

Summary 01/19/2011
7PM
Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange
CRERPA Office
455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, CT

Attendees:

Gregg Mirando – Clinton Land Trust
Judy Preston – Old Saybrook Land Trust
Kristen Elliot Leas – Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
Tom Elliot – Westbrook Land Trust
Cindy Sullivan – Haddam Land Trust
Gail Reynolds – Haddam Land Trust
Melvin Woody – Ct River Land Trust
Margot Burns – CRERPA
Rob Cardeiro - LTA
Tom Worthley – UConn, Haddam Land Trust
Rob Rocks – Forester, CT DEP
Stanford Brainerd – Lynde Point Land Trust

For the January meeting the Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange (LTE) was visited by Rob Rocks, CT DEP Service Forester for Middlesex County, Tom Worthley, UConn Extension Forester, and Rob Cardeiro, Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Northeast Field Representative. Keith Ross from the New England Forestry Foundation was to present on the New England Conservation Easement Aggregation Project but was unable to attend because of the weather. He will be coming to the next meeting.

Rob presented *Forest Stewardship Planning for Land Trusts* and discussion focused on: forest management plans as stewardship plans; prioritizing and taking responsibility for the present and future health of your open space and community assets; the need for goals, objectives, inventory, mapping, potential hazards, and action steps within the plan; the need to actually carry out the action steps and the plan; how the forest management plan needs to reflect conservation easements and conservation easements need to reflect what you would like in the forest management plan; and how plans transcend board membership. Four handouts were provided: *Forest Stewardship Planning Mapping Landowner Objectives* (available on LTE web site); *Spend a Half Day in Your Woods with a Professional Forester* (available on LTE web site); *Forest Management Funding Opportunity Available Through USDA*, and *Division of Forestry Service Forestry Areas*.

Tom Worthley commented on the Reactions to Community Engagement Grant and the New England States' Regional Application for the USFS Competitive Grant. The NE States' Regional Application is an effort by New England State Foresters to apply for a USFS Competitive Grant. Two proposals were submitted by Bill Labich, the regional conservationist working through Highstead that the LTE and

CRERPA has been working with in relation to the Wildland and Woodland initiative, to the project through Alec Giffen of the Maine Forest Service that included the LTE as one of the New England based regional collaborations that would contribute and be part of the collaborative effort to help redesign how foresters and conservationists reach out and work with private forest land owners. The two proposals can be found on the LTE website and will probably change substantially if the proposal is accepted. Early leanings are that collaborations that cross State boundaries would be the first to be considered. These proposals include a match that can be met through in kind service. When looking at the two proposals consider the following.

The two are similar in the following ways:

- Both promote peer to peer networks
- Both will try to increase forest management and conservation actions and awareness of options
- Both have six-month discussion periods in the first year during which SFFI, UMass, State Foresters, State Conservationists, and regional conservation partnerships, can discuss and choose the strategies per landowner group that they will pursue and evaluate for their regions
- Both do not include Maine partnerships (per Alec's request).

The two drafts are different in the following ways:

- Number of partnerships: A includes 9; B includes 7
- Context: A is based on partnership-regions; B on the Keeping Forests as Forests Pilot Project regions that have participating partnerships
- Keystone/Coverts Programs: A includes them; B does not.
- Funding for partners: A provides \$20,000 per partner; B provides about \$20,000 per Pilot Region that works out to \$10,000 per partnership
- Total annual funding request: A asks for \$341,000; B asks for \$160,000

Rob Cardeiro of the LTA was introduced. He will be coming to the next meeting to hear from all of you about your current needs as an individual land trust, what you hope to get out of the LTE, and how you think the LTA can help.

The New England Cottontail project was discussed and the summary of the first field day held on Dec. 2nd. The summary can be found on the LTE website.

Last meeting a marketing workshop with Judy Anderson was discussed. Judy has offered to do a conference call with the group to discuss how she could construct a training workshop that would best meet the needs of the LTE. The Connecticut Forest & Park Association's Walk Ct Program and the *Connecticut Farm Energy Program Energy Best Management Practices Guide* were briefly presented.

The next meeting of the LTE will be held Wednesday, March 16th, 7pm, CRERPA.