



MINUTES

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING (BY TELECONFERENCE)

1. Call to Order.

The Board of Trustees of the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust convened with President Trent Lewis presiding at 8:34 AM on Thursday August 13, 2020.

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
Shirley Haisler, Place 1
Leslie Maynard, Place 3
Thomas E. Taylor, Place 8

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Lissa Shepard, Place 2
Bob Harpool, Place 5

Trustees Absent:

Lyle Dresher, Place 9

Staff & Advisors of Upper Trinity Regional Water District 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 February 13, 2020 Trust Board Meeting.

Leslie Maynard made a motion to approve Minutes of February 13, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Patterson briefs the Board on Lake Ralph Hall:

- Approval has been granted for construction and advertising of the Leon Hurse Dam.
- The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has approved financing of the construction of Lake Ralph Hall, in the amount of \$413,000,000.
- UTRWD continues to acquire land.
- The Roadway Relocations Project has been awarded to Flatiron Constructors, Inc.
- Cultural Resources is awaiting clearance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but is ongoing.
- Plan to hire 2 new Staff members for the Project - - one for construction and one for accounting.

Mr. Pierce drew attention to the Water Quality Corridor Management Model (WQCM) article located in the Memorandum. Dr. Samuel Atkinson, of the University of North Texas, recently released an updated version of the Water Quality Corridor Management Model (WQCM) to prioritize riparian corridors for restoration in the Lewisville Lake watershed. The original WQCM model was sponsored by UTRWD's Watershed Protection program that focused on identifying riparian corridors for preservation. This new version, known as WQCM-R, complements the earlier version. Much of the data in the original WQCM model was used during the development of the Denton County Greenbelt Plan. A meeting with Dr. Atkinson will be planned in the future.

Staff has been in communication with the City of Aubrey, who was the first entity to adopt the Plan, to encourage preservation of a riparian corridor near Lewisville Lake. We have also encouraged the Town of Providence Village to adopt the Greenbelt Plan as they develop their Town's Master Plan. In addition, we have been discussing the potential for acquiring a conservation easement from the City of Denton in the future Hunter Ranch and Cole Ranch developments.

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.

Thomas Muir made a motion to approve the two UTRWD invoices, W2004UTCT & W2007UTCT, for reimbursement of prior costs. Seconded by Leslie Maynard. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried

B. Review year-to-date Trust expenses; discuss proposed FY 2021 budget and take appropriate action.

The only new action in the proposed FY 2021 budget is funding for a proposed **Denton County Watershed Improvement Grant Program** (\$10,000). The Grant would help support implementation and education of the Greenbelt Plan. Blake Alldredge provided an overview of the draft Grant and explained that Trustees would review and approve submitted applications. The Grant program would be used as a catalyst for future projects, including conservation easements.

Tom Taylor made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2021 budget, encumbering \$10,000 for the Grant Program that is being drafted. Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

7. Update regarding Denton County Greenbelt Plan.

A. Consider grant program for projects implemented by entities that have adopted the Greenbelt Plan, review draft application and take appropriate action.

Staff presented a draft grant application and discussed the purpose and need of a program to help implement the Denton County Greenbelt Plan. Based on the discussion, Staff will refine the draft and do more research to ensure the plan aligns with Trust guidelines and we will have more discussion in the future. Items to be updated are:

- Provide a quick summary on the first page so the qualifications are clear at the start.
- Better define what entities or individuals the grant could support.

Additional considerations that were discussed for the Grant program are:

- Identify future potential funding sources for the grant program.
- The grant program will be used as a conversation starter for acquiring conservation easements.
- Advertising to NRCS and AgriLife Extension contacts.

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

A. Consider approval of updated Land Conservation Policy and Project Selection Criteria and Checklist for Land Acquisition and Conservation Easements.

Staff has updated the Land Conservation Policy and Project Selection Criteria ("Policy") and Checklist for Land Acquisition and Conservation Easements ("Checklist"), including removing reference to UTRWD. The updated Policy and Checklist follow the guidelines and standards of the Land Trust Alliance and provide more clarity and guidance when reviewing and approving land and easement transactions.

Tom Taylor made a motion to approve the updated Land Conservation Policy and Project Selection Criteria and Checklist for Land Acquisition and Conservation Easements as presented by Staff. Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were all Yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

B. Review membership application to the Land Trust Alliance and take appropriate action.

Staff discussed moving forward with applying for membership in the Land Trust Alliance. The membership fee is \$425 annually and is included in the Trust's budget.

Tom Taylor made a motion to approve the membership to the Land Trust Alliance. Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were all Yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

C. September 1 presentation to the Flower Mound Environmental Conservation Commission.

Unless the meeting is postponed, Blake Alldredge and Vice President Muir will present to the Flower Mound Environmental Conservation Commission and discuss how the Trust can accept and hold conservation easements and be a valuable partner to the Town, especially in the Cross Timbers conservation area in the western part of the Town.

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

No update to discuss at this time.

E. Watershed Partners Breakfast Planning.

The Watershed Partners Breakfast is an event held every 2 years in November. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, a "virtual breakfast" and/or online meeting may be a consideration for the event. We would like to launch the Grant Program at the event. Staff recommends postponing the Breakfast until January, and will propose a date and general format or agenda for the event before the next Trust Meeting.

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

- Plan online Watershed Partners Breakfast
- Update the Grant Program application.

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

Proposed September 10, 2020, for the next meeting as a teleconference call.


12. Visitor Comments.

None.

13. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Thomas Muir motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:06AM, Seconded by Bob Harpool. The votes were all Yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

Recorded By: 
Rae Langston, Assistant Secretary

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