



MINUTES

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 14, 2013

REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING:

1. Call to Order.

The Board of Trustees of the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust convened with President Trent Lewis presiding at 8:40 AM on Thursday, February 14, 2013, in the Board Room of Upper Trinity Regional Water District at 900 N. Kealy, Lewisville, Texas.

2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum.

The attendance of the Trustees was taken. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Trustees in Attendance:

Trent Lewis, Place 7, President	Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Janet Aune, Place 2, Secretary/Treasurer	Shirley Haisler, Place 1
Doug Franklin, Place 4	Ken Dickson, Place 8

Trustees Absent:

Bruce Arledge, Place 3	Robert Harpool, Place 5
Don Hill, Place 9	

Visitor Attending:

Lyle Dresher

Staff & Advisors of Upper Trinity Regional Water District in Attendance:

Thomas E. Taylor, Executive Director
Jason Pierce, Manager / Watershed & Contract Services
Nancy Tam, Assistant to Executive Director
Brenda Scott, Sr. Executive Secretary

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

President Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Muir gave the Invocation.

4. Adopt minutes of October 11, 2012 Trust Board Meeting.

Shirley Haisler made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Dr. Janet Aune. The votes were all Yes. Motion carried.

5. Receive report from Staff concerning on-going activities of the Trust.

Staff provided the following report:

- Mission of Trustees. Trustees should not grow weary of working toward their important mission. The Trust is following in the foot steps of the Guadalupe Blanco River Trust - - it took approximately 10 years before they received their first easement. The Trust is making progress, gaining friends and partners along the way through the Work Program.
 - Lake Ralph Hall Project. The project is still in the news. After hearing both sides of testimony, the judges in Austin will summarize the evidence, the law, the facts, and then based on Upper Trinity burden of proof, will make a recommendation to the TCEQ Commissioners for their decision. The staff of TCEQ ruled in favor of Upper Trinity even testifying in the Upper Trinity's favor. We hope for a favorable result in the fall.
 - Annual IRS Form 990. The Trust is required by IRS rules to submit an annual 990 - - a statement of revenue and expenses. The Trust has filed for an exception due to its affiliation with the Upper Trinity Regional Water District, a governmental entity. The request is pending at this time, but if approved, the Trust will not be required to file the annual 990.
 - TLTC Conference. The annual conference of the Texas Land Trust Council will be held February 27 – March 1 in Austin. At this time one Trustee and one staff person will be attending representing the Trust. If any other Trustee would like to attend please contact staff.
 - Watershed Workshop. Upper Trinity hosted a Watershed Stewards Workshop on Tuesday, February 12. A diverse group of approximately 30 people attended.
6. Discuss potential nominees for appointment on Board of Trustees.
 - The initial terms for Place 2 (Dr. Aune), Place 4 (Trustee Franklin) and Place 9 (Trustee Hill) expired May 2012. UTRWD reappointed Trustees Aune and Franklin to serve a three-year term. Place 9 is a direct appointment of the UTCT Board. Trustee Hill has indicated that he is not available for reappointment, and at the last meeting, the Board discussed possible nominees for Place 9.

At the end of May 2013, the initial terms for Place 3 (Trustee Arledge), Place 6 (Vice President Muir) and Place 7 (President Lewis) will expire. Place 3 is an appointment of the UTRWD Board; and, Places 6 and 7 are appointed by the Trust.

Mr. Taylor introduced Lyle Dresher. Mr. Dresher served on the UTRWD Board of Directors for a number of years, and most recently served as Interim Town Manager for the Town of Prosper. Prior to working for Prosper, he retired as Town Manager for the Town of Argyle, also serving in Keller, and Gainesville. He is interested in what the Trust is doing; and, is interested in serving on the Trust Board when possible.

Dr. Dickson spoke with a potential nominee, but due to a busy schedule, he would like more time to consider serving on the Board.

- President Lewis and Vice President Muir indicated they are willing to serve another term on the Board, but are willing to step down from their offices in order to allow other Trustees to serve in their respective capacities.

At the next meeting, it's anticipated that the Trustees will be making an appointment to fill Place 9 on the Board of Trustees.

7. Consider approval of invoice from Upper Trinity Regional Water District for reimbursement of prior costs incurred by Trust, and authorize payment thereof.

Copies of Invoice No's. W1209UTCT and W1302UTCT were included in packet for review. Staff recommends approval.

Doug Franklin made a motion to approve the invoices for payment. Seconded by Vice President Muir. The votes were unanimous. Motion carried.

8. Receive report on the Watershed Partners Program, and the annual breakfast held on November 14, 2012.

Currently the Trust has 20 Partners - - eleven Founding, two Sustaining, four Contributing and three Supporting. This is an increase of five new Partners since the last meeting. Enrollment for new Partners is still open. Each trustee was asked to continue to reach out to individuals or corporations who share our interest about participating in the Program.

The annual Watershed Partners breakfast was held on November 14. All of the Founding Partners were present, as well as several other Partners. All Partners were recognized during the breakfast meeting. Attendance at the breakfast was good, and Vice President Muir did an outstanding job emceeding the event.

Discussion was held regarding the Partners Program and how the Partners could be encouraged to assist the Trust. Suggestions included:

- Help identify candidates, organizations, developers, and citizens that own land who may have an interest in land conservation.
 - Use funds received from Partners for the acquisition of easements - - instead of operating expenses. Partners could see a tangible result of their donation.
 - Host social events to introduce local residents and organization to the Trust and its mission.
 - Provide assistance in planning and organizing the annual educational event.
 - Assist in fundraising.
9. Discuss progress concerning activities and goals in the Trust's 2012 Annual Work Program.

Goals / Activities accomplished for 2012:

- Conservation Development Symposium – May 2012
- Second Annual Watershed Partners Breakfast – November 2012
- IRS acceptance of the 501(C)(3) application
- UTCT Website activated
- Developed standardized conservation easement forms

10. Discuss and consider approval of proposed Work Program Guidelines for 2013, with any desired changes.

Staff reported on items added to the Work Program Guidelines for 2013. They include:

- Holding a land owner workshop to focus specifically on conservation easements and associated tax benefits.
- Creating a presentation board about the Trust.
- Prioritizing stream segments based on the need of protection and preservation. This information will help identify potential land owners who may be interested in land conservation and easements.

The Board discussed including two additional items to the 2013 Work Program Guidelines - - continue the annual educational workshop / seminar and host a social / fundraising event. The Board recommended discussing with the Founding partners, what kind of role, if any, should the Partners have in the educational workshop.

Janet Aune made a motion to adopt the Work Program Guidelines as presented with the addition of a workshop / seminar and a social / fundraising event. Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were unanimous. Motion passed.

Dr. Dickson left the meeting.

11. Review agenda items, activities and announcements for future Board Meeting.

- Submit nominations for Place 9 and take action
- Consideration of reappointments expiring in May
- Prepare for election of Officers
- Ask Kirk Evans, President of Connemara Conservancy, to attend the next Trust meeting.

12. Confirm date, time and location of next meeting.

The Board will invite Kirk Evans of the Connemara Conservancy to attend the next meeting of the Trust. The date of the next Meeting will be contingent upon Mr. Evan's availability. Staff will notify Trustees of the date.

13. Visitor Comments.

None.

14. Adjournment.

Doug Franklin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 AM. Seconded by Thomas Muir. The votes were all ayes. Motion carried.

Recorded By:



Brenda Scott, Assistant Secretary
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust

Certified By:



Dr. Janet Aune, Secretary / Treasurer
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust