



MINUTES

February 13, 2020

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 8:35 AM on Thursday February 13, 2020 in the Training Room at 802 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
Leslie Maynard, Place 3, Secretary
Lissa Shepard, Place 2
Thomas E. Taylor, Place 8

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Shirley Haisler, Place 1
Bob Harpool, Place 5
Lyle Dresher, Place 9

Trustees Absent:

None.

Staff in Attendance:

Larry N. Patterson
Blake Alldredge

Jason Pierce
Rae Langston

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Pledge: All

Invocation: Trent Lewis

4. Adopt minutes of September 12, 2019 Trust Board Meeting.

Thomas Muir made a motion to approve Minutes of September 12, 2019 as presented. Seconded by Robert Harpool. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Patterson informed the Board that UTRWD has received the last permit needed to start construction of the Lake Ralph Hall dam, USACE's Section 404 (Clean Water Act) Permit. The permit took about 17 years to receive. He also showed the Mitigation Zone Map for the new lake.

UTRWD is required to report/monitor the Mitigation Zones for 7 years after completion. It was proposed that the UTCT be the conservator of the required conservation easements; however, USACE didn't accept UTRWD's plan because of various reasons. Mr. Patterson added that it was more procedural concerns from USACE and there will be opportunities in the future for the Trust to participate in the Lake Ralph Hall project.

UTRWD anticipates starting construction on the new lake later this year, with the completion by 2025.

6. Financial Matters.

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

Expenditures for 4th Quarter of FY2019 (July 2019 to September 2019) are \$3,751.07, Invoice W1911UTCT. Expenditures for 1st Quarter of FY2020 (October 2019 to December 2019) are \$2,735.43, Invoice W2001UTCT. **Thomas Muir made a motion to approve and pay Invoice W1911UTCT for \$3,751.07 and Invoice W2001UTCT for \$2,735.43. Seconded by Leslie Maynard.** The votes were all Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

7. Update regarding Denton County Greenbelt Plan.

Last week, staff made a presentation at Focus North Texas regarding the Denton County Greenbelt Plan. Included on the panel discussion was Rockwall County's Open Space Plan and City of Fort Worth's greenprinting project.

The City of Denton adopted the Plan in October 2019. Denton and the EPA are working on a project together regarding hazard mitigation, mainly focused on flooding. Dr. Fouad Jaber at the AgriLife Dallas Center will be analyzing the floodplains in the County and will identify areas where green stormwater infrastructure can potentially mitigate flood risks. The Greenbelt Plan was the catalyst for this project and the findings and tools that are produced in this project will greatly benefit Denton County communities.

Lastly, the City of Lewisville is planning on planting native grasses, trees and shrubs along Prairie Creek directly behind our building.

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

A. March 5 landowner workshop in Denton.

The Trust is hosting the "Managing Water in Your Pasture" Landowner Workshop on March 5th in Denton, in partnership with the Denton County AgriLife Office and the Noble Research Institute. Presentations will focus on managing livestock during drought and best practices for managing riparian areas, and conservation easements. If Trustees are interested in attending, please let Blake know.

B. April 7 presentation to the Flower Mound Environmental Conservation Commission.

Staff will be making a presentation to the Town of Flower Mound's Environmental Conservation Committee on April 7th about the Trust & its programs.

C. Potential project with City of Corinth regarding parkland / conservation easement.

Corinth is still working with the landowner to move forward dedicating a tract of land to the Trust for temporary conservatorship. The landowner will need to get the necessary appraisals.

D. Potential funding opportunities for conservation easements.

Staff is working to develop a program to fund the purchase of conservation easements, identify sources of funding and identify certain project areas for conservation easements. Recently, a proposal was submitted to Bonneville Environmental Foundation, which is a non-profit foundation that receives money from corporations looking to invest in local, environmental projects.

Staff discussed the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. An overview of the supplied handout was discussed. This program provides funding for conservation easement transactions between a landowner and a third-party land trust. Staff will continue to evaluate how the Trust can participate in this program. Recently, staff spoke to the Statewide Representative who advised that the 2020 funding has been released, with the deadline for submitting applications for that being in mid-April. Staff will review the open opportunities and reach out to NRCS Offices in neighboring counties to start a conversation to pursue acquiring conservation easement(s).

9. Discuss and consider approval of proposed Work Program Guidelines, with any desired changes.

The following activities were added to the Work Program Guidelines:

- Watershed Partners Breakfast Meeting in November.
- Update the UTCT Website.
- Establish guidelines for acquiring easements.

Lyle Drescher made a motion to approve the proposed Work Program Guidelines for 2020. Seconded by Mr. Thomas Taylor. The votes were all Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

10. Review agenda items, activities and announcements for future Board meetings.
- Initiate necessary steps to separate UTCT from UTRWD
 - Filling vacancy of Place 4 on the Board

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

Proposed April 9, 2020 for the next meeting of the Trust Board.

12. Visitor Comments.

None.

13. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Trent Lewis motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 AM, Seconded by Bob Harpool. The votes were all Yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

Recorded By: Brenda Scott, Executive Secretary for
Rae Langston, Assistant Secretary

Certified By: Leslie Jane Maynard
Leslie Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust