcome (Designated Federal Officer (DFO) - Joe Hoagland)
8:40 - 8:50	Introductions and Agenda Review
	(RRSC Chair – Avis Kennedy, Facilitator – Lee Matthews)
8:50 – 9:00	FACA Briefing (OGC – Kendra Mansur)
9:00 – 9:10	DFO Briefing (Hoagland)
9:10 – 10:00	Land and River Management (Vice President - David Bowling)
9:15 – 9:35	River Management Update (Melinda Lindquist/Jim Bryant)
9:35 10:00	Natural Resources Update (Director - Bucky Edmondson) Discussion / Q&A
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 10:20	Introduce Advice Topic (Edmondson/Matthews)
10:20 – 10:30	TVA Broad Economic Development (Millie Callaway Parks)
10:30 – 11:30	Economic Benefits of TVA's (Jerry Fouse/Dr. Neelam Poudyal)
11.20	Management of Public Land and Water
11:30	Adjoin and Lunch for Council Members

Day 2 – June 7

8:30 - 8:40	Welcome and Recap (Hoagland/Matthews)
8:40 - 9:00	Comprehensive Land Plan (Edmondson) and Future RRSC Topics
9:00 - 9:05	Prepare for Public Comment Session
9:05- 10:05	Public Comment Session (Matthews)
10:05 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11:15	Council Discussion and Advice (Matthews)
11:15 – 11:30	Wrap up and Adjourn (Kennedy/Hoagland)
11:30	Lunch for Council Members

Appendix C Formal Council Advice Regional Resource Stewardship Council Advice Statement, June 7, 2017 Approved unanimously by RRSC

TVA Public Lands offer opportunities for the general public to have diverse recreational experiences. TVA could help communities throughout the greater power service area with nature based tourism by partnering with States on economic development activities including local inventories and planning, coordinating outreach with the variety of events and opportunities that TVA provides, sharing best practices among communities, and supporting local communities with grants or support for public recreation access points. In addition, TVA may have opportunities inside the company to coordinate efforts and share information, especially as TVA works with local communities. When considering the types of events and criteria to determine use, TVA should consider whether the event or proposal is good stewardship of public land. TVA should use a common sense approach; stewardship, safety, the project or events needs, timing and overall quality of the public experience should be possible criteria. Ensure there are clear rules and a simple process with flexibility in determinations. Determine types of events or criterial that would not be allowed to help refine what will be allowed. Engage field staff as part of the process.

1. What additional ways could TVA help communities throughout the power service area establish/increase nature-based tourism or ecotourism?

- Event at Norris exceeded expectations in attendance. This kind of event becomes a platform for sharing TVA literature; springboard other events to focus on natural resources. (Identify types of events to help respond to this.)
- Support for infrastructure could be helpful (public access points) partner support and leveraging dollars to create recreational infrastructure in partnership with communities.
- Community level recreation planning support especially rural communities to help organize them. TVA could assist with grants or facilitation dialogue around recreation. TVA should participate in existing community and regional initiatives.
- Rules and regulations and having to do a lot of paperwork could be hindrances. Simplify
 the process and maybe one person should be in charge. Provide the basis or rules and
 regulations so people are informed of the process and who to contact to simplify. Make it
 easy.
- Utilize rural community assets. Rural Counties may not know how to involve TVA in this. Share information with counties on how to engage TVA. (example: Meigs County)
- Getting more communication to local governments in areas surrounding TVA resources to let them know how TVA can work with them to increase tourism would be helpful.
- Be able to share best practices and lessons learned many communities are not on the lake but have lots of natural resources. Share guidance to create an effective ecotourism program in your county.

- Identify institutional barriers inside TVA. Collaborate inside TVA, for example: Economic Development, Customer Delivery, Government Relations, and Natural Resources could work to enhance opportunities together tie in resources with relationships of each group. Discuss internally to link common missions.
- State Economic Development (example: Tennessee) are doing community inventories identifying conservation and recreation. Coordinate with the States to utilize their inventory processes.
- Rural areas seem to have the greater needs for help (people leaving /not growing). Agritourism is also really important in rural areas -- this is another area that TVA might consider.
- Not every county is going to want to do ecotourism. To take it to the next level, have one person who is a specialist to visit communities to see if they have a need and want to work on this. Use best practices to help them. Focus on where people want help.
- Universities could be a good tie in to provide education and maybe 'free' or low cost labor.
- 2. What criteria or considerations should TVA use to determine the balance between commercial/ special events and maintaining an area open (free) for general public use?
 - Different projects may have different needs. Preserve quality of public visits and to not compromise that experience. Look at timing and use of facilities to avoid being detrimental to the overall quality of public experience. Congestion, type of activity, location of venue (rural/highly utilized). Maintain flexibility in approach.
 - Use common sense.
 - Ask yourself: is it good stewardship to do the function or project on the public land?
 - Is it for the good of the many and not the few? Don't get distracted by the noisy or influential few.
 - Utilize field staff in decision making process to determine if events are allowed. They know the use of the areas and if it will create conflict or exclusive use.
 - Safety should be a criteria -- water events in particular. Ensure adequate safety to other boaters/ members of public with any event.
 - If TVA is considering use of public land for events, it should be for good reason. Review where the end profit goes. It should be for community benefit (not only commercial/individual profit). Consider designating a percentage of profit for community or TVA.
 - Consider some provision for for-profit events under the mission of economic development and prosperity in the Valley. Perhaps different provisions for these versus non-profit events. Use and engagement by the community in the event should be a criteria in this realm.

- 3. What types of events should TVA consider allowing on TVA managed public land?
 - Dog Field Trials
 - Check TVA policy or rules for prohibitions. (TVA notes that alcohol and guns on TVA
 Developed and Dam Reservation are prohibited, but for more information go to:
 https://www.tva.gov/Environment/Environmental-Stewardship/Land-Management/Rules-for-Use-of-TVA-Public-Lands.)
 - There could be damages from events and use. Is TVA ok with this?
 - Would like to see consideration given to disabled veterans or youth hunting/other special needs people (disabled/disadvantaged).
 - Not sure about how to regulate improved sites being used exclusively for personal financial gain. Don't let private use adversely impact others; use a common sense approach (varying opinions around this point).
 - Develop a protocol for how TVA works with entities on events (safety, resource protection, clean up, etc.) Should have clear guidelines and process and a point person. Fair treatment for both parties.
 - Identify types of things that should not be approved uses. There should be red flag issues in the review process e.g., alcohol, firearms, political in nature, location (utilization of TVA facilities); non-profit or for-profit; degree of police presence. Identify things that may be problematic to have a consistent approach for how things would then be handled. This will also help identify what can be allowed.
 - Needs to be some consideration for events not overly impacting public access and enjoyment. There are possible nuisance issues with some uses (e.g., drones).
 - Vendors can add a lot to events (and they ease work for event lead). Should address this issue of for-profit. It deserves some thought.
 - Anything that has positive impact on local economy and increases the use of public land should be considered, as long as it does not adversely impact public land.
 - Be careful about developing policy unless there is a real need to do so.