Renewal of Accreditation

A PRESENTATION FOR ACCREDITED LAND TRUST BOARDS

Why should we renew?

• Continue to strengthen our organization and foster public trust
• Help ensure permanence of conservation projects
• Improve systems for making and documenting decisions

Renewal Purpose

• Foster continued implementation of Land Trust Standards and Practices
• Reflect best practices in the field
• Confirm compliance with current standards and how they are interpreted
• Verify action on expectations for improvement
• Identify and evaluate major changes in accredited land trusts
What if we don’t renew?

- If accreditation expires, more costly and time-consuming application to reapply
- Lose discount with Terrafirma RRG
- Might raise questions or concerns from current and potential donors

"When we learned our local conservancy was accredited, it was further confirmation of our choice to trust it to protect our land forever."

-Dick Shuster

Dick and his wife Posy donated a conservation easement to the Leelanau Conservancy (MI) which was accredited in 2008.

Renewal Application Process

- Anticipate Spring and Fall rounds
- Simple online process
  - Registration
  - Pre-Application
  - Application
    - Upload documentation
    - Focus on projects in last five years
Differences in the Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First-Time Process</th>
<th>Renewal Process</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper-based application</td>
<td>Electronic application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-app screening</td>
<td>No pre-app screening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completeness check</td>
<td>No completeness check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicant call to gather more information and determine next steps</td>
<td>None (applicant can contact Commission for clarification of information requests, as needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up Request</td>
<td>Additional Information Request (AIR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Decision (Accredit, Table, Not Accredit)</td>
<td>Commission Decision (Accredit, Conditional Accredit, or Not Accredit) No Table decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Requirements are Different

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First-Time Requirements</th>
<th>Renewal Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current practice/two years</td>
<td>Current practice/five years (since last applied)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expectations for Improvement (EFIs) common</td>
<td>EFIs uncommon – will require corrective action first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must meet key elements/first-time requirements (as described in Requirements Manual)</td>
<td>Must also meet additional elements/at renewal requirements (as described in Requirements Manual)</td>
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What should we budget?

- Registration and accreditation fee
- Staff, board and volunteer time organizing electronic files and uploading them to the application
- Time needed to respond to Commission information requests
Benefits of Accreditation

- Stronger organizations
- Better prepared for perpetuity
- Conservation Defense Insurance discounts
- State requirements
- Donor support

Land Trust Alliance Tools

- The Learning Center: http://learningcenter.lta.org
- Standards and Practices Curriculum
- Training, conferences, online learning and webinars

Commission Resources

- Website: www.landtrustaccreditation.org
- eNewsletter
- Requirements Manual
- Fact sheets
- Webinars and Tutorials
- Commission staff
"The world our land trusts function in doesn't stand still, and neither can we. As we all grow and change, it's critical to the credibility of the land trust movement and to our own organization that we maintain the highest standards and practices through the accreditation process."

Steve Rosenberg
Executive Director – Scenic Hudson, Inc. (NY)
Accredited 2008, Renewed 2014

What are our next steps?

• Are we ready to make a decision?
• Do we need more information?
  – Make assignments
• Review the Application for Renewal & associated documents
• Visit the Renewal section of the Commission website

Thank You!

THE LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR LAND CONSERVATION WORK
AND COMMITMENT TO LAND TRUST STANDARDS AND PRACTICES