

Preparing Baseline Documentation for Your Protected Lands

9:30-12:00, Saturday, December 7, 2013

William Hall Free Library, Cranston, RI

Sponsors: RI Land Trust Council & Land Trust Alliance

Workshop Presenter: Carol Lynn Trocki (401-952-2937 / cltrocki@gmail.com)

Suggested Baseline Documentation Format

Acknowledgements and Signatures (this should be first/last – acknowledging and accepting the document in its entirety)

1. Land Info:

- Owner information
- Parcel Data (plat, lot, acreage, street address)
- Land—general description, current land use
- Conservation Easement Name
- Conservation Easement Information (brief description, reference to book/page where recorded)
- Conservation Values, Uses, and Restrictions (summary as recognized in CE or deed)
- Landuse History (from historic aerial photos or other if known; previous land uses)

2. Purpose of Protection or Use – statement of purpose from land conservation organization (often found in CE or deed)

3. Property Description

- Boundaries - landscape position/surrounding land use
- Topography
- Soils
- Agricultural Values (if appropriate)
- Wetlands/Rivers/Streams
- Water Resources—ground water, watershed
- Flora & Fauna list - wildlife values, natural communities, invasive species, species of conservation concern
- Historic, Educational, Recreational, & Scenic Values (as appropriate)
- Roads & Trails
- Structures/Human disturbance/Alterations

4. Photo Documentation of Parcel

- Listing of Photos—date, photographer (with signature), locations, views
- Photo location map
- Photos—perimeter boundary photos, others

5. Maps for clear depiction of the following:

- Copy of Plat Map
- Copy of Survey Plan (if available)
- Aerial Photograph showing property boundaries, location, etc

- Topography
- Soils
- Wetlands—with disclaimer “not for regulatory use”
- Watersheds
- Other plan maps (context for protection, existing trail system, etc.)
- Nearby protected lands and open space/trails/connectivity

Appendices:

- Preparer's Qualifications
- Recorded Deeds—CE or fee simple
- Recorded survey page
- Exhibits—Metes & Bounds description, Restrictions

Some Helpful Resources

Rhode Island Land and Water Partnership – Online Library
Land Stewardship Resources

<http://www.landandwaterpartnership.org/library.php>

RIDEM Environmental Resources Maps

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/>

Rhode Island Conservation Stewardship Collaborative: Maps to Support the
Work of RI Land Trusts

<http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=87e6b692db834d62bfa0d6609c9fd5db>

Land Trust Alliance Standards & Practices: Standard 11 – Conservation
Easement Stewardship

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/sp/lt-standards-practices07.pdf>

Land Trust Accreditation Commission Guidance Document: Practice 11.B

http://s3.amazonaws.com/conservationtools/s3_files/1083/AccredCom-BaselineGuidance2011sep.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=1NXAG53SXSSG82H0V902&Expires=1386357611&Signature=JG3trqAWvdV7uoPrqArIZFQ33Q0%3D

Land Trust Alliance Publication: Conservation Easement Stewardship

http://iweb.lta.org/Purchase/ProductDetail.aspx?Product_code=CURR_CESTEWARD

Vision Appraisal

<http://www.vgsi.com/vision/Applications/ParcelData/RI/Home.aspx>

RIGIS Historic Aerial Photos

<http://www.edc.uri.edu/rigis/data/imageryBaseMapsEarthCover.html>