

CONSTITUTION

TCWP (Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning) is dedicated to achieving and perpetuating protection of natural lands and waters by means of public ownership, legislation, or cooperation of the private sector. While our first focus is on the Cumberland and Appalachian regions of Tennessee, our efforts may extend to the rest of the state and the nation. TCWP's strength lies in researching information pertinent to an issue, informing and educating our membership and the public, interacting with groups having similar objectives, and working through the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches of government on the federal, state, and local levels.

ARTICLE I. Membership

All persons supporting the purposes and objectives of TCWP shall be eligible for membership. Membership shall not be limited by location of residence. Each member in good standing except corresponding members shall be entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE II. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of officers and directors who fully subscribe to, and are willing to work for, TCWP's mission. The officers of the organization shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. In addition, there shall be seven Directors. The previous year's President, unless reelected, shall be an additional voting director, and in any such year the Board of Directors will be composed of twelve persons instead of eleven. The terms of office shall be from January 1 through December 31. All officers and directors may be reelected.

Election of officers and directors shall be held at the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of one or two candidates for each of the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional nominations will be entertained from the floor. Following the election for officers, a second slate of candidates shall be presented for additional directors. This list must contain at least seven names proposed by the Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor may be added (provided the nominee has agreed to serve if elected) and may include candidates defeated in the previous vote for officers. The membership shall vote for seven directors.

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In case a vacancy occurs among Officers or Directors, the remaining members of the Board of Directors may seek nominations from any TCWP member for replacement. If more than one nomination is received, a simple majority vote of the remaining members of the Board will choose the replacement, who will assume his/her duties at the next Board meeting and will serve for the remainder of the calendar year. That person's name may subsequently be included among the nominees presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting during which election of the Board for the succeeding calendar year occurs.

ARTICLE III. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, consisting of a Chair and two other members, shall propose candidates for the next year's Board of Directors. Such nominees must have expressed whole-hearted support for TCWP's mission, and a willingness to serve. In seeking candidates for the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee may give consideration to expertise in fields such as science, law, finance, fund raising and others, but such expertise shall not be a prerequisite for nomination. The Nominating Committee shall also propose at least three candidates for the next year's Nominating Committee to be elected at the annual meeting. A slate of at least three names shall be presented, including at least one candidate for Nominating Committee Chair. Nominations from the floor may be added. The membership shall vote for three. In the event that the Chair or a member is later unable to serve, a replacement shall be selected by the Board by simple majority vote.

ARTICLE IV. Meetings

There shall be four types of meetings: (a) an annual meeting, to be held between September 15 and November 30, at which business is transacted and annual progress reports are presented; (b) other meetings, held at approximately one- or two-month intervals, devoted to presentation of special programs, such as illustrated lectures, panels, or discussions of specialized subjects; (c) outings, such as hikes, picnics, or float trips; and (d) service projects, such as maintaining/developing trails and extirpating invasive exotic species. Meetings are organized by various Board members and Committees (as outlined in the bylaws) but can also be called by a quorum of the membership. A quorum shall consist of 10% of the eligible membership.

ARTICLE V. Bylaws

Bylaws may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of members voting at the annual meeting.

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ARTICLE VI. Amendments

Proposed amendments to the Constitution must have the documented approval of at least four members, be submitted to the Secretary by September 1, and be communicated to the membership at least two weeks before the annual meeting. Constitutional amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of members voting at the annual meeting. Bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting by a majority vote of members present.
