

Meeting Notes for 7/17/22 SGH Board/Leadership/Facilitator Meeting

This quarterly Leadership Team meeting was held at Dahlonega Chamber of Commerce (342 Hill St Dahlonega, GA) beginning at 1:00 p.m. Participants were Bob Pledger, Al Battle, Cary Allen, Darrell Sheffield, Derrick Morris, Ray Lorenzi, Jim Heilman, John Shearouse, Kat Carey, Dave Teffeteller, Jim Wentworth, Jon Jones, Betty Larsen, Pat Hickey, Elliott Seagall, Holly Cochran, Buz Stone and Donna Shearer. Jody Webb, Todd Jackson, Renee Gracon, Jimmy Stewart, Dara Sinclair, Nick Gardener, Kim Wood, Robert Patchett, and Lee Higgins were unable to attend.

BOARD MATTERS

***Opening** – Chairman **Buz Stone** called the meeting to order. The minutes from 4/13/22 were approved, and the agenda for the 7/17/22 meeting was approved.

Buz outlined the Board's process in the decision to allow **Donna Shearer** to retire as Executive Director and the search/interview/tentative hire of a new Executive Director in training. Following the 4/13/22 meeting, Buz emailed the team, who then formed an ad hoc executive committee consisting of himself, **Chris Curtin, Dave Teffeteller, and Jim Wentworth**. The committee met shortly after, and **Holly Cochran** was nominated. She was then interviewed 4/27/22 and approved by the committee as an interim hire under the conditions set forth in the attached contract. The Board voted unanimously in favor to ratify the hire.

Buz requested to add **Holly** as a signee (jointly with **Donna**) on SGH Truist bank account. Motion was made by Chris Curtin, seconded by Dave Tefeteller and approved by the board with no objection.

* **Election of Directors and Officers**

Our Bylaws specify that election of Directors and Officers shall be held at the annual meeting, and today's meeting meets that requirement. Motion was made to continue the one-year terms of all eight elected Board members. All Board members indicated they are willing to serve another year.

Board/officers will search for a new Recording Secretary.

* **Amendments to Bylaws**

Proposed amendments to SGH Bylaws were as follows:

- 1) That the Board is authorized to appoint an EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE consisting of not fewer than 3 nor more than 7 directors to conduct the business of the organization between scheduled Board meetings. The Executive Committee may act upon the majority vote of its members, and a meeting may be called at any time upon 2 days notice, by the Chair of the Executive Committee or any 2 members of the Committee. The acting Chairman of the Board and the Vice Chairman of the Board shall serve as 2 of the members, the rest being appointed by the Board.
- 2) That the Board is authorized to hire employees, part-time and full-time, under such terms and conditions as the Executive Committee deems appropriate, provided that the compensation of such employees be reasonable and comparable to the compensation paid to similar positions in the area; and further provided that the hiring would not result in a conflict of interest as provided by the Bylaws. All provisions to the contrary in the Bylaws, including those that describe the organization as "100 % volunteer" in the Bylaws, web site and any other published material, shall be modified accordingly.

Amendment 1 was tabled following discussion and concerns regarding the power of the executive committee to potentially override board decision.

Amendment 2 was tabled pending additional research and suggested changes to verbiage. Ideas for proposed changes included the authorization to create Board appointed *ad hoc* committees specific to situational needs.

Kat Carey and Buz will coordinate to make changes and present an updated version of the Amendment to the Board via email.

The latter portion of Amendment 2 regarding provisions in the Bylaws, website, and any other published material describing SGH as "100% volunteer" was addressed. Motion to delete "100% volunteer" from all SGH materials was approved with no objections.



PROGRESS REPORT FY 2022 as of June 30, 2022

- **All 19 HWA-infested Georgia counties** in native hemlock range now served by our Hemlock Help Program
- **Hemlock Help Line** available 7 days a week with 562 calls handled to date
- **3 Facilitator Training Workshops** with 4 new Facilitators trained
Total active Facilitators=402 in GA and 93 in other states
- **00 Hemlock Lessons** for 00 students and teachers
- **4 Presentations** for 77 adults:
- **9 Customized training sessions** for 20 volunteers and public land managers
- **6 Festivals & public events** with 44 volunteers and 830 visitors:
- **6 Articles/news items** written by, with the assistance of, or about SGH published in newspapers/magazines including:
 - 12/18/21 Article “Volunteers plant hemlocks at Yahoola Creek Park” written by Elaine Davis and published in *Dahlonega Nugget*
 - 4/1/22 Article “Our hemlocks are suffering, and YOU can save them” published in the *Mountain Mirror* on Lookout and Signal Mountains
 - 4/15/22 Article “The mighty hemlock of North Georgia are disappearing but a small army of dedicated volunteers is working to save them” published in *The Georgia Mountaineer Quarterly*
- **94 Facilitator visits** made with charitable treatment of 619 trees
- **27 hemlock treatment projects** with 153 volunteers treating 4,737 trees:
- **5 sapling rescue projects** with 29 volunteers, 343 saplings rescued and potted for use in educational/service activities or future adoption:
- **176 hemlock saplings adopted**
- **123 saplings donated** to schools, churches, nonprofits:
- **4 hemlock sapling planting projects** with 23 volunteers planting 54 donated hemlocks:
- **9 soil injectors** repaired/refurbished
- Total of **3,582 volunteer hours**

FINANCIAL REVIEW FY 2022 as of June 30, 2022

Starting 2022 Ckg Acct Balance	\$63,514.70
Total Income	\$40,967.00
Total Expense	\$23,759.42
Ending Ckg Acct Balance	\$80,722.28
Net Change from 2021	\$17,207.58

*** Financial Summary** as of 6/30/22

INCOME	CONTRIB INDIV	CONTRIB MEMBER	CONTRIB FOUND	CONTRIB NONPROF	CONTRIB IN KIND GOODS	CONTRIB IN KIND SERVICE	CONTRIB CORP	GOV REIMB
2022 INCOME BY SOURCE	\$1040.00	\$33,398.56	\$1,127.81	\$2,414.63	\$1,763.00	\$1,200.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
2022 INCOME BY PERCENTAGE	2.54%	81.53%	2.75%	5.89%	4.24%	2.93%	0.12%	0.00%
TOTAL INCOME	\$40,967							

EXPENSE	11 EDU CLINICS	12 EDU FAC TRNG	13 EDU COMM PROGRAM	16 PUBLIC COMM	14 SAPLINGS	15 TREATMENT	51 GEN ADMIN	52 MEMB & FUND RAISING
2022 EXPENSE BY CATEGORY	\$66.21	\$405.41	\$7,252.00	\$2,276.22	\$3,852.31	\$6,723.46	\$2392.74	\$791.07
2022 EXPENSE BY PERCENTAGE	0.28%	1.71%	30.52%	9.58%	16.21%	28.30%	10.07%	3.33%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$23,759.42							

* **Current spending ratio:** 42.09% Education, 44.51% Charitable Service, 13.4% Admin

* **Cumulative spending ratio** FY 2009 - 2022: 43.91% Education, 47.16% Charitable Service, 8.93% Admin

* **Current Ckg Acct Bal** as of 7/15/22: \$78,948

* **Report on Annual Membership Appeal** as of 6/30/22 – 94 donations totaling \$23,035.

*** Other grants and dedicated funds on hand:**

- Private donation, Rabun \$11,593.00
- Lake Burton Civic Assoc \$1,824.00
- Lake Rabun Foundation \$1,005.00
- Laurel Ridge \$391.41
- Gheesling Scholarship Fund \$2,000.00 3 Scholarships awarded @ \$1,000, \$875 donated
- \$16,813.00

*** Report on 2022 Budget vs Actual**

BUDGET INCOME	ACTUAL INCOME	DIFF
\$37,500	\$40,967	\$3,467

BUDGET EXPENSE	ACTUAL EXPENSE	DIFF
\$36,895	\$23,759	-\$13,136

UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS

Derrick provided an overview of the proposed revisions to the current structure and set up of our 5-hour combined Hemlock Help Clinic / Facilitator Training Workshop. All meeting participants are in agreement to pare down and separate the course into (1) a 1 ½ hour Clinic for individuals interested in general information and treating their own trees, and (2) a follow-on 3-hour Facilitator Training Workshop for those interested in becoming Volunteer Facilitators and active participants.

Course attendance has been low due to COVID, inability to participate in festivals last year, and possibly the increased local awareness of HWA and the hemlock crisis. The need to target the recent influx of new residents was highlighted. Derrick noted this could be accomplished by reaching out to HOAs, POAs, real estate agents, etc. and advertising Clinics in their distribution lists.

Donna, Derrick, Dave, and Jim will meet July 28 at the Blackberry Mountain office in Ellijay to complete revisions to course structure and solidify plans on moving forward. The schedule below is subject to change following the meeting.

TOWNS/RABUN	9/10	RENEE
DADE/WALKER	10/1	DERRICK
ALL COUNTIES	10/22	DERRICK

To sign up for a class or request additional information, contact **Derrick Morris**, 404-593-3173 derrick1p1@gmail.com.

UPCOMING TREATMENT PROJECTS

* Hemlock treatment projects

8/7	Dicks Creek-Lumpkin County	JON – will be rescheduled
8/13	Lower Dicks Creek and Miller Creek-Lumpkin County	JIM
9/18	Gold Mine Branch-Rabun	JON
10/9	Tallulah River Campground-Rabun County	JON
10/22	Helton Creek-Union County	JIM
11/6	Upper Cliff Creek-Rabun County	JON

To volunteer for a project or request additional information, contact **Jim Wentworth** at 706-897-0645 wentwrth@windstream.net or **Jon Jones** at 910-987-0306 jdjones611@gmail.com.

UPCOMING FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Trail Fest	9/17	Dahlonega	BETTY
Appalachian Trail Day	9/24	Brasstown Bald	BETTY
Foxfire Mountaineer Festival	10/1	Clayton	TBD
Georgia Marble Festival	10/1-10/2	Jasper	TBD
Beer Fest (to be verified)	10/15	Gibbs Gardens	TBD
Heritage Days (to be verified)	10/15-10/16	Talking Rock	DARA
Dahlonega Community Service Fair	10/22	Dahlonega	DONNA
Boy Scout Conservation Weekend	11/12	Blairsville	ELLIOTT

To sign-up as a booth helper or request additional information, contact **Betty Larsen**, 706-633-0358 bettyandjohnyoga@gmail.com.

Holly will verify with **Betty** the dates/times/status of all events on the schedule. **Betty** noted we may need to determine which festivals are most productive to our purposes. Some events seem to attract uninterested individuals per Betty. Members discussed that it may be beneficial to look carefully at the venue and population attending the event to avoid burning out festival volunteers.

Elliott will set up at Boy Scout Conservation Weekend. Handouts will be provided- **Dave and Elliott** will work on material specifically targeted to scouts. **Dave, Chris, John S., Bob, Buz, Elliott and Cary** will also look at ways to partner with scouts completing Eagle or similar projects and develop materials (engagement forms detailing roles and responsibilities) to facilitate the partnership.

UPCOMING SAPLINGS PROJECTS IN 2022

* **Sapling rescues/potting** -- **Chris, Holly, and Jim H.** will coordinate a dig to fill Jim Heilman's nursery.

* **Saplings for festivals** – Donna reminded the team that we have at least 8 property owners in the east and 9 in the west who have offered us permission to dig saplings on their property, and we need to schedule digs soon enough for the little trees to stabilize in their pots before fall festival season.

OTHER BUSINESS

* **Rabun Donations** – A private donation has \$11,593 remaining. The donor \ would like the funds to be spent in Rabun County. We are not able to treat Lake Burton because the hemlocks are dead or beyond saving. Discussions are underway to dedicate funds for treatment at Lake Seed and Lake Tugaloo (GA Power properties). The scope of this project would be massive- see previous meeting notes detailing discussion of how to tackle the project (bids, etc.). **Buz** is waiting to hear back from the GA Power representative regarding permission to treat the smaller lakes on GA Power property.

* **Gheesling Fund** – Three \$1,000 scholarships have been awarded, and an additional \$875 has been donated to the fund. Suggestion was made to raise the scholarship to \$2,000. The Board decided to maintain the current amount of \$1,000 each, and if money is leftover next year, we can consider increasing individual scholarship amount.

* **Injector Repair** – **Donna** will host training for injector repair at her house in August. The need to recruit someone mechanically inclined was highlighted as we want to continue to offer this service. **Jim and Jon** will attend and continue to repair SGH injectors when necessary. **Dave** will video disassembly and assembly and may provide further videos to show what defective injector parts look like and overview what function specific parts perform. **Derrick and Elliott** offered to be backup volunteers for repairing SGH injectors.

* **Administrative:**

- When the Hemlock Help Line is transferred, billing will be transferred to SGH.

- Facilitators are encouraged to write in the purpose of visits on membership cards and provide these cards to property owners to mail in with their donations after the visit.

- Moving forward, please send all quarterly reports for individual hours, project leader paperwork and class lists to hollypcochran@gmail.com

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Sunday, October 16, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Dahlonega Chamber of Commerce, 342 Hill St., Dahlonega