



UPPER TRINITY
CONSERVATION TRUST

Minutes

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

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 AM on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

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
Robert Harpool, Place 5

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Lissa Shepard, Place 2
Russell McNamer, Place 4

Trustee Absent:

Lyle Dresher, Place 9

Trustee Vacancy:

Vacant, Place 8

Staff in Attendance:

Jason Pierce
Blake Aildredge

Rebecca Falco

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Pledge: All

Invocation: Trent Lewis

4. Conduct Oath of Office for Appointed Trustee for Place 3.

Trent Lewis administered the Oath of Office for the following:

Leslie Maynard, Place 3

5. Adopt minutes of August 25, 2022, Trust Board Meeting.

Shirley Haisler made a motion to approve Minutes of August 25, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Russell McNamer. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried

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

- 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 not been any progress. The Landowner has expressed that she wants to continue with the easement but has some needs to take care of first. A survey and appraisal remain to be completed.
- Concerning the 42-acre tract of land owned by the City of Duncanville, known as the Ladd Property, Staff reports that the City has prepared a draft ordinance to present to the City Council designating the property as a permanent nature preserve. Staff also reported receiving an email from a Duncanville City Council member stating that the City Council voted unanimously to initiate a process of rezoning and amending the City's comprehensive plan that will culminate in the adoption of an ordinance designating the Ladd Property as a preserve. The process itself is expected to take at least two months. Jason Pierce suggested asking the City to add language to the ordinance that the property would be preserved by conservation easement.
- Staff reports receiving an email from a landowner who is interested in placing a conservation easement on their 20-acre property near the City of Lucas. The Landowner says their property is a registered prairie with the Native Prairies Association of Texas. Staff has scheduled a call with the Landowner for next week to discuss.
- Russell McNamer and Blake Alldredge attended the Riparian and Stream Ecosystem Training on December 6 at the Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center in Denton. The full-day program was co-hosted by the Texas Water Resources Institute and the City of Denton. There were approximately 40 attendees who learned about streamflow processes and riparian functions, and the best way to manage vegetation along streams. The afternoon featured a walk by Clear Creek and a wild pig trap door demonstration.
- Concerning Lake Ralph Hall, construction of the State Highway 34 bridge is nearly complete with the protective barriers remaining to be built. The beams for the Merrill Creek bridge have been completed. The construction of the Leon Hurse Dam embankment and spillway structure is progressing. Staff described the construction of the slurry trenches that will prevent water from seeping underneath the dam. The mitigation contract has been awarded and construction is expected to start next year.

7. Financial Matters.

- A. Consider approval of one invoice 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 one invoice (W2211UTCT for \$2,473.07) from Upper Trinity Regional Water District for reimbursement of prior costs incurred by Trust and authorize payment thereof. Seconded by Leslie Maynard. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

8. Discuss potential conservation easement for a mitigation bank within the Lewisville Lake Watershed west of IH 35 and north of Robson Ranch Rd within the City of Denton, and take appropriate action.

Staff briefed the Board on a potential conservation easement that's part of a proposed stream mitigation bank within the future Cole Ranch development. Approximately 294 acres of riparian buffer and stream segments would be protected and restored through the mitigation bank which is located southwest of the City of Denton. The Trust was contacted by Wetlands Management, LP, who is the stream mitigation bank developer. As part of the easement, Wetlands Management asked if the Trust would be willing to act as the long-term manager of the easement once the mitigation bank credits have been sold and monitoring period is complete.

Long-term management would tentatively include an annual site visit to ensure boundary markers are still in place and there is no encroachment, and possibly invasive species control. Wetlands Management has asked for a non-binding letter of support to consider accepting the conservation easement. The letter would be needed by Wetlands Management for their application to the Army Corps of Engineers and, if approved, would expect to receive the permit in 2026.

After discussion, the Board decided to request a meeting with Wetlands Management to learn more about the project and what would be required if the Trust were to accept the easement.

9. Denton County Greenbelt Plan Grant Program

- A. Consider reimbursing the City of Lewisville \$5,000.00 for the Elm Fork Kayak Launch revegetation project as part of the Denton County Greenbelt Plan Grant Program.

The Trust approved the City of Lewisville's request for funding from the Denton County Greenbelt Plan Grant Program for the Elm Fork Kayak Launch revegetation project (for up to \$5,000.00) during the August 12, 2021 Board meeting. As reported during a previous meeting, the City stated by email that with the help of volunteers, the first planting of native plants had been completed and submitted a purchase receipt of \$7,500.00 for the plants to the Trust.

Due to the lack of confirmation by the Trust and uncertainty with the submitted purchase receipt, Staff will confirm the planting with the City and obtain the correct purchase receipt.

Leslie Maynard made a motion that upon confirmation of the planting and appropriate receipt is received, the Trust make a payment to the City of Lewisville of \$5,000.00 for the Elm Fork Kayak Launch revegetation project. Seconded by Shirley Haisler. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

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

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

The educational Symposium will be focused for city and county staff, consultants, and residents involved in environmental programs in local communities. Staff has reserved a room at the Denton County Courthouse and expects to begin registration after the first of the year. Speakers that have been reserved for the Symposium include:

- Blake Alldredge, UTCT, to explain the benefits of conservation easements and discuss the Denton County Greenbelt Plan.
- Dr. Fouad Jaber, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Dallas, to discuss the benefits of green stormwater infrastructure to filter and collect excess stormwater.
- Kathy Jack, Nature Conservancy, to explain the Trinity River Floodplain Prioritization Tool and how cities and counties can use the Tool to identify floodplain areas to preserve with a large impact on water quality.
- David Cowan, North Texas Municipal Water District, will present on a tree planting project along Wilson Creek in Collin County to improve water quality.
- Lissa Shepard, UTCT and Dallas County Public Works, will explain the Texas regional flood planning groups, the Texas Flood Plan, and funding opportunities for local communities that may be available from the Flood Plan.

President Lewis asked if continuing education credits would be obtained for the Symposium. Staff said they are determining which organizations they can obtain from but expect to obtain credits from the Texas Floodplain Management Association and credits for engineers.

As suggested by the Board, staff will demonstrate a stream erosion trailer after Dr. Jaber leads a walking tour of the green stormwater infrastructure surrounding the Courthouse. President Lewis also suggested doing a roundtable exercise with scenarios for how to protect water quality during the Symposium to increase engagement among participants. Other Trustees and Staff agreed to develop discussion ideas before the next meeting.

The goal for registration would be around 75 people, with lunch to be served as well. Staff recommends charging a fee to ensure that those who register attend. Thomas recommended charging a lower fee to Watershed Partners.

B. Denton County Greenbelt Plan Grant Update.

Staff indicated that the Trust will begin soliciting for project proposals for the Denton County Greenbelt Plan Grant Program.

11. Discuss and consider approval of proposed Work Program Guidelines for 2023, with any desired changes.

Leslie Maynard made a motion to approve the proposed Work Program Guidelines as presented for 2023. Seconded by Thomas Muir. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

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

Staff and Trustees to discuss final details about the Symposium with roundtable discussion ideas.

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

The next meeting will be January 12, 2023, and will be held virtually through GoToMeeting.

15. Visitor Comments.

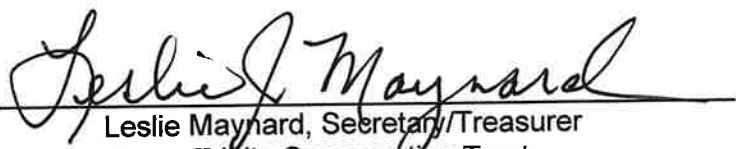
16. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Trent Lewis adjourned the meeting at 9:50 AM.

Recorded By: _____


Jason Pierce, Manager

Certified By: _____


Leslie Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer
Upper Trinity Conservation Trust