

TPE Board Meeting  
Sunday, May 13th, 2018 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM CST  
TPE Office, 110 S. Main St  
Viroqua, WI 54665

**Minutes**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Scott Fulton, Jim Rogala, Deanna Pomije, Evanne Hunt, David Hamel, Rich Henderson, Jack Kussmaul, Alice Mirk, Stephen Winter, ( will abstain from voting today do to an ethics check, re: his roll with the US FWS) Caroljean Coventree, Jim Rachuy

Excused: Gary Eldred, Jerry Newman

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick, Joe Rising

Guests: Richie Rachuy

2. Adopt Meeting

3. Approve Consent Agenda – ACTION

**There was a motion by Jim Rachuy to accept the minutes of Board & Committee meetings. Caroljean Coventree seconded it. The motion passed.**

Accept minutes of Board & committee meetings

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

4. Treasurer's Report – Alice Mirk

Chris Kirkpatrick gave an overview of the accountant's report, balance sheet, and graphs. We are at 15% of income already this. Central budget performance is doing well. Ron Endres' neckless donations are helping considerably. Membership income renewals are almost doubled over last year. Chapters have seen an increase in donations. There is an increase in individual giving so far year to date. Our approach is bearing fruit.

• Statement of financial activity through March 31, 2018 – ACTION

**There was a motion by Alice Mirk to accept Statement of financial activity through March 31, 2018. Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.**

2017 audit – ACTION

Chris Kirkpatrick gave an overview and answered questions. We have a good system of checks and balances. Winnie Bade is an independent check in our system. We get dinged annually in one deficiency and that is due to our size as a land trust so that we do not have an accountant audit our accountant. We are getting clean audits and that is impressive given our complexity. The Board thanked Winnie for doing such a good job.

There was a motion by Evanne Hunt to approve the 2017 audit, Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.

2017 IRS Form 990 – ACTION

Chris Kirkpatrick reported we are within industry standards. This was similar to prior years. Evanne asked if we only spend 5 hours a week as Board members on TPE stuff. We may want to track our hours for a real measure. Caroljean will keep track of her board hours for a measure. We will get our forms filed on time without an extension for the first time this year due to timing. The finance committee has been over this.

There was a motion by Evanne Hunt to accept and Form 990, Jack K seconded it. The motion passed.

5. President's Report – Scott Fulton

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

Deferred to Strategic Discussion

6. Executive Director Report – Chris Kirkpatrick – UPDATE

Chris Kirkpatrick reported that the big news was TPE's submission of a final proposal to USFWS to hire an outreach ecologist to work with site stewards and private land owners. This is really a 2019 and 2020 project. We will find out in August. Monarchs are showing up in S.W.I. We don't know what they are eating. The renewals are out and the lapsed members. Renewals are coming in. Donor events are being planned. There are lots of land protection projects this year. Chris is keeping them going, hopefully there will be two closings prior the Annual Picnic. Alice thanked Chris for all his grant application work.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Land Protection Committee

Final Approval of Natural Land Institute Conservation Easement – ACTION

Chris Kirkpatrick spoke to the Briggs Landing monitor funding with the Prairie Bluff Chapter. According to the formula \$1000 is enough and the chapter will put in \$1500 for the legal defense fund.

There was a motion by Rich Henderson for Final Approval of Natural Land Institute Conservation Easement. Jim Rogala seconded it. The motion passed.

8. Accreditation Items:

Revised Conflict of Interest Policy – ACTION

Chris Kirkpatrick reported that he and Jack Kussmaul have worked on this. We have a standard proposal from the Land Trust Alliance and have modified it to clarify our process. We can sign it today.

There was a motion by Evanne Hunt to accept the Revised Conflict of Interest Policy, Alice Mirk seconded it. The motion passed.

☐ Prairie Enthusiasts Trust Agreement Amendment – ACTION

Chris Kirkpatrick spoke to the TPE Trust Agreement Amendment. Chris and Jack consulted on this. There is a questions regarding governance from the LTA accreditation; how to recruit new trustees, and how we are handling USDA funds. The Trust will elect their own trustees. One board members of TPE can be a Trustee, with a term of 5 years, and two per trustees for a total of 10 years. Also, the trust will hold its own revenue and pay expenses against the properties. Rich Henderson will document the bills for work and they will support 100% land management. The Trustees approved this as well as the Executive committees.

There was a motion by Caroljean Coventree to accept the Prairie Enthusiasts Trust Agreement Amendment, Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Chris Kirkpatrick spoke to the LTA accreditation concern of having a deficit of \$4,500 for legal defense. We will need a plan for whatever does not come in this year. We will probably cover most of it with interest this year. He will proceed with his plan and the board approved his approach. There will be a celebration, if we are approved, at the LTA Rally in October.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Adjourn TPE Business Meeting for Strategic Discussion

Caroljean Coventree moved to adjourn the business meeting and Alice Mirk seconded it. The motion carried and the board meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Rising  
Communications Coordinator

2018 Board Meetings:

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