

## Tell-E-Gram Text Only Version, July 10, 2015

### **POA Meetings and Events:**

- Architectural Control Committee, 9 a.m. Thursday, July 16, POA Conference Room
- Finance Advisory Committee, 9 a.m. Friday, July 17, POA Conference Room
- Dock Captains Meeting, 3 p.m. Monday, July 20, POA Conference Room
- POA Board Meeting, 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 22, Yacht Club

### **POA 101**

A program developed and presented by TVPOA staff to give property owners a crash course on Village governance and history. The next session is 10 a.m. Thursday, July 23, in the Yacht Club. Reservations are required. Call Patty Robichaud, 865-458-5408 ext. 4115.

## **WATeR Provides Important Updates**

**By Bill Waldrop**

*Water Quality Improvement Committee, Watershed Association of Tellico Village*

### **Milestone in Madisonville Treatment Plant Litigation**

The Water Quality Improvement Committee (WQIC) of the Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir (WATeR) is pleased to announce that terms of an agreement with Madisonville have been accepted by the U.S. Eastern District Court in Knoxville. WATeR teamed with the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) in 2014 to initiate litigation against Madisonville to insure proper treatment of the city's wastewater.

Madisonville's current treatment plant is old and has been poorly maintained. In addition, the sewer collection system throughout the city is in dire need of repair and upgrading. As a result, stormwater and groundwater seepage into the collection network have frequently caused sewer overflows and overloads at the treatment plant allowing untreated sewer to flow directly into the nearby Bat Creek. Madisonville has reported thousands of discharge violations of wastewater over the past decade.

The WQIC has a mission of protecting and improving the water quality of the watershed. The WQIC objected to Madisonville's plan to build a new treatment plant and discharge directly into Tellico Lake. The prevailing strategy for solving such environmental problems was to first treat wastewater and then discharge to the largest body of water available for dispersion. Both regulators and plant designers failed to recognize that this approach could have devastating environmental effects because of the unique hydrologic features of Tellico Reservoir. Given Madisonville's past history of environmental violations and the State's inability to enforce environmental regulations, the WQIC felt it was imperative to oppose this proposal and help to develop an acceptable plan. This lake is a huge asset and economic driver for the three-county area, and must be protected.

In November 2014, WATeR teamed with the TCWN to initiate litigation against Madisonville in Federal Court for previous violations of the Federal Clean Water Act. These violations were well documented in public records making them easy to prove. The goal of this litigation was to assure the best possible plan to protect and improve the water quality of both Bat Creek and Tellico Lake. Through this legal process, WATeR and TCWN could exert influence and involve the Federal court to assure compliance with environmental regulations. The intent was not to punish or embarrass Madisonville, but to correct a long-standing environmental problem. The existing enforcement by the

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has not proven effective. Shortly after filing litigation, WATeR and TCWN initiated negotiations with Madisonville to explore terms of a settlement agreeable to all three parties. The basic common denominator was the need to construct a new, modern treatment plant as soon as possible. Other details were established through negotiations and compromises. A proposed Consent Decree was signed by all three parties and lodged with the court on May 5, 2015. A 45-day review period was required for review and approval by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Justice. With minor modifications, the Consent Decree was accepted by the Federal Court on June 29, 2015.

The Consent Decree includes several significant terms which are now in effect:

- Madisonville will build a new wastewater treatment plant near their existing plant in Madisonville and continue to discharge into Bat Creek;
- Madisonville will upgrade/repair the sewage collection system to reduce overflows at both the plant site and throughout the city;
- A schedule of milestones for design and construction are specified. The new plant is to be completed and operational by June 30 2017;
- WATeR and TCWN have rights to review and comment on the engineering plans prior to construction, as well as to observe startup of the new treatment plant. A member of WQIC who recently retired from a career of designing and managing construction of water and wastewater treatment plants has volunteered to serve this role;
- A schedule of monetary fines are specified for violations of pollution discharge limits from the new treatment plant;
- The consent decree will remain in effect for 3 ½ years after the plant becomes operational;
- Madisonville will reimburse TCWN \$25,000 for part of their litigation cost;
- In lieu of fines for previous permit violations, Madisonville will contribute \$10,000 to a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to identify other non-point sources of pollution to Bat Creek.

The SEP will consist of a water sampling project performed by WATeR volunteers to help identify sources and loadings of other pollutants to Bat Creek. Over the next two years, volunteers will collect water samples at selected sites throughout the Bat Creek Watershed for laboratory analysis of bacteria and nutrients. Madisonville will pay the cost of laboratory analysis. Results from this SEP will help promote and justify potential follow-up cost-share grants to eliminate other sources of pollution after the current problems with the Madisonville plant are corrected. WQIC has initiated preliminary discussions to promote an appropriate local agency to obtain a grant to address non-point sources of pollution to Bat Creek as they have previously done for Fork Creek and Baker Creek.

Detailed plans for the SEP sampling program are being formulated by the WQIC. The program will be consistent with TDEC protocol such that results can be added to the TDEC and EPA databases. When plans are complete, the WQIC may ask for volunteers to help perform the water sampling. The goal is to improve water quality and ecology of Bat Creek sufficiently to have it removed from the TDEC list of impaired streams.

### **Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline**

Have you been wondering about the blue TDEC Public Notice signs regarding a water quality permit application for a proposed natural gas pipeline posted near Highway 72 in Loudon and Monroe Counties? The Water Quality Improvement Committee (WQIC) of the Watershed Association of the Tellico Reservoir (WATeR) was asked for details about this proposal and the potential environmental concern. A member of this committee Ron Wise, a retired civil engineer/environmental attorney, researched the records and recently reported the result of his investigation. Wise found that East Tennessee Natural Gas, LLC has proposed to construct a new 12-inch diameter pipeline 10 miles long from an existing pipeline west of Vonore to the Tate and Lyle Plant in Loudon. This new pipeline will provide natural gas to the plant to allow conversion of existing coal fired boilers to natural gas and the installation of a new natural gas fueled combined cycle electric power plant. This conversion from coal combustion to natural gas should incrementally improve air quality throughout the Knoxville area as well as in Loudon Co.

The permit application states that the proposed route was selected from six alternatives because “it offered the least environmental and landowners impacts.” The 10 mile route extends along 9.1 miles of existing right-of-ways. The proposed construction workspace passes within 50 feet of six residences and crosses 27 waterbodies. Installing the pipeline across the upper reaches of both Bat Creek and Fork Creek Embayments of Tellico Lake and the Tennessee River near the terminus will be accomplished by drilling underground to prevent disturbing the bottom material. Crossing smaller streams may potentially “result in minor, short-term impacts including localized turbidity levels and downstream sediment deposition.”

Construction of this project is anticipated from March 2016 to August 2016. In addition to TDEC, the proposed construction plan was reviewed and approved by several State and Federal agencies including TVA, the US Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency.

For further information, contact Heather Todd Ahrens, Sr. Ecologist of TRC Environmental Corp. at (770) 270-1192, ext. 203 in Norcross, GA or [hahrens@trcsolutions.com](mailto:hahrens@trcsolutions.com). TRC prepared the environmental report for this project and Heather serves as Project Manager.

### **Greenway Meeting July 15**

Maybe you have heard that Loudon County is looking at the possibility of a greenway along Highway 444, the Tellico Parkway. Well, whether you have or you haven't, come on out to the Yacht Club on July 15th to hear more about it. The meeting will be led by Loudon County representatives to the Greenway Committee and is organized by the Economic Development Agency.

What: Tellico Parkway Greenway Public Input Meeting  
When: Wednesday, July 15 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.  
Where: Tellico Village Yacht Club.

### **The Yacht Club, Tanasi & Toqua Offerings and Upcoming Special Events**

Lots going on at the Restaurants in Tellico Village:

- **Southern Star band tonight** at the Yacht Club - starts at 7 p.m. - No cover charge as always.
- **Farmers Market** Wednesday, July 15, 9 a.m.-noon, in the Yacht Club parking lot. Come support our vendors!
- **Whiskey Wednesday** is your chance to try some new cocktails, created by our own Mixologist, Ashley.
- Join us for **Music Monday** at Tanasi for some soft tunes from 6 - 8:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs if you just want to listen, or grab a patio table if you want some dinner.
- For those of you who enjoy the **Toqua experience** - join us for early dinner on Sundays.
- Check your calendars for other events and hours of service for all your clubhouses.

Questions? Contact Info for the management team:

Christian Barber: Email: [cbarber.awehospitality@gmail.com](mailto:cbarber.awehospitality@gmail.com)

Jackie Newton: Email: [jnewton.awehospitality@gmail.com](mailto:jnewton.awehospitality@gmail.com)

**For reservations and information, call 865-458-4363.**

## **Some Other Stuff You Need to Know...**

### **Mah Jongg - Open Play**

- July 2 and 16, first and third Thursday of each month, 1-4 p.m., Chota Rec Center,
- July 14 and 28, second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 1-4 p.m., Chota Rec Center
- July 13, 20, and 27, the second, third, fourth, and fifth Monday of each month, 1-4 p.m., Chota Rec Center

Please wear your name tag! No food; bring your own drink.

If you have any questions, please call Carolyn Neely, 865-458-1323, [carolynneely@charter.net](mailto:carolynneely@charter.net).

### **Tellico Top Notes Rehearsal Schedule**

The Tellico Top Notes hold practice/rehearsal 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays (July 14 and 28) each month in the Yacht Club, Dale Polewach, 248-790-8962. We are always looking for more musicians!

### **Lectures at the Library July 14 and 21**

On July 21, 9:30-10:30 a.m., the eponymous Doug Christman Third Tuesday Lecture series at The Public Library at Tellico Village will feature Doug Christman speaking on "Tips on Genealogy." This lecture will draw on over 30 years of personal genealogy and family history research experiences. The lecture will cover the better-known and more widely used sources and methods, but will also identify and review some of the "hidden gems" of information that offer the possibility of revealing family data that might otherwise be overlooked. In addition, a few tips will be given on making web searches more relevant and efficient. The principal content of the lecture (the slides) will be made available via an emailed data file. Either sign up at the library or call 458-5199 to reserve a seat. Please call to cancel your seat if you can not attend.

Also, on July 14, Ed Smith will repeat his very popular lecture "Selling on E-Bay" at 9:30 a.m. at the Public Library at Tellico Village. Call 865-458-5199 or visit the library to sign up. Ed's slides will also be available on-line.

### **Register for Tellico Village University's Fall Semester**

TVU has published our FALL SEMESTER CURRICULUM on our website at [www.tvuniversity.org](http://www.tvuniversity.org). Check the CLASSES IN TELLICO VILLAGE page for the descriptions of our new offerings. Learn Photoshop Elements, Astronomy, The Art of Glass, Nutrition, Balance and Fall Prevention, Investment Management, and how to use Word to make brochures, flyers and newsletters. We are hoping to bring in two attorneys to tell us about Our First Amendment Rights—very much in the news lately, so you won't want to miss this one! Our classes are very popular and our computer classes do have an enrollment limit. Some of our courses carry a tuition while others are tuition free, but we ask for your financial support with a tax deductible donation in any amount to our Executive body -- STAYinTV so we can continue this program. We hope to receive your registration!

### **Christian Men's Fellowship Breakfast Thursdays**

Christian Men's Fellowship Breakfast meets weekly on Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the Tanasi Clubhouse. This is a non-denominational group of men from all walks of life who meet for breakfast, a time to fellowship around tables, share prayer requests and hear a devotional, personal testimony or enter into a discussion about spiritual issues. All are welcome. For more information, call Larry Denney at 865-408-9725 or Bob Ericson at 865-458-9877.



