

TPE Board Meeting
Sunday, July 15th, 2018 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST
Wiscoy Valley Community Land Co-op
31783 Bur Oak Lane
Winona, MN 55987
Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Scott Fulton, Caroljean Coventree, Jim Rogala, Alice Mirk, Jack Kussmaul Deanna Pomije, Evanne Hunt, , Rich Henderson, , Stephen Winter, Evanne Hunt, Gary Eldred, Jerry Newman

Excused: David Hamel, Jim Rachuy

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick, Joe Rising

Guests: Dan Hazlet, George Howe, Steve Hubner, Sarah Miles.

2. Adopt Meeting Agenda

3. Approve Consent Agenda – ACTION

- Accept minutes of Board & committee meetings

There was a motion by Jack Kussmaul to accept the minutes of Board & committee meetings. Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report – Alice Mirk

- Statement of financial activity through June 30, 2018 – ACTION

Alice Mirk gave a report regarding the statement of financial activity. We are doing better than prior years. More members have renewed and we are getting new members, major donors are giving earlier. We are at 39% of income and this shows we are in a better financial position than last year. All the graphs were reviewed and discussed. The conference was less expensive than planned and the Coulee Region Chapter elected to share all the proceeds with central chapter support. We are net ahead by this \$5,000. Central budget performance looks good. Questions were asked and answered. Much money is being spent on our mission.

There was a motion by Caroljean Coventree to accept the Statement of financial activity through June 31, 2018. Jim Rogala seconded it. The motion passed.

5. President's Report – Scott Fulton

- Deferred to Strategic Discussion

This was deferred as it will be discussed later in the meeting.

6. Executive Director Report – Chris Kirkpatrick – UPDATE

Chris Kirkpatrick submitted for the monarch grant and we are waiting to hear about that. This may add a new staff position in our service area. Major donor events are underway and chapters are promoting these. The goal is to get the word out and connect with people, so it is important to make these contacts. The Southwest Chapter event was hot. Donors saw the great projects Gary Eldred has been working on for decades. Everyone on the board is invited to the upcoming donor events. There are 15 land protection projects in the works now. This means lots of added work. Chris needs help and coordination with all this and it may take into next year to complete them. We are at the limit on land protection now. We are prioritizing and working with everyone we can to help out. Gary Eldred said this shows how successful we are becoming.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Land Protection Committee

There are three projects the land protection committee has recommended. There are lots of good projects moving forward.

Initial Approval of Horseshoe Mound Conservation Easement

– Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts

Northwest Illinois Prairie Enthusiasts has a close relationship with the Horseshoe mound property. They want TPE to hold this easement and renegotiate the entire property easement, so there is already a proven track record. This is a package that comes with financing for land management and protection. This involved cooperation with another organization, the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. It is a high profile property. Questions were asked and answered about the existing easement.

There was a motion by Caroljean Coventree for Initial Approval of Horseshoe Mound Conservation Easement. Alice Mirk seconded it. The motion passed.

Initial Approval of Ellis Conservation Easement – Glacial Prairie Chapter

This is an easement similar to the above project, where the easement fits our mission, there is some remnant savanna with nice restoration potential. The parcels were discussed and there is a current easement that needs to be assigned to TPE from the present easement holding land trust. The owner has recently passed on. He made a large contribution for management. The present land trust may not be taking care of the property as they should. The Glacial Prairie Chapter is supportive and will have volunteers to work, monitor the easement, and direct the work plan. Gary Birch from Empire Sauk Chapter is also very interested in it as it is near Dane County. The Chapter is happy to accept this in fee and there is a two year window to figure out the purchase of the property. There are 8 acres not in the easement. There is a goal to include the 8 acres of restored oak savanna that is not protected. The Savanna has been worked on and is high quality. The two chapters can collaborate on this. This is a beautiful project.

There was a motion by Gary Eldred for Initial Approval of the Ellis Conservation Easement and to accept the current easement. Jerry Newman seconded it. The motion passed.

□ Initial Approval of Addition to Parrish Savanna – Empire-Sauk Chapter

Rich Henderson is working on the ranking criteria. One goal is to make it easier to burn the savanna. Also, since it is 38 acres, 4 more acres makes it more viable as grassland bird habitat.

There was a motion by Caroljean Coventree for Initial Approval of the Addition to Parrish Savanna, and authorizing the pursuit of State Stewardship funds, and Dane County funding as well. Alice Mirk seconded it. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The September Board meeting date will be Thursday, September 20th by phone and GoToMeetings. The Leadership retreat is September 29th at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

NEW BUSINESS

Caroljean Coventree requested chapter leadership to remind field trip leaders to fill out the participant sign-in forms so data can be analyzed regarding the field trips. We can also post blank field trip sign-up sheets on the website. Pass these on to the Communications Coordinator.. Also, please contribute to the Prairie Resource 101 library. Send info to Caroljean to be vetted, Jim Rogala will put it onto the website. PowerPoints are welcome. We want a great resource library on-line. This will help with reference calls to the office.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Adjourn TPE Business Meeting for Strategic Discussion

Jack Kussmaul moved to adjourn the business meeting and Caroljean Coventree seconded it. The motion carried and the board meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Rising
Communications Coordinator

2018 Board Meetings:

September Business Meeting Sept. 20th 7:00 PM via GoToMeeting

Board & Chapter Leadership Mtg. Sat. Sept. 29th Kickapoo Valley Reserve 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday, November 13th 7:00 PM via GoToMeeting

Tuesday, December 11th 7:00 PM via GoToMeeting