

Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund

Board Meeting Minutes

October 30th, 2024

Clover Bottom Mansion

2941 Lebanon Pike, Nashville TN 37214

Attendance

Quorum ✓

Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Board		
Trustee	Representation	Attendance
Phil Poux	West	Present
Mike Frick	West	Present
Angie Box	West	Present
Andrew Goddard	Middle	Present
Bernie Butler	Middle	Absent
Charles Hankla	Middle	Present
Jeremy Nagoshiner	Middle	Present
Larry Zehnder	East	Present
Madge Cleveland	East	Present
Pete Claussen	East	Absent
Michael Bittel	East	Absent

TDEC Hosts: Bill Avant & Liz Campbell

Guests: Heather Iverson (TDEC), Travis Bow (TDEC), Nathaniel Garrison (TDEC)

Orders of Business

1. Roll Call
2. Veterans Island Park Update

Motion made to recognize the Grainger County Industrial Board as an applicant by Goddard

 - 2nd by Poux
 - Motion to approve is unanimous

Reading of the Minutes

- Motion made to approve the minutes by Zehnder.
- 2nd by Hankla
 - Motion to approve is unanimous

NEW Applications

1. TDEC Division of Natural Areas – Keisling Tract \$654,000, 610 acres, Fentress County

The Keisling tract, a 610-acre property near Pogue Creek Canyon State Natural Area, is one of the last undeveloped tracts in the area, featuring 7 miles of scenic sandstone bluffline, caves, waterfalls, and significant natural and cultural resources, including pre-historic Native American sites and a Civil War-era saltpeter mine. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) aims to acquire this property to protect its sensitive habitats and viewsheds, as well as to expand recreational opportunities, including a potential trail connection to Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park. Acquisition would also preserve the tract's cultural and ecological significance and protect it under the Natural Areas Preservation Act.

- Motion to approve by Cleveland
- 2nd by Hankla
- Vote to approve the full amount as requested (\$654,000) is unanimous.

**2. TDEC Burgess Falls State Park – Dunn Tract
\$297,000, 19.5 acres, White County**

Burgess Falls State Park, established in 1973, is a popular Middle Tennessee destination with notable waterfalls and ecological significance, attracting nearly 200,000 visitors annually. Due to growing development pressures, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) seeks to acquire the 19.5-acre Dunn property, which borders the park. This acquisition would protect the scenic viewshed, enhance recreational opportunities, and allow habitat restoration. The Dunn tract, part of a broader conservation effort involving other nearby properties, would also provide more space for visitors, trails, and parking. TDEC is requesting \$297,000 from the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund to support the purchase.

- Motion to approve by Frick
- 2nd Zehnder
- Approve: Box, Butler, Cleveland
- Deny: Poux, Goddard
- Pass: Nagoshiner
- Motion carries

**3. TDEC Burgess Falls State Park – Hinsley Tract
\$85,800, 15.07 acres, White County**

Burgess Falls State Park, designated in 1973, attracts nearly 200,000 visitors annually with its stunning waterfalls and rich biodiversity. Due to increased development in the surrounding area, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) is interested in acquiring the 15-acre Hinsley property, which borders the park. This acquisition would protect the park's viewshed, watershed, and access while offering opportunities for expanded trails, wildlife observation, and habitat restoration. TDEC is seeking \$85,800 from the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund to help purchase the property, which will be incorporated into park management.

- Motion to approve by Frick
- 2nd by Nagoshiner
- Vote to approve the full amount as requested (\$85,800) is unanimous.

**4. TDEC Burgess Falls State Park – Luke Tract
\$343,200, 192.8 acres, Putnam County**

Burgess Falls State Park, established in 1973 in White County, Tennessee, is a popular ecological and recreational site, attracting nearly 200,000 visitors annually with its notable waterfalls. The nearby Window Cliffs, a 275-acre natural area in Putnam County, features rare geological formations and endangered species. Due to increasing development pressures, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) aims to acquire the 193-acre Luke property, which borders Burgess Falls, to expand and connect the two areas. This acquisition would protect watersheds, enhance recreational opportunities, and support rare species. TDEC seeks \$343,200 from the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund to aid in the purchase.

- Motion to approve by Frick
- 2nd by Cleveland
- Vote to approve the full amount as requested (\$434,200) is approved unanimously

Closing

Public Comment Period – no comments

Board discusses solicitation of applications and leveraging funding sources other than State funds for projects. Bill and Liz advised the board that all applications are brought forward to the board for consideration, TDEC does not turn away any applications. TDEC announces a call for applications by email, on the website and to local communities through the Office of External Affairs Regional Directors. Board members talked about sharing this opportunity for funding with their personal contacts and communities.