

TPE February 25, 2018 Board Meeting
Sunday, Feb 25, 2018 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Scott Fulton, Alice Mirk Jim Rogala, Caroljean Coventree, Deanna Pomije, Jerry Newman, Evanne Hunt, David Hamel, Rich Henderson, Jack Kussmaul,. Jim Rachuy.

Excused: George Howe, Gary Eldred,

Guests: Richey Rachuy, Barb Siekowski, Fred Faessler, Rob Baller.

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick, Joe Rising

2. Adopt Meeting Agenda

3. Approve Consent Agenda – ACTION

- Accept minutes of Board & committee meetings

There was a motion by Caroljean Coventree to approve the Consent Agenda. Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report – Alice Mirk – ACTION

- Statement of financial activity through January 31, 2018

Alice Mirk reported that this report is for one month. We are at a healthy balance for the support staff at \$67,000, this includes late donations, renewals, memberships, and sustaining members. We had new major donors in January. We have tighten up our accounting system over the years and we have more clarity regarding our funds. Questions about the finance reports were asked and answered.

There was a motion by Jack Kussmaul to **accept the Treasurers Report through January 31, 2018, Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.**

5. President's Report – Scott Fulton

- Deferred to Strategic Discussion

6. Executive Director Report – Chris Kirkpatrick

- Accreditation – UPDATE

Chris Kirkpatrick thanked the Board for heling to keep things moving forward while he had influenza last week.

We will need to provide the final documentation within 3 month. The board will need to vote on the new conflict of interest policy update. There were questions about the trust; the job description, recruitment, and strategic direction. We need this in by May 10th. We have a template and a documentation requirement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Land Protection Committee

Chris Kirkpatrick reported that some of these projects are the first projects in these chapters and that is very exciting. The committee has given initial approval of these projects.

☐ Initial Approval of Voss Conservation Easement – ACTION

Caroljean Coventree spoke to this project, its history, site specifics, species, land management history, and present circumstance. This is the first CSC/TPE owned conservation easement. This is a donation and they will put funds in for land management, easement monitoring and legal defense. Mark Leach did the science in the proposal. The chapter will do the land management but not the physical work as there will be funds for this. This property ranked very high. There will be a land management contract along with the easement.

There was a motion by Alice Mirk for Initial Approval of the Voss Conservation Easement, Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.

☐ Initial Approval of Zamora Conservation Easement – ACTION

Rich Henderson spoke to the process and initial committee approval. There will be an oak savanna in the future and grassland bird habitats. It is in the stream and conservation area and ranked well on our scale. The final details are being worked out.

There was a motion by Rich Henderson for Initial Approval of the Zamora Conservation Easement, Alice Mirk on seconded it. The motion passed.

☐ Initial Approval of Rogala Conservation Easement – ACTION

Rich Henderson said this is a significant site with a nice savanna. We want to plan for endowments prior to the approval of private land easements. We are protecting these and they need land management in perpetuity. Not all land owners can donate an endowment too, People pick us because we know prairie. Jim Rogala gave us his thoughts within the chapter recommendation. Jim envisions that he will put money into a fund and it will grow. Jim Rogala recused himself and left the room per our conflict of interest policy.

There was a motion by Jim Rachuy for Initial Approval of the Rogala Conservation Easement, Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.

☐ Final Approval of Natural Land Institute Conservation Easement – ACTION

Jim Newman spoke to this projects, the funds are covered, there is a dedicated site steward and work parties. It is a 3 acre horseshoe shaped property that protects two springs. It is a nice variety as opposed to the dry prairie. This is the purchase of an easement. Chris can talk to LTA about the amount needed for the easement monitoring fund. This project we will **tabled** till we get their input.

☐ Final Approval of Swenson Prairie Acquisition – ACTION

Rich Henderson spoke to this top notch project. This is really a significant property and it is in a hub of activity. There is hope for an endowment fund. Management is underway and includes grants. This is a 16 acres site.

There was a motion by Alice Mirk for Final Approval of Swenson Prairie Acquisition, Caroljean Coventree seconded it. The motion passed.

☐ Final Approval of Alexander Savanna Acquisition – ACTION

Scott Fulton spoke to this transformative project with the St. Croix Valley Chapter. This is a large oak savanna. This will be a focal point with the chapter. We are in conversation with the land owner to establish an endowment.

There was a motion by Jim Rachuy for Final Approval of the Alexander Savanna Acquisition. Caroljean Coventree seconded it. The motion passed.

8. Land Management Committee

☐ Final Approval of Basic Crew Member Training – ACTION

Thanks to Rob Baller for pulling this together. This will be a great tool. There are other options out there too. This will be a board approved training module and following the WI. Prescribed Fire Standards. This course does satisfy the requirements of our burn policy. This is a resource and tool. Chapters are encouraged to use this but are not required.

There was a motion by Alice Mirk to approval of the Basic Crew Member Training program created by Rob Baller. Jack Kussmaul seconded it. The motion passed.

☐ Burn Policy Amendment – ACTION

Chris Kirkpatrick spoke to the policy amendment, per the committee, so that this clause will grandfather in qualified basic crew members. This is at the heart of our burn policy and insurance needs.

There was a motion by Rich Henderson for approval of a modified version of the Burn Policy Amendment (This will be the third bullet and not the second bullet, instead of the current words *crew members*, it will say *individuals*). Jim Rachuy seconded it. The motion passed.

There were additional ideas regarding the wording, they will be referred back the Land Management Committee.

9. Communications, Outreach, & Education Committee – UPDATE

Caroljean Coventree spoke to her notes that she sent to the Board. The sign in sheets need to be sent to Joe. Each Board member should let the field trip leaders know to send this out. We want to keep data so we can evaluate our outreach efforts. We want to have a TPE online library, 101type things, please send that in to Caroljean to go online. There will be a media checklist. There are a number of liaison roles. If you have the time to learn our Tandem Vault cloud storage, please take the training,

OLD BUSINESS

The Strategic Discussion was addressed to some extent above. We will not be able to spend more time on this today. The Executive Committee will keep addressing this. The Board will meet in Viroqua again to address this further too.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

Jack Kussmaul moved to adjourn the meeting and Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion carried and the meeting ended at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Rising
Communications Coordinator

2018 Board Meetings:

Tuesday, May 15th 7:00 pm via GoToMeeting

Sunday, July 15th at picnic Minnesota Driftless Chapter to host

Saturday, September 15th at TPE office in Viroqua, WI (time TBD)

Tuesday, November 13th 7:00 pm via GoToMeeting

Tuesday, December 11th 7:00 pm via GoToMeeting