

TPE Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2015
7:05 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
via Teleconference
Conference Dial-In number 712-432-0180
Participant Access Code: 231266#

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Jack Kussmaul

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Directors: Jack Kussmaul, Scott Fulton, Nick Faessler, Evanne Hunt, Jim Rogala, Rich Henderson, Alice Mirk, Deanna Pomije, Linda Lynch.

Excused: Mark Leach, Paul Rode, David Hamel, Richard Oberle

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick, Joe Rising

Guests:

2. Adopt Meeting Agenda

3. Approve Consent Agenda – ACTION

Accept Minutes of Board & Committee meetings

There was a motion by Alice Mirk to accept the Consent Agenda, Jim Rogala seconded it. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report – Nick Faessler – ACTION

Statement of Financial Activity through December 31, 2015

Nick Faessler reported on the cash available to Central and Chapters. The Central Budget year-to-date did pretty good, the Compass Club helped get close to the goal. The Finance Committee went over this carefully. Two Board members moved into Compass Club and that is indicative of the change. Chris Kirkpatrick noted we did better than last year but the total amount was under budget. The costs that were related to the accounting transition have been identified and refined for the 2016 budget. Comments were addressed. Jack Kussmaul and Alice Mirk noted that the budget categories are very clear in the reports adding that Winnie Bade and Jerry Pedretti have made a lot of improvements. Linda noted that we need to keep an eye on spending.

There was a motion by Alice Mirk to accept the Treasurer's Report. Scott Fulton seconded it. The motion carried.

5. 4th Quarter Trust Reports – Rich Henderson

Rich Henderson gave a summary of the reports. He also raised a question regarding whether the Board is to take action to adjust the balance between the stocks and bonds or if this is automatic and done routinely each year through the trustees who manage the trust. Chris said there are also TPE invested funds in the TPE portfolio and this rebalancing can be done with them as well. For this year there were no net gains. If there are no earnings, can we draw anything down? We need to rebalance and we need to get a clear interpretation of the policy if we want to make a withdrawal for the internships. Jack Kussmaul believes this withdraw is authorized and necessary and he will speak to the accountant about this. Rich concurred that there is no

preclusion of a withdrawal if there is a negative year. The Finance Committee will take a look at this policy and make a decision if Jack and Winnie do not clear this up.

There was a motion by Nick Faessler to reauthorize the balancing of the endowment account. Linda Lynch seconded it. The motion passed.

6. President's Report – Jack Kussmaul

2016 Board Commitments

Jack Kussmaul said that he will be contacting people about this year's Board donations, he will be calling next week.

Prairie Enthusiasts of the Year Nominations

Please get your nominations to Chris, and the Board will discuss it and come up with a nominee. Alice Mirk asked about a Chapter Volunteer of the Year. Get this item to Chris and it will go onto the presentation list. Scott Fulton is the Conference Chair and he can be notified as well. There is no specific template so it is up to the Chapter to decide what is meaningful to the chapter and their nominee. Chris suggested a nominee. Evanne recalled giving him recognition in the last few years. She will take a look for this. There is not an award every year but usually within two years.

7. Executive Director Report – Chris Kirkpatrick

2016-2018 Strategic Plan Implementation Strategy – UPDATE

Chris Kirkpatrick reported on the Implementation Strategy that is in draft form here. It explains items for the Board, Committees and staff to be responsible for. We want this to be finalized by the February meeting based on the new Strategic Plan and as a tracking mechanism for the coming years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

8. Finance Committee:

2016 Central & Chapter Budgets– ACTION

Jack Kussmaul reported that this year's budget proposal does not note a significant increase in income. We have the whole organization and also Central. The Board reviewed the 2016 Budget for Board Approval. Nick Faessler noted the budget amounts per categories, pertaining to the central budget including grant funds and administrative fees. There is also a proposed amount for the Education and Outreach Coordinator. Linda asked about the line with the Education and Outreach Coordinator's salary as 'released from restrictions' and not 'other income.' Her salary is covered for the first half of the year by several funding sources. After that we do not know. Chris said this was in the approved budget and released from the Empire Sauk Chapter. Nick noted salaries, benefits, and a 3% increase, along with \$5000 towards accreditation. Payroll will be done in-house from now on. This is the most accurate year to date budget in years. There is a lot of progress here. Jack and Evanne gave Chris credit as the increase in the TPE budget is going well.

There was a motion by Jim Rogala to approve the 2016 Central & Chapter Budgets. Scott Fulton seconded it. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

9. Outreach Coordinator Position Proposal – DISCUSSION

Scott Fulton discussed the work done over the last few months, this is a work in progress and a good topic for our in-person board meeting in February. The goal is to meet the needs of the chapters. When adding a new staff position we need to know how to pay for it. We can look at a % increase in new members, at the Annual Appeal, or at donations. A 20% increase in membership and donation income levels would about double the funds needed for this. With this 2016 budget we will be able to get half way through the year while we discuss this. Chris added that the new Development Plan for the whole organization will help clarify the needs to be increased and the needs to sustain this position. This needs to be articulated so that the organization really wants this and there is a clear funding strategy regarding it. Jack said the face to face meetings with Chapters are valuable and we need to know their opinion on this.

NEW BUSINESS

10. TPE Tag Line – ACTION

Scott Fulton referred to his memo and explained where this is tagline is used and why the wording is needing to be changed. Work, death and taxes are not something we want headlining our organization. The aim is to change the word ‘work’ to ‘action’ so that it reads Grass Roots Conservation in Action!

There was a motion by Evanne Hunt to approve the TPE Tag Line modification. Alice Mirk seconded it. The motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Kirkpatrick gave an update on the February 21st Board meeting at the Clarion Hotel from 9 to 12:00. Nominations for TPE Member of the year are encouraged. The Leopold Restoration Awards are also seeking nominations.

11. Adjournment

There was a motion by Jim Rogala to adjourn. Evanne Hunt seconded it. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Minutes submitted by

Joe Rising

Communications Coordinator

2016 Board Meetings:

Sunday February 21, 2016, 9:00 am Madison, WI (after 2016 conference)

Tuesday April 12, 2016 7:05 pm via conference call

Tuesday May 17, 2016, 7:05 pm via conference call

Sunday July 17, 2016 TBD (ESC had offered to host 2016 & CRC in 2017)

Saturday September 17, 2016 10:00 am TPE office, Viroqua, WI

Tuesday November 15, 2016 7:05 pm via conference call

Tuesday December 20, 2016 7:05 pm via conference call