

TPE November Board Meeting
Tue, Nov 13, 2018 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM CST

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Attendees: Scott Fulton, Caroljean Coventree, Alice Mirk, Rich Henderson, Jerry Newman, Evanne Hunt, Stephen Winter.

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick, Joe Rising

Guests:

Excused: Jim Rogala, Deanna Pomije, Jim Rachuy, David Hamel, Gary Eldred

2. Adopt Meeting Agenda

3. Approve Consent Agenda – ACTION

- Accept minutes of Board & committee meetings

There was a motion by Rich Henderson to accept the Minutes of Board & committee meetings. Alice Mirk seconded it. The motion passed

4. Treasurer's Report – Alice Mirk

- Statement of financial activity through October 31, 2018 – ACTION

Alice Mirk and Chris Kirkpatrick reported on the October Statement of Financial Activity. The money that is being released at this time will put Chapter Support in the red. This time of year we are typically short on cash. We are on track and ahead of last year, so prospects look good. The report graphs were reviewed. Our financial management is working. Questions were asked and answered. The operating budget report was reviewed. The chapter budgets were reviewed. Chapters are implementing our mission as seen in the land management funds. We have closed on two land acquisitions this year and three more are in the works.

There was a motion by Rich Henderson to accept the Financial Report through October 31, 2018. Caroljean Coventree seconded it. The motion passed.

- Request to withdraw the 4% earnings from the legal defense and easement monitoring funds - ACTION

Chris reported this request is according to the 2018 budget and TPE financial policy. As this is from the Trust, we want to have a formal motion to approve the taking of these funds. This should be a permanent policy and is perfectly normal. The Finance Committee recommended this to the Board.

There was a motion by Caroljean Coventree to make this a permanent withdrawal ever year and that we do so this year - to withdraw the 4% earnings from the legal defense and easement monitoring funds. Alice Mirk seconded it. The motion passed.

5. President's Report – Scott Fulton

Chapter visits

Scott Fulton gave a report regarding TPE strategic planning and the 2020 vision. This was discussed with Chris Kirkpatrick and David Allen. A strong suggestion from David was to make a major effort to solicit a broad set of inputs and use a focus group format. This would be geographically focused on different constituencies. Chris and Scott would put time and effort into the focus groups instead of the usual chapter visits. This will cross and combine multiple chapters. This was requested at the leadership summit too. This plan is a guide and the lifeblood of the organization. We are considering the hire of a half time administrative person or we will have to delay land protection or forgo other things. Scott mentioned that at the Parish Savanna there was a suicide. The ATC energy line process is ongoing.

6. Executive Director Report – Chris Kirkpatrick – UPDATE

Chris gave a report on Rally, the TPE workshop, and the Accreditation certificate that Jack received. We got a lot of good training out of this. The annual appeal is going out tomorrow. There are about 1400 letters. The Fundraising Committee suggests this process along with focusing on major donors, their packets will go out tomorrow too.

Chris asked for a motion regarding the transfer of stock and how there is a need for more info by the company. They need proof of corporate signing authority and a letter authorizing the sale and liquidation of the stock.

There was a motion by Evanne Hunt authorizing Scott and Chris as signing authorities and to give them authority to authorize them to liquidate stock and transfer it to TPE. Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Land Protection Committee

Final Approval of Meinert Land Donation – Prairie Bluff Chapter

Rich Henderson gave an update on the small but high quality remnant that the Prairie Bluff chapter has been working on for 30 years. TPE will be covering some of the costs and legal defense will be coming from the chapter. The NIPE knows about this and is supportive. There may be a few closing costs that the chapter will cover.

There was a motion by Jerry Newman for Final Approval of the Meinert Land Donation. Alice Mirk seconded it. The motion passed.

Initial Approval of Van Haren Planned Giving Land Donation – Empire-Sauk

Rich Henderson gave a report regarding the project. It is in the Erbe grassland area. This is a new process to approve an estate gift along with holding the property. This is an initial approval and things may change in time. We are supporting taking on the project as proposed as it fits our criteria.

There was a motion by Evanne Hunt for Initial Approval of the Van Haren Planned Giving Land Donation. Rich Henderson seconded it. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Accreditation items – DISCUSS

- USDA conservation payments with TPE and PE Trust

Chris gave a report and update. We looked closer at USDA rules regarding payments and paragraph 176, which describes related entities. This paragraph shows that one entity can not be too closely related to another entity and this may be the case with TPE and the Trust. We have two tax id numbers but are related organizations. There is a proposal in the current farm bill to increase the cap to \$100,000 or \$250,000. The Finance Committee, The Trust, Jack Kussmaul, and the USDA will consider this further. The Executive Committee will report back to the Board on this.

- Amendment to Trust Agreement for PE Trust's charitable status

We want to show separation between the Boards and so we may need to explain administratively how TPE oversees the trust. There is a need for a trustee development procedure. There may be a recommendation for a change to the trust agreement. If so, this will be presented to the TPE Board in December.

NEW BUSINESS

We will need to propose a slate of 2019 Board meetings. Chris will take a look at dates.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rich Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the board meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Rising
Communications Coordinator

2018 Board Meetings:

Tuesday, December 11th 7:00 PM via GoToMeeting