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TCTCWA

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016/2017

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2016 President's Message

TC/TCWA was founded in 1991 with a mission to promote and preserve the water quality and the environment of the watershed including surrounding areas of special concern and improve the water quality of the associated creeks and tributaries, provide educational materials on the benefits of and methods to achieve protection and preservation of the natural integrity of the watershed, educate the general public and interested parties in the value of stress controls and land activities, promote and coordinate the conservation of natural resources of the watershed, and protect and preserve terrestrial and aquatic life in the watershed. The TC/TCWA Board feels very fortunate to have a majority of its waters presently classified as either High Quality Cold Water Fisheries or Exceptional Value Fisheries by the DEP. We also feel a strong sense of responsibility for shared stewardship of a watershed that contains such unusual and diversified wetlands that The Nature Conservancy considers the watershed to be among the "Last Great Places" on earth.

Highlights of TC/TCWA's activities and accomplishments over the years toward fulfillment of this mission include:

- Implementation of a Stream Watch program, which involves monitoring twentyone stream sites on a monthly basis.
- Monitoring of the performance of the ten sewage treatment plants in the watershed by reviewing the monthly discharge monitoring reports which are submitted to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- Construction of 1,100-ft Wetlands Boardwalk Trail and High School-Level Education Curriculum in 2005 at the Pocono Mountain West School Campus, funded by Pennsylvania's Growing Greener Grant Program through the DEP.
- Submittal of an application in partnership with Monroe Co. Conservation District to change the DEP classification of Tunkhannock Creek (which will be the beneficiary of this proposed Grant project), which is classified as a High Quality -Cold Water Fishery, to Exceptional Value in order to preserve that body of water's quality.
- Production and circulation of brochures and presentations to educate about everything from groundwater to invasive plants.
- Participation in PA DOT's Adopt-A-Highway program by adopting a stretch of Rt. 423, to enhance the organization's commitment to leading by example.

In recent years, while membership has held relatively steady, active participation in TC/TCWA programs has waned considerably. This is not unique to TC/TCWA; the tense and conflicted states of the economic and political worlds are a distraction

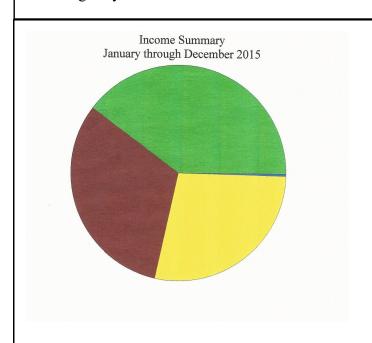
2016 President's Message, (Continued from page 1)

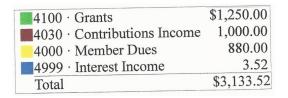
to many and have sapped energy that people might otherwise invest in non-profit service organizations in general. Yet the Board continues to believe that preservation of the watershed is a worthy investment of our effort, and clearly you do as well as you continue to support the ideals of TC/TCWA's mission with your membership.

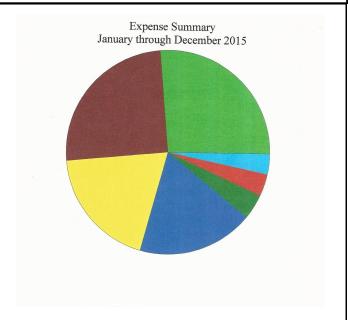
In the end, we are an organization that exists to serve the interests of our membership as we understand them. I am a quiet person, and that also characterizes the current Board as a whole. We have debated pursuing recruitment drives and "fun" activities with the goal of bolstering membership numbers, but these seem contrary to our sense that the TC/TCWA's mission isn't to do things for the sake of appearances. At present there does not seem to be an outcry for any particular action. Accordingly, we are in "hold" mode listening for that message and readying to move forward whenever and in whatever direction the membership desires. To that end, the Board and other active members will endeavor to monitor and inform, and listen for issues that resonate with you, our membership.

Threats to the watershed are certainly out there: the introduction and spread of invasive plants; erosion and sedimentation due to expanding development activities and increasing intensity of stormwater runoff events associated with climate change; algae/aquatic plant blooms caused by failing on-site septic systems. We will continue to quietly gather strength for the time when action is needed. And you, the membership, will tell us when that time has arrived. You can be the eyes and ears of TC/TCWA. Tell us what you see and hear; bring to our attention what concerns you and we will look into them. If you are moved to get actively involved, all the better.

Best regards, Geoff Rogalsky







6130 · Sec'y/Bkkp Expense	\$	660.00
6180 · Insurance		687.00
6260 · Printing and Reproduction		527.35
■6290 · Rent		505.20
■6250 · Postage and Delivery		111.65
6670 · Program Expense		162.14
6340 · Telephone		63.64
Total	\$2	2.716.98

The Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed is a beautiful piece of land that dramatically changes with the seasons. Here is one year in photographs.



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