



MINUTES

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OCTOBER 13, 2016

REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING:

1. Call to Order.

The Board of Trustees of the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust convened with Vice President Thomas Muir presiding at 8:40 AM on Thursday, October 13, 2016, 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:

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Leslie Maynard, Place 3
Ken Dickson, Place 8

Janet Aune, Place 2, Secretary/Treasurer
Doug Franklin, Place 4

Trustees Absent:

Trent Lewis, Place 7, President *
Robert Harpool, Place 5 *

Shirley Haisler, Place 1*
Lyle Dresher, Place 9 *

Others in Attendance:

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

Thomas E. Taylor, Executive Director
Jason Pierce, Manager / Watershed & Contract Services
Blake Alldredge, Water Resource Specialist
Brenda Scott, Assistant Secretary

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Pledge: Vice President Muir / Jason Pierce

Invocation: Leslie Maynard

4. Adopt minutes of July 14, 2016 Trust Board Meeting.

Dr. Janet Aune made a motion to approve the July 14, 2016 minutes as written. Seconded by Doug Franklin. The votes were all Yes. Motion carried.

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

Activity Report given by Jason Pierce:

- The FY 2017 Trust Budget submitted to Upper Trinity Board of Directors was approved and is effective October 1, 2016.
- The Texas Land Conservation Conference will be held March 1-3, 2017 in Austin, Texas. Anyone interested in attending, submit your RSVP to Jason or Blake as soon as possible. Expenses will be paid by the Trust.
- There are several articles and items in the Board Packet regarding Trust activities.

Staff provided a briefing:

- The Texas Agricultural Land Trust recently made available on their website a 6-part article series regarding conservation easements. The series was originally published in the *Texas Wildlife* magazine, and discusses different topics for a landowner to consider when thinking about placing a conservation easement on their property. Trustee Maynard suggested digital copies of these articles will be made available to area City Managers for their information.
- The *Lewisville Texan* recently wrote an article about the draft Denton County Greenbelt Master Plan. The article from the local newspaper describes the different aspects of the draft Plan, including the benefits of greenbelts and the implementation strategies. The article was informative and encouraged its readers to review and comment on the draft Plan.
- Staff recently met with City of Denton's Watershed Protection staff. Denton's staff indicated that the Hickory Creek Watershed Protection Plan was accepted by the EPA; and, that they would like to further collaborate with the Trust and UTRWD in various activities to promote watershed protection and greenbelt preservation. The City of Denton has also inquired about joining the Partners Program as a Sustaining Partner.

6. Comprehensive Greenbelt Master Plan for Denton County.

On September 20, Staff and consultants briefed the Denton County Commissioners on the Denton County Greenbelt Master Plan. UTRWD President Lance Vanzant, Trust Board President Trent Lewis and Trustee Lyle Drescher also attended the briefing.

Mr. Taylor mentioned that the Commissioners made Staff feel very welcome and encouraged. This program may be voluntary, but no less important than if it were mandatory. Staff indicated the Plan would be ready for adoption soon, and to begin implementation. The District is talking with Judge Horn regarding the possibility of having the County make the announcement and distribute the reports rather than having the information come from Upper Trinity. Mr. Taylor indicated there may be more credibility if the information/reports comes from the County.

Jason Pierce reported there were letters mailed out asking for comments to all the Districts Members and Customers, as well as interested Stakeholders. Some comments were received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There doesn't seem to be a concern for the Plan; except for the way the Plan describes the protected lands or areas around the lakes. The Corps doesn't want to imply that protected land is for public parks.

Staff will brief the Board regarding comments received on the draft Plan, discuss any final modifications that may be needed, and will outline the next steps.

7. Discuss progress concerning activities and goals in Trust's Annual Work Program Guidelines. On August 25th, the Trust partnered with the Cooke County AgriLife Office to host the Lone Star Healthy Streams Program - - an AgriLife Extension watershed education program that connects water quality laws and management in Texas to cattle, horse and feral hog management, and how landowners can steward their land in a way that will benefit water quality. 26 landowners attended the program. Staff also presented about the benefits of conservation easements.

This is the first time UTCT has partnered with Cooke County - - we look forward to future opportunities to partner with them.

- A. Partners Breakfast scheduled for November 9, 2016 in the UTRWD Board Room.

Breakfast will begin at 8:30 A.M. There will be a short program that will end by 10:30. Invitations were sent out to Upper Trinity's Members and Customers, as well as Partners and other interested parties. The main topic and focus for the program will be the Greenbelt Master Plan. Speakers will include County Judge Mary Horn, Jason Voight with Alan Plummer & Associates, and a representative from the Town of Flower Mound. Vice President Thomas Muir will be the Master of Ceremonies for the meeting.

8. Review agenda items, activities and announcements for future Board meetings.

- Greenbelt Plan adoption – December or January.

- Review Work Program items for 2017.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, January 12, 2017.

10. Visitor Comments.

None.

11. Adjournment.

Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dr. Janet Aune. The votes were all yes. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Recorded By:



Brenda Scott, Executive Secretary
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust

Certified By:



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