

TPE September Board Meeting
Thu, Sep 20, 2018 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM CDT
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Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Scott Fulton, Caroljean Coventree, Alice Mirk, Jim Rogala, Jim Rachuy Jerry Newman, , Evanne Hunt, Gary Eldred

Staff: Chris Kirkpatrick, Joe Rising

Guests: none

Excused: Jack Kussmaul, Rich Henderson, Deanna Pomije, David Hamel, and Stephen Winter.

2. Adopt Meeting Agenda

3. Approve Consent Agenda – ACTION

- Accept minutes of Board & committee meetings

There was a motion by Jim Rachuy to accept the minutes of Board & committee meetings. Jim Rogala seconded it. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report – Alice Mirk

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

Alice Mirk reported on the statement and money available for operations that there are more dollars available through release from restrictions and the 5% admin fee from restricted income. Also the summer renewals have been coming in and are not reflected in this report. Things look standard for this time of year. We have over 7 million in land and assets, as the easements in the future are expensed and not added to the land assets. It was clarified that some past easement are included in the land and improvement assets. The income graphs are looking good, the Compass Club is doing well. We are paying for extra things within web-hosting that we are not using or have not started using it yet, this is about \$1,000. So expenses are over budget due to year to year rises in costs. The finance committee is keeping an eye on this. Travel and gas is up due to land acquisition meetings around the state, and maintenance on the car is also needed. Printing cost are up do to layout of the newsletter. Chapters are all doing well, overall there was an increase of \$17,000 in land management costs, which Winnie believe is a good sign of implementing our main mission area.

There was a motion by Gary Eldred to accept the August 2018 Treasurers Report. Evanne Hunt seconded it. The motion passed.

5. President's Report – Scott Fulton

- Deferred to Strategic Discussion

6. Executive Director Report – Chris Kirkpatrick – UPDATE

Chris reported on his work with Gathering Waters and re-authorizing the WI DNR Stewardship Program. Currently the WI DNR has included re-authorizing the Stewardship program in its 2019 budget request to the Governor's office. Chris is very busy with all our land protection activities through the end of the year. Things are coming together for 3 conservation easements and two land donations through the end of the year. Staff is also sending out one more round of renewals and is beginning to prepare for the year end appeal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Land Protection Committee

- Initial Approval of Meinert Land Donation – Prairie Bluff Chapter

Chris Kirkpatrick reported that Nick Faessler has been working on the Meinert Prairie for 30 years. It is a property located in Illinois, and criteria-wise the remnant is small but quite diverse. The species list is fairly diverse and the Prairie Bluff Chapter is in support of accepting the donation of land and pay for the surveying costs. Their attorney is awaiting our motion in order to move forward. It is expected to come back to the Board for final approval before the end of 2018.

There was a motion by Jim Rachuy for Initial Approval of the Meinert Land Donation. Jerry Newman seconded it. The motion passed.

- Final Approval of Skinner Prairie Land Donation – Prairie Bluff Chapter

This Skinner Prairie is a remnant of a larger prairie owned by the Freymiller's. Initial approval for this project was given in July 2014. They are now seeking to donate the property to TPE with a no hunting restriction and for a pet cemetery to be maintained. This is a nice prairie with good documentation and history. Due to the no hunting there cannot be a stewardship money involved. This stipulation does not impede the chapter's ability to steward the property.

There was a motion by Jerry Newman for Final Approval of the Skinner Prairie Land Donation. Gary Eldred seconded it. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Accreditation Statement of Findings – REVIEW

The Commission gave us some high marks for our manuals and volunteer approach. Chris Kirkpatrick reported on the questions of what we are being asked to do in the next five years or prior to our accreditation renewal. We need to be careful with how we receive cash for land purchases, and how to specify that there is no and not quid quo pro from the donor in return for

TPE's purchase of their property. We need language in the acknowledgment letter to more clearly state how the transaction came about. Moreover we should simply avoid this type of situation and if so, clarify that the money donated went towards the land that we purchased from the donor.

The trust is holding property for the USDA conservation programs. The question is if there is enough separation between TPE and PE Trust. Currently PE Trust can't enroll more land in the USDA conservation program until there is a determination that we are complying with their rules. Chris will get a copy of the relevant rules from the State of WI USDA.

Item 5 may have been inconsistent with IRS Rules. It seems that it would be easiest to consider having TPE's Board approve the Trustees. Legal defense costs are now part of our standard operations in giving final approval for land transaction projects. Staff will continue to improve implementing this as part of all projects and be sure it is agreed to by the chapter. This should be part of the process and the land protection committee should adopt this prior to recommending final approval.

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Leadership Retreat – Discussion

Scott Fulton spoke to his presentation that was sent to all Leadership Retreat attendees beforehand. We want to begin the process to engage the chapters in the strategic planning process directly from the bottom up. We are focused on engaging people in the process itself and getting people together. The next step is for our chapter visits by Chris Kirkpatrick and Scott Fulton to engage the chapters in a facilitated discussion in the strategic issues for the specific chapters. We will have a really good representation with younger people and people new to the process at the Leadership Retreat. We have also invited landowner members to represent that aspect of TPE as well. We should make an effort to hear the voices and concerns of our landowner members. We don't know how we will respond to these as yet in our strategic planning process but it is agreed it is an important topic to be considered and addressed.

10. Adjourn TPE Business Meeting for Strategic Discussion

Jim Rogala moved to adjourn the business meeting and Gary Eldred seconded it. The motion carried and the board meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Rising

Communications Coordinator

2018 Board Meetings:

Leadership Retreat September 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