



UPPER TRINITY
CONSERVATION TRUST

Minutes

UPPER TRINITY CONSERVATION TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2023

REGULAR SESSION BOARD MEETING
(BY TELECONFERENCE)

1. Call to Order.

The Board of Trustees of the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust convened with Vice President Thomas Muir presiding at 8:37 AM on Thursday, October 17, 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:

Thomas Muir, Place 6, Vice President
Robert Harpool, Place 5

Russell McNamer, Place 4
Lyle Dresher, Place 9

Trustee Absent:

Trent Lewis, Place 7, President
Lissa Shepard, Place 2
Leslie Maynard, Place 3

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: Thomas Muir

4. Adopt minutes of August 10, 2023, Trust Board Meeting.

Robert Harpool made a motion to approve Minutes of August 10, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Russell McNamer. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

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

None.

6. 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.

Lyle Drescher made a motion to approve one invoice (W2301UTCT for \$2,824.97) from Upper Trinity Regional Water District for reimbursement of prior costs incurred by Trust and authorize payment thereof. Seconded by Robert Harpool. The votes were all yes. 0 no. Motion carried.

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

During the previous Board meeting, the Trust decided that there was not enough information about the property to make an informed decision whether to proceed with the conservation easement transaction.

Mr. McNamer discussed how he was recently able to explore the furthest eastern portion of the property since the drought had allowed the area to dry out. Mr. McNamer also explained that after further research on conservation easements he does not believe it is feasible that he would be able to attain a federal income tax deduction on the property at this time. Mr. McNamer asked the Trustees to consider his amended request to place a conservation easement on the 8 acres adjacent to the creek and allow him to coordinate with Staff.

Vice President Muir stated that the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) could be a good fit for Mr. McNamer's property. Mr. Muir explained that ACEP is administered by the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service and that they provide payments up to 75% of the value of the land for placing a conservation easement.

Trustees indicated that they would allow Staff and Mr. McNamer to continue coordinating on a possible easement project and to revisit again in the future.

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

- A. Land Trust Alliance "Gaining Ground" Engagement Campaign.

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA), the national organization that represents land trusts across the nation, have started an awareness campaign called "Gaining Ground." Based on research conducted by LTA, many Americans are concerned about natural places and the goal of the campaign is to connect these people to local land trusts so that they can support these land

trusts. LTA has graphics available for use by member land trusts that the Trust can utilize on its social media and website.

B. Grant Application to the North Texas Community Foundation for a Land Conservation Conference.

The Trust has submitted a grant application to the North Texas Community Foundation, based in Fort Worth, to receive \$750.00 in funding to host an educational land conservation conference for landowners in Denton County. The Trust would match the \$750 with its own funds, and the combined funds would be used for expenses such as facility rental.

Upper Trinity Regional Water District has also applied to the North Texas Community Foundation to receive \$7,500.00 to purchase a stream erosion trailer from Oklahoma State University. Upper Trinity currently borrows a stream erosion trailer from the Tarrant Regional Water District for educational events at Upper Trinity's headquarters in Lewisville and also transports the trailer to schools to teach stream hydrology and erosion principles. Since the Foundation can only provide funding to nonprofit organizations, the Trust will act as the Fiscal Sponsor for the District and, if received, can transfer the funds to the District, based on guidance from the Foundation.

C. Proposal for the North Central Texas Council of Government's 'Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure' Initiative.

Staff is developing a proposal to submit to the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) as a local partner for their 'Transportation and Stormwater Infrastructure' (TSI) initiative. The focus area of the project is areas north and west of Dallas / Fort Worth, which includes Denton County. Staff would be coordinating with municipalities, developers, and landowners on best practices to reduce flooding impacts due to urbanization, including conservation easements and green stormwater infrastructure. This project closely aligns with the work done for the Denton County Greenbelt Plan and can provide the Trust with additional tools to help fulfill the goals of the Greenbelt Plan.

Since NCTCOG would not be able to contract directly with the Trust, the District is coordinating with NCTCOG to be able to receive funds to help cover staff time and effort towards that project.

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

Mr. Muir asked Staff to consider options to be able to receive donations during North Texas Giving Day.

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

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 14, 2023.

11. Visitor Comments.

12. Adjournment.

There being no further business, Thomas Muir adjourned the meeting at 9:23 AM.

Recorded By: 
Blake Alldredge, Water Education Coordinator

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