



UPPER TRINITY
CONSERVATION TRUST

Minutes

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023

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 8:40 AM on Thursday, August 10, 2023.

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
Lissa Shepard, Place 2
Russell McNamer, Place 4
Lyle Dresher, Place 9

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Leslie Maynard, Place 3,
Robert Harpool, Place 5

Trustee Absent:

Trustee Vacancy:

Vacant, Place 1
Vacant, Place 8

Staff in Attendance:

Larry N. Patterson, UTRWD
Blake Alldredge

Jason Pierce

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Pledge: All

Invocation: Larry N. Patterson

4. Conduct Oath of Office for Appointed Trustee for Place 5.

Trent Lewis administered the Oath of Office for the following:

Robert Harpool, Place 5

5. Election of Officers.

The term of the existing officers expired on May 31, 2023. Nomination for President, Vice President and Secretary / Treasurer were open during the meeting. The new term of officers will be through May 31, 2025.

Lyle Drescher made a motion to maintain the current slate of Officers for the new term. Seconded by Robert Harpool. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

6. Adopt minutes of December 8, 2022, Trust Board Meeting.

Leslie Maynard made a motion to approve Minutes of December 8, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Russell McNamer. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried

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

- Concerning the 42-acre tract of land owned by the City of Duncanville, known as the Ladd Property, Staff reports that the City has designated the property as a permanent nature preserve. The City will create a committee to pursue placing a conservation easement on the property. No action needed at this time.
- Concerning the 118-acre tract of land located near Springhill Rd and FM 2931 near the City of Aubrey in the Lewisville Lake watershed, Staff reports that there has been some progress. The Landowner informed the Trust that a survey had been completed and will have a lawyer review the draft easement document soon. An appraisal remains to be completed.
- Mr. Russ McNamer recently presented the City of Lewisville with a \$5,000.00 check for the Elm Fork Kayak Launch revegetation project as part of the Denton County Greenbelt Plan Grant Program.
- Staff met with a Councilwoman from the Town of Trophy Club to discuss a conservation easement that the Town has around a pond, the land of which is owned by a homeowner's association. The homeowner's association is asking the Town to pay for mowing and other maintenance needs. The Councilwoman asked Staff to make a presentation to educate the Town Council on conservation easements so they have a better understanding of their role as the easement holder. When the date for the presentation is set, Staff will inform the Trustees so they can attend if interested.
- Concerning the Cole Ranch stream mitigation bank, the project is currently on hold as the proposed bank sponsor, Wetlands Mitigation, L.P., waits to understand the implications of the current Waters of the United States ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on future mitigation requirements.

- Concerning Lake Ralph Hall, construction of the State Highway 34 bridge is complete and opened to traffic on July 13, 2023. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the bridge opening was held on June 13, 2023. Construction of the Leon Hurse Dam embankment and spillway progresses. Construction has started on the pump station and the 32-mile pipeline. The mitigation contract has been awarded and construction is expected to start next year. The Zoning Plan has been approved and a Shoreline Management Plan is now under development with water quality protection as the focus.
- Ms. Shirley Haisler, Place 1, has decided not to be reappointed to the Board of Trustees. There are now two vacancies on the Trust Board, Places 1 and 8. Place 1 is a UTRWD Board appointment and Place 8 is a UTCT Board appointment. Staff asked the Board to provide recommendations for individuals who could fill those places.

8. 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.

Leslie Maynard made a motion to approve two invoices (W2304UTCT for \$8,751.33, and W2307UTCT for \$185.00) from Upper Trinity Regional Water District for reimbursement of prior costs incurred by Trust and authorize payment thereof. Seconded by Lyle Dresher. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

- B. Receive up to date financial report for FY 2023 and consider approval of proposed FY 2024 budget.

Thomas Muir made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2024 budget as presented. Seconded by Lyle Dresher. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

9. Discuss potential conservation easement for 133-acre property owned by Russell McNamer in Red River County and take appropriate action.

Mr. McNamer expressed that he wishes to preserve the property, which is northeast of Clarksville, by conservation easement and desires to do so with the Trust. Their main goal for the land is to manage wildlife habitat and would use cattle as a tool to do so. The primary purpose for the easement would be to protect water quality. The property transitions from upland hardwood forest to bottomland hardwood forest. About 55 acres of the property has had trees removed to allow for more pastureland.

After discussion, it was decided that there was not enough information about the property, due to inaccessibility of the eastern portion caused by wetness, to determine whether to proceed with the easement. The Trustees asked to revisit the easement again in the future.

10. Denton County Greenbelt Plan Grant Program

- A. Consider application from the Frisco West Water Control and Improvement District for funding from the Denton County Greenbelt Plan Grant Program.

The Trust received an application from Frisco West Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) which provides water service to three neighborhoods in the Frisco area: The Preserve, Frisco Hills, and Frisco Ranch. The WCID was formerly known as Denton County Fresh Water Supply District #8C and renamed in 2019. Panther Creek, which flows into Lewisville Lake, flows between the neighborhoods, and is designated by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) as a Wildlife Management Area. Doe Branch, which is designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area by the Corps, forms the northern boundary of the WCID. The WCID maintains trails between the neighborhoods and Panther Creek and has requested funding to install educational signs along the trails to inform the residents about water quality, wildlife species and habitat management, and about Panther Creek itself.

Panther Creek and Doe Branch are both identified as Primary Opportunities in the Denton County Greenbelt Plan.

Trustees asked for more details about the signs, including draft designs and locations that the signs will be placed, before deciding about providing the grant funds to the WCID. Trustees asked about the possibility of obtaining a conservation easement from the WCID on the land between their property and the Corps property. Staff informed the WCID that one of the requirements of the Greenbelt Plan Grant Program is to adopt the Greenbelt Plan by resolution.

Staff will revisit these ideas with the WCID. Trustees would be interested in hosting a representative from the WCID at the next meeting. **No action taken.**

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

- A. Upper Trinity Conservation Symposium on February 23, 2023.

The Upper Trinity Conservation Symposium was held on February 23, 2023, at the Denton County Courthouse. Nearly 40 attended the Symposium, including city staff and consulting firms. Attendees learned about green stormwater infrastructure initiatives in Denton County, floodplain prioritization tools, reforestation projects, and flood planning in Texas. The feedback received from attendees was very positive.

- B. Lone Star Healthy Streams Workshop.

Unfortunately, the number of registered attendees for the workshop on May 5 was very low and was cancelled by the AgriLife specialist who operates the Lone Star Healthy Streams program. We will look to reschedule this workshop in the future.

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

Staff will see if a representative from the Frisco West WCID is available to attend the meeting to discuss their grant proposal. Trustees asked Staff to prepare a resolution of appreciation for Ms. Shirley Haisler for her years of service to the Board of Trustees.

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

The next meeting is scheduled tentatively for October 17, 2023.

15. Visitor Comments.

16. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Trent Lewis adjourned the meeting at 10:24 AM.

Recorded By: 
Blake Aldredge, Water Education Coordinator

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