



MINUTES

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JUNE 14, 2012

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 8:30 AM on Thursday, June 14, 2012, 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
Janet Aune, Place 2, Secretary/Treasurer
Doug Franklin, Place 4
Ken Dickson, Place 8

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Shirley Haisler, Place 1
Robert Harpool, Place 5

Trustees Absent:

Bruce Arledge, Place 3

Don Hill, Place 9

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.

Trent Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thomas Muir provided the Invocation.

4. Consider appointment of Trustee for Place 9 on the Board of Trustees for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2012.

President Lewis informed the Board that Don Hill (Trustee for Place 9) has declined reappointment to a new term.

The Board discussed several possible candidates to serve. President Lewis asked the Trustees to submit any other nominations. Staff will interview the candidates and provide a report at the next Board meeting.

5. Oath of Office for newly reappointed Trustees (Places 2 and 4).

President Lewis administered the Oath of Office to the following Trustees for their first full 3-year term. Places 2 and 4 were appointed by the Upper Trinity Regional Water District Board of Directors.

Place 2: Dr. Janet Aune
Place 4: Doug Franklin

6. Conduct election of Officers for the year ending May 31, 2013.

Janet Aune made a motion to re-elect the current President and Vice President.
(Trent Lewis, President and Thomas Muir, Vice President)

Shirley Haisler suggested that the motion be amended to include the Secretary/Treasurer (Dr. Janet Aune) for re-election of another one-year term.

Shirley Haisler made a motion to re-elect the present Officers for another one-year term beginning June 1, 2012. Seconded by Dr. Ken Dickson.

The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

Officers for June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2013 term are:

President: Trent Lewis
Vice President: Thomas Muir
Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Janet Aune

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

Jason Pierce reported on the following:

- Texas Land Trust Council Summer Webinar Series
The webinars are free and Trustees were asked to contact Staff if interested in participating. A list of the topics was distributed to the Trustees.
- Partners' Program Update

The Partners' Program has been successful in recruiting the following Partners:

- Founding:** Alan Plummer Associates Inc.
CH2M Hill
City of Sanger
- Sustaining:** Carollo Engineers
Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Freese & Nichols
- Contributing:** Jean Campbell
Oscar Burchard
Lewisville ISD
- Supporting:** Town of Northlake

Discussion was held regarding when contributions should be made each year, when notices should be sent out, and that the timing be considerate of budget planning for municipalities. Mr. Taylor suggested that it be done each year after the election of Officers in June. Staff will make a recommendation at the next meeting regarding the appropriate manner.

- Attendance Policy

At the last meeting of the Board the Trustees adopted an Attendance Policy, which included the ability of a Trustee to participate in Board meetings via telephone or internet conferencing. According to its By-Laws, the Trust follows the State's Open Meeting rules. UTRWD's General Counsel stated that participation in a telephone or internet conferencing does not qualify towards establishing a quorum under the Texas Open Meetings Law. After a brief discussion, the Trustees directed Staff to revise the policy to allow Trustees to participate in meetings via telephone or internet connection and be counted in attendance under said policy. However, those Trustees participating via telephone or internet connection may not vote on any agenda items, nor be counted towards a quorum. Staff will present a revised policy at the next meeting for consideration.

- Update on Bruce Arledge

Mr. Arledge has been absent due to medical issues. He recently indicated that he would try to resume participation in the Board meetings in a couple of months.

8. Adopt minutes of March 8, 2012 Trust Board Meeting.

Shirley Hailser made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Doug Franklin. The votes were 6 Yes, 1 Abstain (Aune absent from last meeting). Motion carried.

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

Thomas Muir made a motion to approve payment of the invoice as presented. Seconded by Trent Lewis. The votes were all ayes. Motion carried.

10. Review status of Trust's application with IRS for tax-exempt status.

Staff submitted Trust's response to the IRS' second request for information regarding its pending application for Tax Exempt Status on March 28. Recently, Staff was informed that the Trust's application was received and will be approved at the current level of review, then be sent to a separate office for a secondary review and approval. It is not known how long the secondary review and approval process will take, but anticipate another two months. Staff will update the Board as new information becomes available.

11. Discuss the 2012 Conservation Development Symposium held on May 10, 2012.

- Mr. Taylor commended the Board for having a successful event. It was enjoyed by many, and the attendees seemed to have a lot of passion and enthusiasm.
- Approximately 80 people attended the Symposium - - a very diverse group of people including a developer, a land owner, EPA, municipalities, consulting engineers, planners - - the targeted audience was present.
- Regarding finances, the goal was to raise at least \$5,500 in sponsorships - - essentially to cover the cost of the speaker. Sponsorships totaled \$7,400; and, registration was slightly over \$4,100. Total revenue was approximately \$11,500. Expenses were approximately \$9,500, and so the profit from the Symposium was approximately \$2,000.
- A suggestion was made regarding taking a portion of the money and giving the sponsors a token of appreciation. After a lengthy discussion regarding various types of tokens of appreciation, it was decided that a Thank You letter along with recognition throughout the year was sufficient.
- For next year, it was suggested that a committee be formed to develop the program for the Symposium. The committee would be composed of a variety of people helping to identify topics and speakers. Planning should start early.
- The Board agreed to provide Jason Pierce with a \$100 gift card as a token of its appreciation for his hard work in organizing and hosting the Symposium.

12. Discuss progress concerning activities and goals in the Trust's Annual Work Program Guidelines.

- Staff provided an update on the UTCT website; it is moving forward and should be operational next month.
- Staff would like to start planning now for 2013 - - regarding workshops, symposiums and the Watershed Partners Program. The Board suggested working with the NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation District to identify topics of interest to local landowners, ranchers and farmers.
- Board discussed the possibility of having a future meeting in Ladonia.

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

The next regular meeting of the Trust Board will be held on Thursday, August 9.

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

- The Annual Members Breakfast is Wednesday, July 18, 8:30 A.M. Trustees are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Brenda Scott by Monday, July 9.

15. Visitor Comments.

None.

16. Adjournment.

Bob Harpool made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 A.M. Seconded by Doug Franklin. The votes were all ayes. Motion carried.

Recorded By:



Brenda Scott, Assj. Secretary
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust

Certified By:



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