



**Ocoee River Recreation and Economic Development Fund Board  
September 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**\* 12:00 p.m. Central Time / 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time**

**Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park  
404 Spring Creek Road  
Delano, TN 37325**

**Roll Call:**

In attendance:

Board Members: Angelo Giansante, Lynne McClary, Carlo Smith, Lamar Davis, Macy Brower, Drew Freeman, Tim Henderson, Whitney Mayer, Ryan Cooke, Deputy Commissioner Carlton, Representative Dan Howell, Jenni Vest

1. Motion to approve Marketing Subcommittee minutes from September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025
  - 1st: T. Henderson
  - 2nd: R. Cooke
    - All in favor
2. Motion to approve Spring 2025 Board minutes from March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - 1st: R. Cooke
  - 2nd: T. Henderson
    - All in favor
3. Public comment:
  - a. Paul Wright spoke about t-shirt sales for proposed Friends of Ocoee at opening of park on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>.
4. Rule Update – on track
5. Fund Balance Presentation
  - a. R. Cooke asked if wages total is consistent with previous years.
  - b. Motion to approve fund balance and information as presented.
  - 1st: R. Cooke
  - 2nd: A. Giansante
    - All in favor
6. Marketing Subcommittee Report
  - a. Board Approval of Braves Ad through Polk County Chamber

- b. Was previously voted on in March meeting
- c. Committee Member Appointment
- d. Motion to set up subcommittee members (3 outfitters, Park Manager & Economic Development) positions from Board.
- 1st: R. Cooke
- 2nd: A. Giansante
  - All in favor
- e. Vote to fund Sub Com up to \$600,000 to spend toward advertising and festivals how they see fit, according to state procurement guidelines.
- 1st: R Cooke
- 2nd: A Giansante
  - All in favor

#### 7. 2026 Water Release Schedule

- a. A. Giansante had met with outfitters to change schedule. A proposal was drafted and sent to TVA for approval.
- b. C. Smith questioned losing hours on Sundays to increase hours during the week. Stated he would lose a considerable amount of revenue due to the hours being moved.

#### 8. Park/Infrastructure Updates

- a. A. Giansante has met with engineers regarding the Rogers Branch ramp undercut. He is waiting to hear back from them with a quote.
- b. T. Henderson asked for a timeline.
- c. A. Giansante said he is targeting Fall 2026.
- d. T. Henderson asked about getting a strip down the ramp for private boaters.
- e. A. Giansante said he was getting a proposal on that.
- f. R. Cooke asked what budget the repairs to the ramp will be coming out of.
- g. A. Giansante said that it is to be determined. Once the quote is obtained then funding will be discussed.
- h. L. McClary suggested the Tourism Enhancement Grant.
- i. Deputy Comm Carlton suggested the Appalachian Region Economic

Impact Fund.

- j. R. Cooke asked to carry the discussion over to the Spring Meeting as an agenda item.

9. Reminder of Annual Conflict of Interest Form

- a. Sara Page, legal counsel, will be sending out the Annual Conflict of Interest Form to all board members.

10. Schedule for Spring Meeting

- a. March 5, 2026, 1 PM CST in Nashville at Snodgrass

11. Other Business

- a. Chairman Howell asked if the board wanted him to propose a bill to cap the number of permits allowed on the Ocoee, through attrition.
- b. R. Cooke suggested setting the limit to 12.
- c. No vote was made on it.
- d. C. Smith asked about the subcommittee's ability to receive grants and to give grants.

Adjournment @ 1:25 pm CST