

Lessons In Advocacy:

Efforts to Implement Caney Fork
River Minimum Flow, Latest Era
2017-2024

Lessons In Advocacy:

Caney Fork River Minimum Flow

Continuous

(*Be specific)

Who is this guy??

- President, Music City Trout Unlimited 2018-2022
- Fly South Shop Staff/Guide
- Loves:
 - Big foam flies
 - Old Boats
 - Continuous minimum flows from Center Hill Dam
- Hates:
 - Derrick Henry playing for the Ravens (but I get it)
 - Old Boats
 - Government bureaucracy impeding easy to implement solutions for tailwater fishery improvement



Caney Fork River

Originates from headwaters coming off the Cumberland Plateau near Pleasant Hill, TN, winding hundreds of stream and river miles flowing into Center Hill Lake.

Tailwater portion flows from Center Hill Dam, completed in 1948 and impounding the original Caney Fork flow to the Cumberland River.



Recent Timeline

1998 – Last full USACE Water Management Plan Update for Center Hill Dam Project

2008 – Center Hill Lake drawdown reduces lake level to 620ft (mean sea level)

2017 – Water management personnel turnover

2018 – Music City Trout Unlimited engages in advocacy, communication, and coordination.

2020 – Center Hill Dam repairs complete

2020-February 2023 – Collaboration and communication between management agencies, fisheries agencies, and advocacy organizations.

July 2023 – Draft Water Management Plan released with slight notice, and one-week public comment period.

September 2023 – Public Comment Period receives 900+ submissions, elected officials are made aware, and the process pauses and moves into revision.

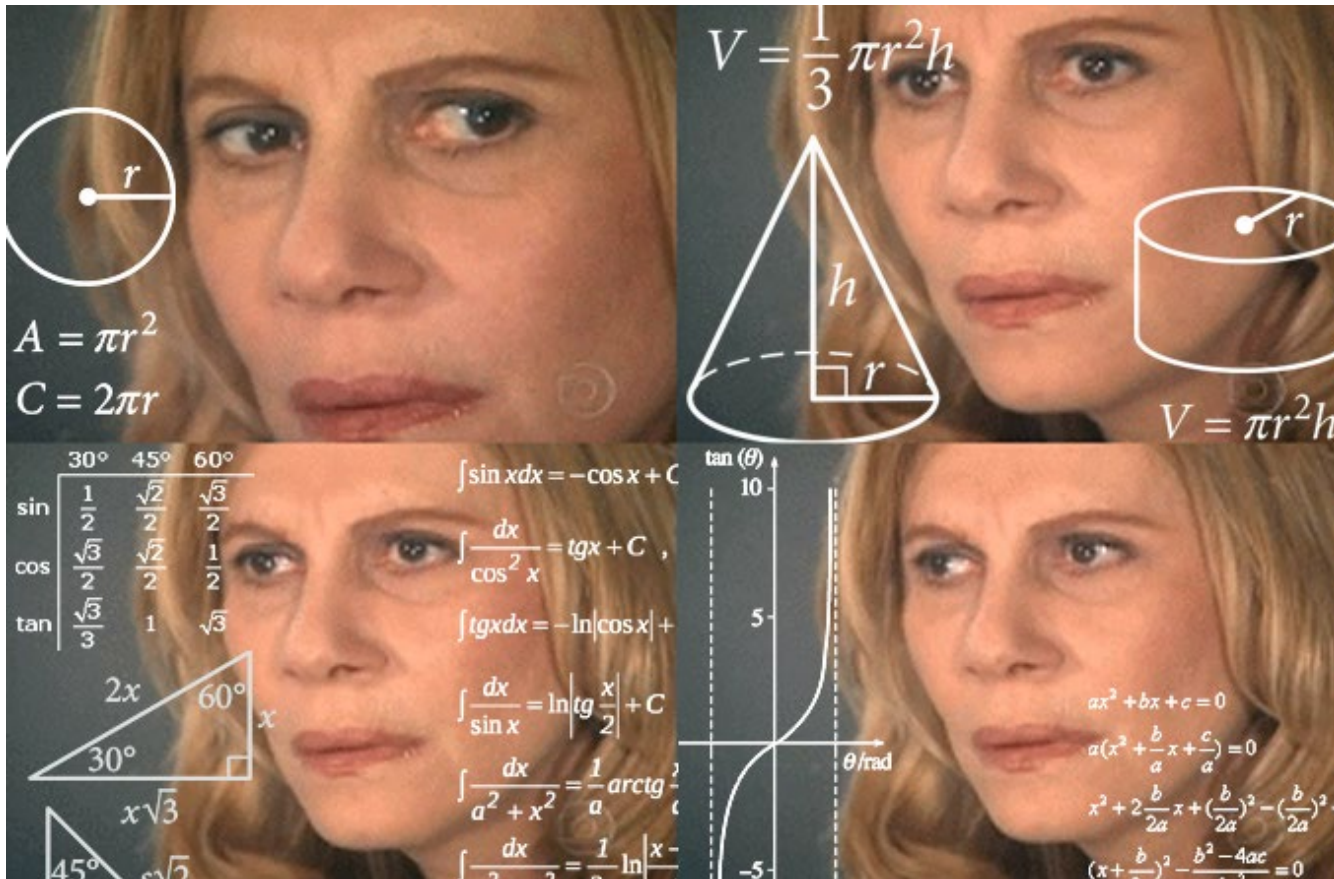
April 2024 (TBD) – Expected revised draft water management plan.

Hopeful Outcome

Continuous Minimum flow between 250-400 cfs from Center Hill Dam into Center Hill Dam, 24/7/365, codified in the water management plan and project mandate.

Note: Sluice gate regulation plate was built 20+ years ago to regulate a minimum flow for Dissolved Oxygen purposes. This is a ready and waiting solution, costing little to no money to implement, and can be applied within a matter of hours.

LESSONS



It's not as complicated as you might think.

It's not as simple as you might think.

2. LEARN > PLAN > LEARN > PLAN >
LEARN > PLAN > LEARN > PLAN

Define your problem.

Determine ideal and possible solutions.

2. LEARN > PLAN > LEARN > PLAN >
LEARN > PLAN > LEARN > PLAN

How do hydropower dams work?

What are operational regulations?

Who governs hydropower dams?

What is flexible?

What is not flexible?

What the difference between
USACE and TVA?

What is success?

Why would anyone care?

3. ACT > LEARN > PLAN > ACT >
LEARN > PLAN > ACT



3. ACT>LEARN>PLAN>ACT> LEARN>PLAN>ACT

Set a meeting. Make a phone call.

Demand in-person engagement.

Heads up: you will never feel as prepared as you want to. That's ok.

3. ACT>LEARN>PLAN>ACT>
LEARN>PLAN>ACT

Set a meeting. Make a phone call.

Demand in-person engagement.

2017-2018

4. Bark up the **RIGHT** trees

4. Bark up the **RIGHT** trees

BOONE

Boone barks at everything.



4. Bark up the **RIGHT** trees

Federal

State

Local



4. Bark up the **RIGHT** trees

Federal

State

Local

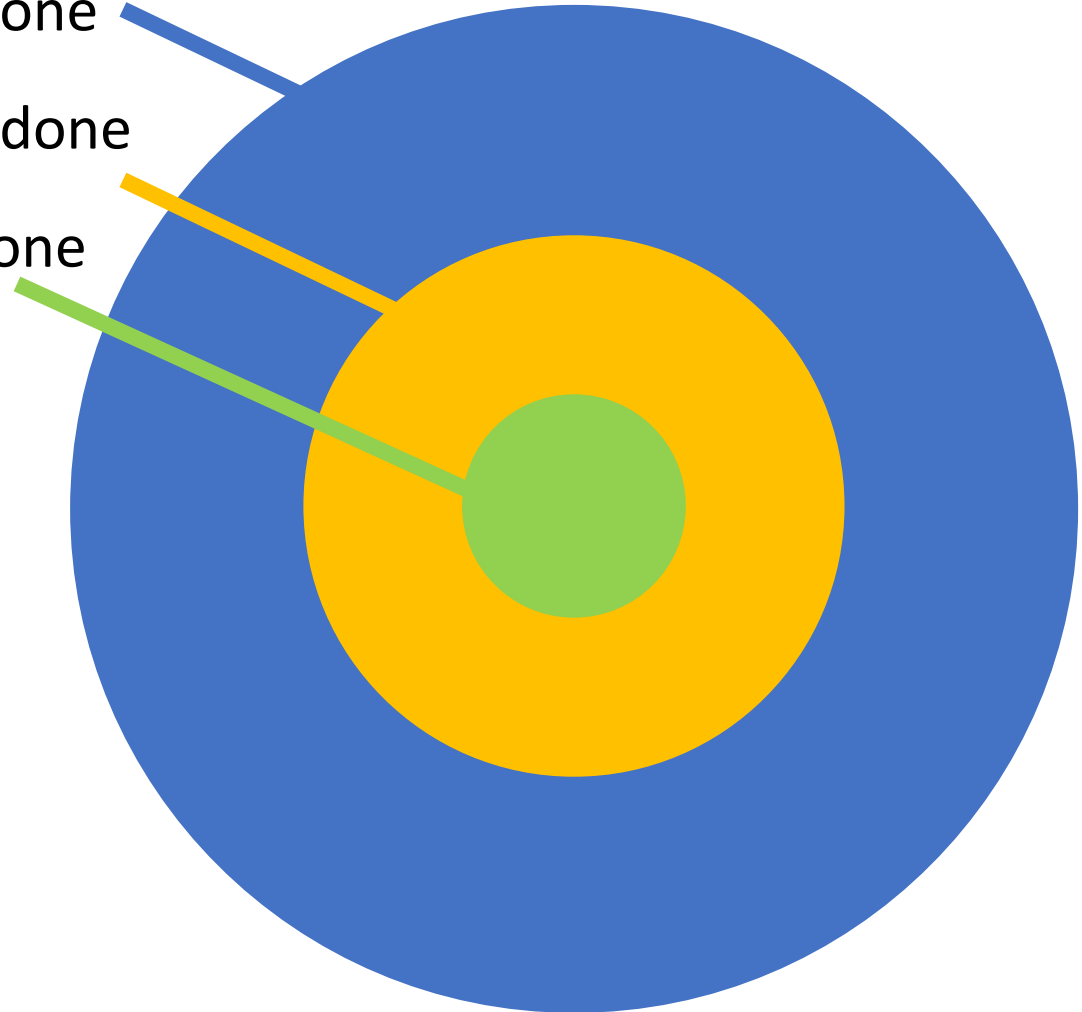


5. Define Levels of Success

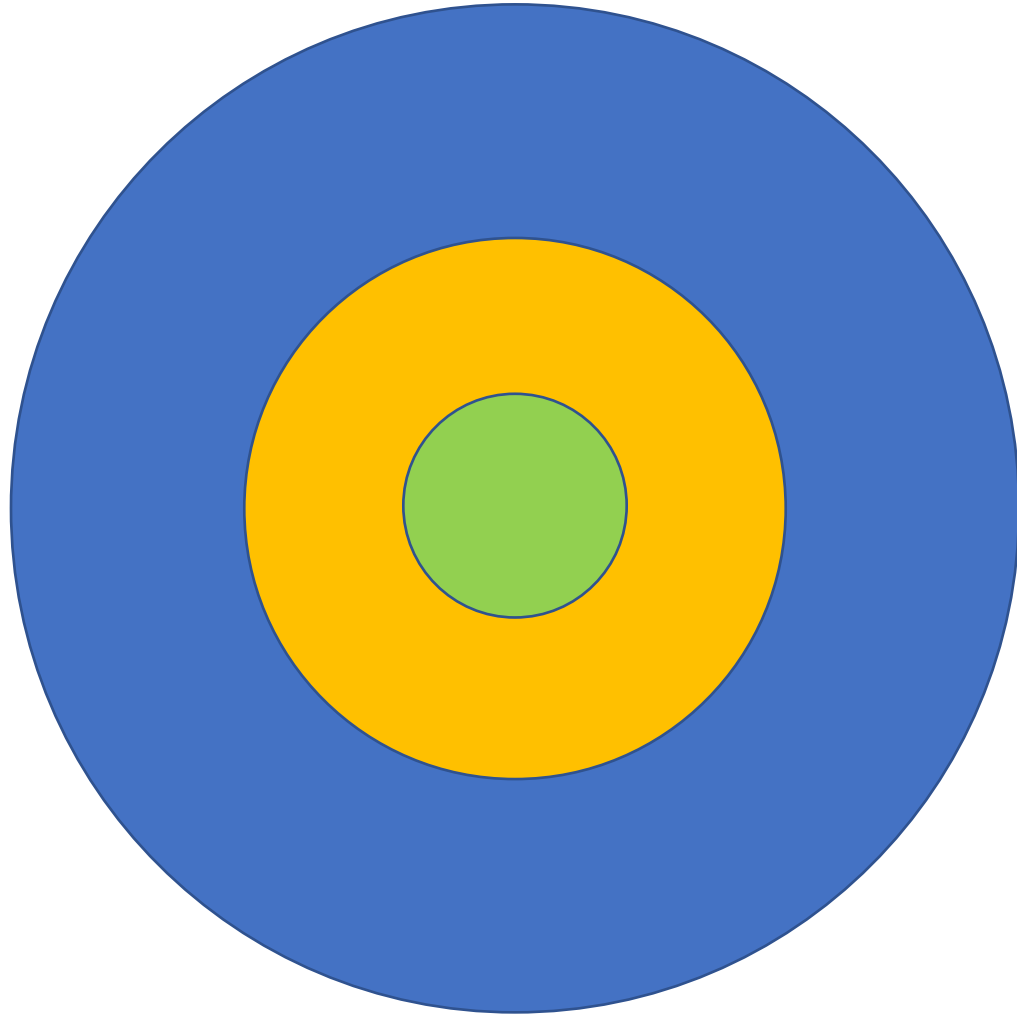
Everything that **could** be done

Everything that **should** be done

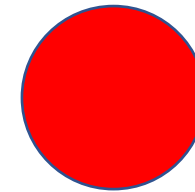
Everything that **must** be done



5. Define Levels of Success



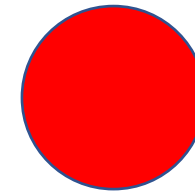
What you'll be told they can do.



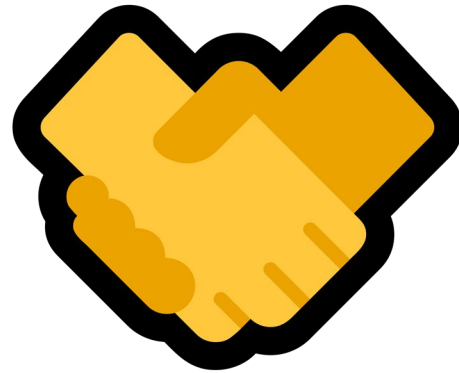
5. Define Levels of Success



What you'll be told they can do.



6. Make Friends



6. People Care About Different Things



Water Quality



Recreation



Fisheries

If your problem gets solved for another reason, a win is a win.

7. Reach Out to Build Scale

Guides Across Tennessee

Riverkeeper Organizations

Economic Impact Advocates

Collect **relevant and vocal** support from a wider area.

7. Mind Your Manners



A spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.

~ Benjamin Franklin

Questions?



Come see us at Fly South!