

REAVES UTILITY INCOME FUND  
Form DEFR14A  
March 14, 2006

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.    )

Filed by the Registrant ☒

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant ☐

Check the appropriate box:

- ☐ Preliminary Proxy Statement  
☐ **Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**  
☒ Definitive Proxy Statement  
☐ Definitive Additional Materials  
☐ Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

REAVES UTILITY INCOME FUND  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- ☒ No fee required.  
☐ Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
- |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) | Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:                                                                                                                                   |
| (2) | Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:                                                                                                                                      |
| (3) | Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined): |
| (4) | Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:                                                                                                                                                  |
| (5) | Total fee paid:                                                                                                                                                                                   |
- ☐ Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.  
☐ Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
- |     |                                               |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------|
| (1) | Amount Previously Paid:                       |
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| (3) | Filing Party:                                 |
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REAVES UTILITY INCOME FUND

1625 Broadway, Suite 2200

Denver, Colorado 80202

(800) 644-5571

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON April 12, 2006

To the Shareholders of Reaves Utility Income Fund:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the Meeting ) of the Reaves Utility Income Fund (the Fund ) will be held at the offices of the Fund, 1625 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, Colorado 80202, on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., for the following purposes:

1. Shareholders of the Fund are being asked to elect two (2) Trustees of the Fund, to be elected by the holders of the Fund's Common Shares and holders of its Auction Market Preferred Stock ( Preferred Shares ), voting separately (PROPOSAL 1); and
2. To consider and vote upon such other matters, including adjournments, as may properly come before said Meeting or any adjournments thereof.

These items are discussed in greater detail in the attached Proxy Statement.

The close of business on February 28, 2006, has been fixed as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting and any adjournments thereof.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT REGARDLESS OF THE SIZE OF YOUR HOLDINGS IN THE FUND. WHETHER OR NOT YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE COMPLETE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD AND RETURN IT PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, WHICH NEEDS NO POSTAGE IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

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Edmund J. Burke  
President

March 8, 2006

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REAVES UTILITY INCOME FUND

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

April 12, 2006

PROXY STATEMENT

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation of proxies by the Board of Trustees of the Reaves Utility Income Fund (the Fund ) for use at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Fund, 1625 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, Colorado 80202, and at any adjournments thereof (the Meeting ). A Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders and proxy card accompany this Proxy Statement, all of which are first being mailed to shareholders on or about March 8, 2006.

In addition to the solicitation of proxies by mail, officers of the Fund and officers and regular employees of the Bank of New York ( BNY ), the Fund's transfer agent, ALPS Mutual Fund Services, Inc. ( ALPS ) the Fund's administrator and affiliates of BNY, ALPS or other representatives of the Fund also may solicit proxies by telephone, Internet or in person. The expenses incurred in connection with preparing the Proxy Statement and its enclosures will be paid by ALPS. ALPS will also reimburse brokerage firms and others for their expenses in forwarding solicitation materials to the beneficial owners of its shares.

THE FUND'S MOST RECENT ANNUAL REPORT, INCLUDING AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2005 IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST, WITHOUT CHARGE, BY WRITING TO THE FUND AT 1625 BROADWAY, SUITE 2200, DENVER, COLORADO 80202 OR BY CALLING THE FUND AT 800-644-5571 OR VIA THE INTERNET AT WWW.UTILITYINCOMEFUND.COM.

If the enclosed proxy is properly executed and returned in time to be voted at the Meeting, the Shares (as defined below) represented thereby will be voted FOR the proposals listed in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting of Shareholders, unless instructions to the contrary are marked thereon, and in the discretion of the proxy holders as to the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the Meeting. Any shareholder who has given a proxy has the right to revoke it at any time prior to its exercise either by attending the Meeting and voting his or her shares in person or by submitting a letter of revocation or a later-dated proxy to the Fund at the above address prior to the date of the Meeting.

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If a quorum is not present at the Meeting, or if a quorum is present at the Meeting but sufficient votes to approve any of the proposed items are not received, the persons named as proxies may propose one or more adjournments of such Meeting to permit further solicitation of proxies. A shareholder vote may be taken on one or more of the proposals in this Proxy Statement prior to such adjournment if sufficient votes have been received for approval and it is otherwise appropriate. Any such adjournment will require the affirmative vote of a majority of those shares present at the Meeting in person or by proxy. If a quorum is present, the persons named as proxies will vote those proxies which they are entitled to vote FOR any proposal in favor of such adjournment and will vote those proxies required to be voted AGAINST any proposal against such adjournment.

The close of business on February 28, 2006, has been fixed as the Record Date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting and all adjournments thereof.

The Fund has two classes of capital stock: Common Shares ( Common Shares ) and Auction Rate Cumulative Preferred Shares, ( Preferred Shares ) (together with the Common Stock, the Shares ). The holders of Shares are each entitled to one vote for each full share and an appropriate fraction of a vote for each fractional share held. As of the Record Date there were 22,677,000.602 Common Shares and 9,600 Preferred Shares outstanding.

The following table shows, as of the Record Date, the ownership of Common Shares and Preferred Shares by each of the Directors and Executive Officers of the Fund, the Directors and Officers of the Fund as a group and the persons or organizations known to the Fund to be beneficial owners of more than 5% of the Fund's outstanding Common Shares or Preferred Shares.

| Name & Address                                                                                   | Percentage of Shares Held | Total Shares Owned |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Common Shares</b>                                                                             |                           |                    |
| Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated<br>P.O Box 9011<br>Princeton New Jersey 08543 | 56.25%                    | 12,754,833         |
| First Clearing<br>10700 Wheat First Drive<br>Glen Allen, VA 23060                                | 9.79%                     | 2,221,134          |
| A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.<br>One North Jefferson Ave.<br>St. Louis, MO 63103                     | 6.70%                     | 1,520,176          |

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## Preferred Shares

|                                                                                                  |        |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated<br>P.O Box 9011<br>Princeton New Jersey 08543 | 59.96% | 5,756 |
| Pershing LLC<br>One Pershing Plaza<br>Jersey City, NJ 07399                                      | 18.49% | 1,775 |
| National Financial<br>82 Devonshire Street<br>Boston, MA 02109                                   | 10.18% | 977   |
| A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.<br>One North Jefferson Ave.<br>St. Louis, MO 63103                     | 5.35%  | 514   |

In order that your Shares may be represented at the Meeting, you are requested to vote on the following matters:

## PROPOSAL 1: TO ELECT TWO (2) TRUSTEES OF THE FUND

### NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees is divided into three classes, each class having a term of three years. Each year the term of office of one class will expire. Larry W. Papasan and Everett L. Morris have both been nominated by the Board of Trustees for a three-year term to expire at the Fund's 2009 Annual Meeting of Shareholders or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

Under the Fund's Declaration of Trust, Statement of Preferences and the 1940 Act, holders of the Fund's outstanding Preferred Stock, voting as a separate class, are entitled to elect two Trustees, and holders of the Fund's outstanding Common Stock and Preferred Stock, voting as a single class, are entitled to elect the remaining Trustees, subject to the provisions of the 1940 Act and the Fund's Declaration of Trust, Statement of Preferences and By-Laws. The holders of the Fund's outstanding Preferred Stock would be entitled to elect the minimum number of additional Trustees that would represent a majority of the Trustees if dividends on the Fund's Preferred Stock are in arrears for two full years. No dividend arrearages exist at this time. Everett L. Morris a nominee for election as Trustee at the Meeting will be elected solely by the holders of the Fund's Preferred Stock

Unless authority is withheld, it is the intention of the persons named in the proxy to vote the proxy FOR the election of the Nominees named above. Each nominee has indicated that she/he has consented to serve as a Trustee if elected at the Meeting. If a designated Nominee declines or otherwise becomes unavailable for election, however, the proxy confers discretionary power on the persons named therein to vote in favor of a substitute nominee or nominees.

## INFORMATION ABOUT TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

Set forth in the table below are the Nominees and existing Trustees for election to the Board of the Fund and officers, including information relating to their respective positions held with the Fund, a brief statement of their principal occupations during the past five years and other directorships, if any.

| Name, Position(s), Address(1)<br>and Age    | Term of Office and<br>Length of Time Served(2) | Principal Occupation(s)<br>During Past Five Years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Non-Interested<br/>Trustees/Nominees</b> |                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Mary K. Anstine<br>Trustee<br>Age: 65       | Since 2004*                                    | Trustee/Director of the Denver Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America; Colorado Uplift Board; AV Hunter Trust; Financial Investors Trust; Financial Investors Variable Insurance Trust; and a member of the Advisory Board for the Girl Scouts Mile Hi Council. Formerly President & Chief Executive Officer of HealthONE; a member of the American Bankers Association Trust; Executive Committee & Vice President of First Interstate Bank of Denver. |
| Michael F. Holland<br>Trustee<br>Age: 61    | Since 2004*                                    | Chairman of Holland & Company. Director, Chairman of the Board, President and Treasurer of Holland Series Fund, Inc. Chairman of the Board and Trustee of State Street Master Funds. Trustee of the China Fund.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Robert E. Lee (3)+<br>Trustee<br>Age: 70    | Since 2004***                                  | Director of the following: Storage Technology Corporation; ING Financial Services North America; Meredith Corporation and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

|                                                                    |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Larry Papasan<br/>Trustee<br/>Age: 65</p>                       | <p>Since 2004**</p>  | <p>Source Capital Corporation. Trustee of Financial Investors Trust and Financial Investors Variable Investment Trust. .<br/>Former Director, Chairman and President of Smith &amp; Nephew, (orthopedic division). A member of the Board of the Plough Foundation, a Trustee of First Funds and a Trustee of Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.</p>                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Interested Trustees(3)</b></p>                               |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>W. Robert Alexander(4)<br/>Chairman and Trustee<br/>Age: 78</p> | <p>Since 2004***</p> | <p>Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of ALPS until September 30, 2005. Former Vice Chairman of First Interstate Bank of Denver, responsible for Trust, Private Banking, Retail Banking, Cash Management Services and Marketing. A member of the Board of Trustees of the Hunter and Hughes Trusts. Chairman of Financial Investors Trust, Clough Global Allocation Fund, Clough Global Equity Fund and Financial Investors Variable Insurance Trust.</p> |
| <p>Everett L. Morris (5)+<br/>Trustee<br/>Age: 77</p>              | <p>Since 2004**</p>  | <p>Director/Trustee of the Phoenix Funds, a Director of Duff &amp; Phelps Utilities Tax-Free Income Fund and Duff &amp; Phelps Utilities and Corporate Bond Trust. Former Vice President and Director of W.H. Reaves and Co., Inc.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Officers</b></p>                                             |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>Edmund J. Burke<br/>President<br/>Age: 44</p>                   | <p>Since 2004</p>    | <p>President and Director of ALPS.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|                                                           |            |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jeremy O. May<br>Treasurer<br>Age: 35                     | Since 2004 | Managing Director of ALPS.                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tané T. Tyler<br>Secretary<br>Age: 40                     | Since 2004 | General Counsel of ALPS. Former Vice President and Associate Counsel of OppenheimerFunds, Inc. and Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of INVESCO Funds, Group, Inc. |
| Bradley J. Swenson<br>Chief Compliance Officer<br>Age: 33 | Since 2005 | Chief Compliance Officer of ALPS. Former Senior Audit Manager of Janus Capital Group and Senior Internal Auditor for Oppenheimer Funds.                                       |
| Kim Storms<br>Assistant Treasurer<br>Age: 33              | Since 2005 | Director of Fund Administration and Vice President of ALPS.                                                                                                                   |

(1) Address: 1625 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, Colorado 80202, unless otherwise noted.

(2) The Fund commenced operations on February 24, 2004. The Fund's Board of Trustees is divided into three classes, each class serves for a term of three years. Each year the term of office of one class expires and the successors elected to such class serve for a term of three years.

- \* Term expires at the Fund's 2008 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.
- \*\* Term expires at the Fund's 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.
- \*\*\* Term expires at the Fund's 2007 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.
- + Trustees elected solely by holders of Preferred Stock.

(3) Interested person of the Fund as defined in the 1940 Act.

(4) Mr. Alexander is considered to be an interested person because of his affiliation with ALPS which acts as the Fund's sponsor.

(5) Mr. Morris is considered to be an interested person because of his affiliation with Reaves which acts as the Fund's investment advisor.

## **BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SHARES HELD IN THE FUND AND THE FUND COMPLEX FOR EACH TRUSTEE AND NOMINEE FOR ELECTION AS TRUSTEE**

Set forth in the table below is the dollar range of equity securities held in the Fund by each of the Fund's Trustees. Since the Fund is not affiliated or associated with any Fund Complex, the aggregate dollar range of equity securities in the Fund complex beneficially owned by each Trustee and Nominee for election as Trustee is not applicable.

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| Name of Trustee/Nominee | Dollar Range of Equity Securities Held<br>in the Fund(1) (2) |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| W. Robert Alexander     | None                                                         |
| Mary K. Anstine         | None                                                         |
| Michael F. Holland      | \$ 10,001 50,000                                             |
| Robert E. Lee           | None                                                         |
| Everett L. Morris       | Over \$100,000                                               |
| Larry W. Papasan        | \$ 10,001 - \$50,000                                         |

(1) This information has been furnished by each Trustee and Nominee for election as Trustee as of December 31, 2005. Beneficial Ownership is determined in accordance with Section 16a-1(a)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the 1934 Act ).

(2) Ownership amount constitutes less than 1% of the total shares outstanding.

The Fund pays each Trustee not affiliated with ALPS or Reaves or their affiliates, a quarterly retainer of \$3,500 per year plus \$1,500 per meeting attended in person and by telephone, together with the Trustee's actual out-of-pocket expenses relating to their attendance at such meetings. The aggregate remuneration (not including out-of-pocket expenses) paid by the Fund to such Trustees during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005, amounted to \$80,000. During the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005, the Trustees of the Fund met four times. Each Trustee then serving in such capacity attended at least 75% of the meetings of Trustees and of any Committee of which he or she is a member.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The role of the Fund's Audit Committee is to assist the Board of Trustees in its oversight of (i) the quality and integrity of Fund's financial statements, reporting process and the independent audit and reviews thereof; (ii) the Fund's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, its internal controls and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers; (iii) the Fund's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements; and (iv) the independent auditor's qualifications, independence and performance. The Audit Committee is also required to prepare an audit committee report pursuant to the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC ) for inclusion in the Fund's annual proxy statement. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to the Audit Committee Charter (the Charter ) that was most recently reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees on December 13, 2005. The Charter is attached as Appendix A to this Proxy Statement. As set forth in the Charter, management is responsible for maintaining appropriate systems for accounting and internal control, and the Fund's independent accountants are responsible for planning and carrying out proper audits and reviews. The independent accountants are ultimately accountable to the Board of Trustees and to the Audit Committee, as representatives of shareholders. The independent accountants for the Fund report directly to the Audit Committee.

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In performing its oversight function, at a meeting held on December 13, 2005, the Audit Committee reviewed and discussed with management of the Fund and the independent accountants, Deloitte and Touche LLP ( Deloitte ), the audited financial statements of the Fund as of and for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005, and discussed the audit of such financial statements with the independent accountants.

In addition, the Audit Committee discussed with the independent accountants the accounting principles applied by the Fund and such other matters brought to the attention of the Audit Committee by the independent accountants required by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 61, COMMUNICATIONS WITH AUDIT COMMITTEES, as currently modified or supplemented. The Audit Committee also received from the independent accountants the written disclosures and statements required by the SEC's independence rules, delineating relationships between the independent accountants and the Fund and discussed the impact that any such relationships might have on the objectivity and independence of the independent accountants.

As set forth above, and as more fully set forth in the Charter, the Audit Committee has significant duties and powers in its oversight role with respect to the Fund's financial reporting procedures, internal control systems, and the independent audit process.

The members of the Audit Committee are not, and do not represent themselves to be, professionally engaged in the practice of auditing or accounting and are not employed by the Fund for accounting, financial management or internal control purposes. Moreover, the Audit Committee relies on and makes no independent verification of the facts presented to it or representations made by management or independent verification of the facts presented to it or representations made by management or the Fund's independent accountants. Accordingly, the Audit Committee's oversight does not provide an independent basis to determine that management has maintained appropriate accounting and/or financial reporting principles and policies, or internal controls and procedures, designed to assure compliance with accounting standards and applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, the Audit Committee's considerations and discussions referred to above do not provide assurance that the audit of the Fund's financial statements has been carried out in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or that the financial statements are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Based on its consideration of the audited financial statements and the discussions referred to above with management and the Fund's independent accountants, and subject to the limitations on the responsibilities and role of the Audit Committee set forth in the Charter and those discussed above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Trustees that the Fund's audited financial statements be included in the Fund's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005.

SUBMITTED BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE FUND'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Robert E. Lee, Chairman

Mary K. Anstine

Mike E. Holland

Larry W. Papasan

December 13, 2005

The Audit Committee met two times during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005. The Audit Committee is composed of four of the Fund's independent (as such term is defined by the American Stock Exchange, Inc.'s listing standards (the "AMEX Listing Standards")) Trustees, namely Ms. Mary K. Anstine and Messrs. Mike F. Holland, Robert E. Lee and Larry W. Papasan.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board of Trustees has a Nominating Committee composed of four independent trustees as such term is defined by the AMEX Listing Standards Trustees, namely Ms. Mary K. Anstine and Messrs. Mike F. Holland, Robert E. Lee and Larry W. Papasan. The Nominating Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005. The Nominating Committee is responsible for identifying and recommending to the Board of Trustees individuals believed to be qualified to become Board members in the event that a position is vacated or created. The Nominating Committee will consider Trustee candidates recommended by shareholders. In considering candidates submitted by shareholders, the Nominating Committee will take into consideration the needs of the Board of Trustees, the qualifications of the candidate and the interests of shareholders.

The shareholder recommendation described above must be sent to the Fund's Secretary c/o ALPS Mutual Funds Services, Inc. The Fund's Nominating Committee has not adopted a charter. If a charter is adopted in the future, it will be available at the time on the Fund's website ([www.utilityincomefund.com](http://www.utilityincomefund.com)).

### Other Board Related Matters

The Fund does not require Trustees to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. No Trustees attended the Fund's First Annual Meeting of Shareholders in April 2005.

The following table sets forth certain information regarding the compensation of the Fund's Trustees for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005. Trustees and Officers of the Fund who are employed by ALPS or Reaves receive no compensation or expense reimbursement from the Fund.



**Compensation Table For The Fiscal Period Ended October 31, 2005**

| Name of Person and Position                               | Aggregate Compensation Paid From the Fund* |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| W. Robert Alexander,<br>Chairman of the Board and Trustee | None                                       |
| Mary K. Anstine,<br>Trustee                               | \$ 20,000                                  |
| Michael F. Holland,<br>Trustee                            | \$ 20,000                                  |
| Robert E. Lee,<br>Trustee                                 | \$ 20,000                                  |
| Everett L. Morris,<br>Trustee                             | None                                       |
| Larry Papasan,<br>Trustee                                 | \$ 20,000                                  |

\* Represents the total compensation paid to such persons during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005, by the Fund. The Fund is not a member or affiliate of any Fund Complex.

**REQUIRED VOTE**

The election of each of the listed nominees for Trustee of the Fund requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a plurality of the votes cast by the holders of Shares represented at the Meeting, if a quorum is present.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, INCLUDING THE NON-INTERESTED TRUSTEES, UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE COMMON AND PREFERRED SHAREHOLDERS VOTE FOR THE ELECTION OF EACH NOMINEE.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Deloitte and Touche ( Deloitte ), LLP 555 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 36<sup>th</sup> Floor, Denver, CO 80202, has been selected to serve as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm for the Fund's fiscal year ending October 31, 2006. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP acted as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2004. The Fund knows of no direct financial or material indirect financial interest of Deloitte in the Fund. A representative of Deloitte will not be present at the Meeting, but will be available by telephone and will have an opportunity to make a statement, if asked, and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.



For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005, Deloitte has represented to the Fund that it performed no non-audit services to the Fund, the investment adviser or ALPS or any affiliates thereof that provides services to the Fund. During and for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005, Deloitte billed the Fund \$25,000 for audit fees related to the audit of the Fund's annual financial statements and non-recurring services that are normally provided by the accountant in connection with the initial offering of Common Shares and each series of Preferred Shares of the Fund.

The Fund's Audit Committee Charter requires that the Audit Committee pre-approve all audit and non-audit services to be provided by the auditors to the Fund, and all non-audit services to be provided by the auditors to the Fund's investment adviser and service providers controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Fund's investment adviser (affiliates) that provide on-going services to the Fund (a Covered Services Provider), if the engagement relates directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund. The Audit Committee may delegate its responsibility to pre-approve any such audit and permissible non-audit services to the Chairman of the Audit Committee, and the Chairman must report to the Audit Committee, at its next regularly scheduled meeting after the Chairman's pre-approval of such services, his decision(s). The Audit Committee may also establish detailed pre-approval policies and procedures for pre-approval of such services in accordance with applicable laws, including the delegation of some or all of the Audit Committee's pre-approval responsibilities to other persons (other than the Adviser or the Fund's officers). Pre-approval by the Audit Committee of any permissible non-audit services is not required so long as: (i) the aggregate amount of all such permissible non-audit services provided to the Fund, the Adviser and any Covered Services Provider constitutes not more than 5% of the total amount of revenues paid by the Fund to its independent auditors during the fiscal year in which the permissible non-audit services are provided; (ii) the permissible non-audit services were not recognized by the Fund at the time of the engagement to be non-audit services; and (iii) such services are promptly brought to the attention of the Audit Committee and approved by the Audit Committee or the Chairman prior to the completion of the audit. All of the audit, audit-related and tax services described above for which Deloitte billed the Fund fees for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2005 were pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

#### THE INVESTMENT ADVISER AND ADMINISTRATOR

W. H. Reaves & Company is the Fund's Adviser and its business address is 10 Exchange Place, Jersey City, New Jersey 07302.

ALPS is the administrator of the Fund and its business address is 1625 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, Colorado 80202.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

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Section 16(a) of the 1934 Act and Section 30(h) of the 1940 Act, and the rules thereunder, require the Fund's officers and Trustees, officers and Directors of the Adviser, affiliated persons of the Adviser, and persons who own more than 10% of a registered class of the Fund's Shares, to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC and the AMEX and to furnish the Fund with copies of all Section 16(a) forms they file. Based solely on the Fund's review of the copies of such forms it receives, the Fund believes that during the calendar year ended 2005, the initial statement of beneficial ownership of securities of Mr. Louis Henry Paternoster, officer of Reaves, Erin E. Douglas, former Secretary of the Fund, Tané T. Tyler, Secretary of the Fund, William Hamlin Reaves, officer of Reaves, Thomas Russell Williams, officer of Reaves and William Avrum Ferer, officer of Reaves, was not filed within ten days after the event by which the individuals became a reporting person. The initial statements of beneficial ownership of securities for the above referenced individuals have since been filed with the SEC.

### BROKER NON-VOTES AND ABSTENTIONS

The affirmative vote of a plurality of votes cast for each Nominee by the holders entitled to vote for a particular Nominee is necessary for the election of a Nominee. However, for the approval of the existing investment advisory agreement, an affirmative vote of a majority (as defined in the 1940 Act) of votes cast is necessary.

For the purpose of approving the existing advisory agreement and electing Nominees, abstentions or broker non-votes will not be counted as votes cast and will have no effect on the result of the election. Abstentions or broker non-votes, however, will be considered to be present at the Meeting for purposes of determining the existence of a quorum.

Shareholders of the Fund will be informed of the voting results of the Meeting in the Fund's Semi-Annual Report dated April 30, 2006.

### OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING

The Trustees of the Fund do not intend to present any other business at the Meeting, nor are they aware that any shareholder intends to do so. If, however, any other matters, including adjournments, are properly brought before the Meeting, the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy will vote thereon in accordance with their judgment.

### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

All proposals by shareholders of the Fund, which are intended to be presented at the Fund's next Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held in the first calendar quarter 2007, must be received by the Fund for consideration for inclusion in the Fund's Proxy Statement and proxy relating to that meeting no later than October 1, 2006. There are

additional requirements regarding proposals of shareholders, and a shareholder contemplating submission of a proposal is referred to Rule 14a-8 under the 1934 Act.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROXIES BE RETURNED PROMPTLY. SHAREHOLDERS WHO DO NOT EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING ARE THEREFORE URGED TO COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE-PAID ENVELOPE.

APPENDIX A

**REAVES UTILITY INCOME FUND**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

**February 20, 2004**

ORGANIZATION

There shall be a committee of the Board of Trustees of the Reaves Utility Income Fund (the "Trust") to be known as the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall be composed of at least three members, comprised solely of Trustees who are independent of the management of the Trust and are free of any relationship that would interfere with their exercise of independent judgment as a committee member. Each member of the Audit Committee must be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including the Trust's balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement or will become able to do so within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment to the Audit Committee. Additionally, at least one member of the Audit Committee must have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or any other comparable experience or background which results in the individual's financial sophistication, including being or having been a chief executive officer, chief financial officer, or other senior officer with financial oversight responsibilities. The Audit Committee shall meet on a regular basis and is empowered to hold special meetings as circumstances require. The Audit Committee shall have the resources and authority appropriate to discharge its responsibilities, including the authority to retain special counsel and other experts or consultants at the expense of the Trust.

INDEPENDENCE

A Trustee will be considered independent so long as:

Neither the Trustee, his/her spouse, any of his/her minor children, children residing in the Trustee's home or entity controlled by the Trustee, receives any compensation from the Trust other than in the Trustee's capacity as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Trust or of any committee of the Board; and

The Trustee is not an "interested person" as defined in Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Audit Committee shall provide assistance to the Board of Trustees in fulfilling their

responsibility relating to accounting, reporting practices of the Trust and the quality and integrity of the financial reports of the Trust. In so doing, it is the responsibility of the Audit Committee to maintain free and open means of communication between the Trustees, the independent auditors and the financial management of the Trust.

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The function of the Audit Committee is oversight; it is management's responsibility to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal control, and the auditor's responsibility to plan and carry out a proper audit.

The principal objectives of the Audit Committee are to

oversee the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices, its internal controls and, as appropriate, the internal controls of certain service providers;

oversee the quality and objectivity of the Trust's financial statements and the independent audit thereof; and

act as liaison between the Trust's independent auditors and the full Board of Trustees.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Audit Committee believes its policies and procedures should remain flexible, in order to best react to changing conditions and to ensure to the Trustees and shareholders that the accounting and reporting practices of the Trust are in accordance with all requirements and are of the highest quality.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Audit Committee will:

Assist the Board of Trustees in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for the quality and integrity of the accounting, auditing and reporting practices of the Trust.

Recommend the selection, retention or termination of the auditors and, in connection therewith, to evaluate, upon receipt of a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the auditors and the Trust's adviser or other members of management, the independence of the auditors in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), including whether the auditors provide any consulting services to the manager, and to receive the auditors' specific representations as to their independence.

Be directly responsible for the compensation and oversight of the work of the Trust's auditors, including resolution of disagreements between Trust management and the auditors regarding financial reporting.

Pre-approve, or establish pre-approval policies and procedures concerning, the following:

- (1) all audit and permitted non-audit services to be provided to the Trust; and
- (2) all permitted non-audit services to be provided by the Trust's auditors to its investment adviser and to entities controlling, controlled by or under common control with the adviser that provide ongoing services to the Trust, if the services related directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Trust, except that de minimis non-audit services, may, to the extent permitted by applicable law, be approved prior to completion of the audit.

Meet with the Trust's independent auditors, including private meetings, as necessary (i) to review the arrangements for and scope of the annual audit and any special audits; (ii) to discuss any matters of concern relating to the Trust's financial statements, including any adjustments to such statements recommended by the auditors, or other results of said audit(s); (iii) to consider the auditors' comments with respect to the Trust's financial policies, procedures and internal accounting controls and management's responses thereto.

Ensure that the Board is fully informed about any findings or recommendations of the auditors.

Receive reports by the auditors required to be provided by the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Receive the reports of management required by SEC Rule 30b-2(b) and applicable law.

Consider the effect upon the Trust of any changes in accounting principles or practices proposed by management or the auditors.

Review the fees charged by the auditors for audit and non-audit services.

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Establish procedures for the receipt and handling of complaints regarding accounting, internal control or auditing matters, which procedures shall provide for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Trust of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

Investigate improprieties or suspected improprieties in fund operations.

Report its activities to the full Board of Trustees on a regular basis and to make such recommendations with respect to the above and other matters as the Audit Committee may deem necessary or appropriate.

Review this Charter at least annually and recommend any changes to the full Board of Trustees.

REAVES UTILITY INCOME FUND

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The undersigned hereby appoints Edmund J. Burke and Jeremy O. May, and each of them, attorneys and proxies of the undersigned, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to represent the undersigned and to vote on behalf of the undersigned all shares of Reaves Utility Income Fund (the Fund) which the undersigned is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of the Fund to be held at the offices of the Fund, 1625 Broadway, Suite 2200, Denver, Colorado 80202 on Wednesday, April 12, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., and at any adjournments thereof. The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the Notice of Meeting and Proxy Statement and hereby instructs said attorneys and proxies to vote said shares as indicated herein. In their discretion, the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the Meeting.

A majority of the proxies present and acting at the Meeting in person or by substitute (or, if only one shall be so present, then that one) shall have and may exercise all of the power and authority of said proxies hereunder. The undersigned hereby revokes any proxy previously given.

This proxy, if properly executed, will be voted in the manner directed by the undersigned shareholder. If no direction is made, this proxy will be voted FOR Proposal No. 1 in the discretion of the proxy holder as to any other matter that may properly come before the Meeting. Please refer to the Proxy Statement for a discussion of Proposal No. 1.

PLEASE VOTE, DATE AND SIGN ON REVERSE AND RETURN PROMPTLY IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

Please sign this proxy exactly as your name(s) appear(s) in the records of the Fund. If joint owners, either may sign. Trustees and other fiduciaries should indicate the capacity in which they sign, and where more than one name appears, a majority must sign. If a corporation, this signature should be that of an authorized officer who should state his or her title.

PLEASE MARK YOUR VOTE WITH AN X

To elect two (2) Trustees of the Fund:

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To Elect (2) Trustees of the Fund:

Common and Preferred Shares Only

(1) Larry W. Papasan

For  
Nominee

Withhold  
Authority

Preferred Shares Only

(1) Everett L. Morris

For All  
Nominees

Withhold  
For  
Except

All

REAVES UTILITY INCOME FUND

Please be sure to sign and date this proxy.

Signature:  
Co-owner:

Date:  
Date: