



MINUTES

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOVEMBER 10, 2011

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 A.M. on Thursday, November 10, 2011, 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

Robert Harpool, Place 5

Don Hill, Place 9

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President

Shirley Haisler, Place 1

Ken Dickson, Place 8

Trustees Absent:

Bruce Arledge, Place 3

Doug Franklin, Place 4

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

Thomas E. Taylor, Executive Director

Jason Pierce, Manager / Watershed Protection & 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.

Dr. Ken Dickson provided the Invocation.

4. Receive Report from Staff concerning on-going activities of the Trust.

- A recent news article from Texas Farm Bureau regarding conservation easements was distributed.

- Mr. Taylor and Jason Pierce met with landowners of the Lantana Development about pursuing a conservation easement over an existing riparian corridor within the development. The landowners are interested and would like to continue discussions, and to conduct further evaluation of possible effect on their business plan.
- Mr. Taylor observed that the Upper Trinity Regional Water District Headquarters are sitting in the middle of 100-acre site that in effect is a conservation easement; the site will be protected in perpetuity. Last week the Upper Trinity Water District purchased an additional 8 acres from the T. Stockard family.
- The Landowner Workshop in Bonham hosted by Connemara Conservancy on October 21, 2011, was attended by two Trustees and a staff member. Several landowners from Fannin County also attended the workshop. The workshop format was similar to what was presented during Connemara's Denton workshop earlier this year.
- The IRS Specialist assigned to the Trust's application requested additional information regarding the Trust's conservation program. Staff will be working to respond to the questions in a timely manner.
- Proposition 2, a proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution giving additional bonding capability to the Texas Water Development Bond for water and wastewater projects, was approved on November 8, 2011. Unfortunately, Proposition 8, another proposed Constitutional amendment, dealing with water stewardships and agriculture exemptions did not pass.

5. Adopt minutes of September 8, 2011 Trust Board Meeting.

Dr. Janet Aune made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Thomas Muir. The votes were unanimous. Motion carried.

6. Financial Matters:

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

Upper Trinity Regional Water District agreed to provide certain funding to the Trust, \$33,000 for FY 2011. During FY 2011, UTRWD paid all of the Trust's expenses from its own funds. These expenses include UTRWD staff time, conference expenses and other operating expenses. Recently a checking account was established and the \$33,000 from UTRWD was deposited, and it's appropriate to reimburse UTRWD for the Trust's expenses. A summary of the Trust's expenses was distributed for review.

President Trent Lewis made a motion to approve payment of UTRWD invoice for \$30,600.87. Seconded by Dr. Janet Aune. The votes were unanimous. Motion carried.

B. Status Report of Contributions Received.

- A total of \$2000 in contributions has been received from Trustees, and another \$500 has been pledged. A total of \$5000 was budgeted, of which \$3000 was estimated to be received from the Trust Board. Mr. Taylor indicated that the UTRWD Board will be asked to make contributions, as well as the Watershed Protection Committee.

- Mr. Taylor stated that in dealing with the Community Garden, it was found that some major business have budgeted monies to support local activities of this type. President Lewis indicated that if businesses/contributors were recognized for their donations, possibly on the Trust's website, that the Trust may receive additional contributions.
- Mr. Taylor indicated that the Partners Program has not been fully developed, but they could become part of that Partners Program and get continuing recognition. President Lewis asked that the Partners Program be placed on the next agenda for discussion regarding donor's benefits, etc.

7. Discuss plans for Watershed Partners' Networking Breakfast meeting on November 16.

The Watershed Partner's Networking Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, November 16 from 8:30 to 9:30 A.M., in the Board Room of the Upper Trinity. President Lewis will emcee the program. Guest speakers include President Lewis, Mr. Taylor will discuss the overall watershed program of the District and the Partner's Program, Thomas Muir will introduce the Trust and discuss conservation easements, Dr. Dickson will discuss conservation easements from a landowner's perspective, and Huitt-Zollars, Inc., a design-engineering firm, will speak about Lantana's easements from a developer's perspective.

8. Review draft of the Trust's brochure and website being designed by Cooksey Communication and take action as appropriate.

- A draft of the brochure was distributed for review. It was suggested to make a minor change to one of the pictures. The brochure will then be updated and prepared for distribution at the Partner's Breakfast.
- Based on branding efforts for the brochure, Cooksey prepared three design concepts for the Trust website. Two have the same design - - except different color schemes. As part of the work effort for the Trust website, the Water District's website will be re-designed to have similar design concepts as the Trust. The design was reviewed and the Trustees agreed with Staff's recommendation.

9. Discuss progress concerning activities and goals in the Trust's Annual Work Program Guidelines and begin planning for 2012.

Mr. Taylor feels that some of the guidelines should be carried over into 2012, not all issues of 2011 have been addressed. Several new activities and goals for 2012 were discussed:

- More information and additional training on how to approach potential donors and what to say when discussing this Trust's conservation programs.
- Mr. Harpool suggested having a professional who has experience in land trusts attend the Trust meetings several times a year to speak on different issues.
- Mr. Muir suggested having more committee meetings to get everyone more involved.
- Mr. Dickson stated it would greatly benefit the Trust to have someone working full-time for the Trust.

10. Receive report from Committees and take appropriate action.
A. Development Committee

B. Acquisition Committee

C. Promotions / Events Committee

The committees have not met since the last Trust meeting. A copy of the program for Watershed Partners Breakfast was distributed and reviewed.

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

The next Trust Board meeting will be Thursday, January 12, 2012. This will enable Trustees to attend the Texas Land Trust Conference in February 2012. The March meeting will include a follow-up of the TLTC Conference.

President Lewis encouraged as many Trustees that could to attend the conference - - stating that they would learn a lot in a short amount of time. He feels this conference would be the most beneficial to attend.

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

- Discussion of Watershed Protection Partner's Program.
- Check into possibility of Robert Potts of Dickson Water Foundation or David Brawn coming to speak to the Trust.

13. Visitor Comments.

None.

14. Adjournment.


Janet Aune made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Thomas Muir. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Recorded By:



Brenda Scott, Asst. Secretary
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust

Certified By:



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