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## Chippewa 10% Project

The Chippewa 10% Project takes a multi-faceted approach to improving water quality, wildlife habitat, farm profit and quality of life in the watershed. The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) and the Chippewa River Watershed Project are the lead partners in this effort.

We work with public and private partners in and around the watershed to generate and disseminate information to help farmers and landowners improve land stewardship while maintaining or increasing profitability. We focus on both the ethical and practical approaches to stewardship, with an emphasis on the critical role of perennials and animals on the land.

The Project is in an intense farmer outreach phase. We are connecting with farmers and landowners in targeted areas through one to one meetings, referrals and workshops to get them the tools and information they need to implement profitable conservation measures to improve water quality and habitat.

We believe new markets for locally grown food, especially grass based livestock products can “pull” greater stewardship on the land and that peoples’ desire to connect to the land through their food can provide social capital for farmers to consider implementing greater stewardship values on their farms if those strategies can also be profitable.

Research on the impact of nutrient management and land use on water quality and wildlife habitat in targeted areas is also key component of the Project. This will generate information for farmers and policy makers at the local, state and federal levels.

The success of the Chippewa 10% Project in creating positive land use change will depend on developing strong relationships with farmers, landowners and conservation staff in the watershed. The development of conservation leadership by and for farmers will be critical to lasting change at the landscape level.

More specific information about this initiative can be found on the [LSP Website](#).

We have five key strategies in implementing positive change in the watershed.

- Education to action: providing good, credible information to farmers and landowners is foundational to positive change.
- Farmer outreach and relationship building: reaching out to farmers respectfully and intentionally building relationships can enhance their ability to think and communicate about their farm as a business that provides profit and generates wealth while also providing a good quality of life, wildlife habitat and economic and social vitality to the community.
- Farmer and landowner leadership development: rural areas need farm leaders who value conservation, rural communities and family farm agriculture. Leaders speak out on behalf of farmers and care of the land, while leading stewardship innovation on their farms.

- Developing farmer and landowner networks: networks of farmers and non-operating landowners supporting and learning from each other is an effective way of sharing innovation in land use practices and systems.
- Community outreach and engagement: non-farming community members, outdoor recreationalists, and new markets for stewardship food and renewable energy are key to supporting and rewarding farmers for making positive changes.

## **Chippewa 10% Project Coordinator Role**

The successful candidate will be able to develop an organizing approach to empower farmers, landowners and community members to improve the environmental impact and the profitability of farm and food systems in the watershed. He/she will be able to develop short and medium term work plans framed by specific, achievable goals and objectives in conjunction with the Project Director and/or other team members, and carry forward the implementation of those plans.

This is a full time position, with benefits. A reliable vehicle will be required and mileage will be paid. The Coordinator's office is in Montevideo, Minnesota. While the focus of the position is the work in the Chippewa River Watershed this project's work and outcomes has piqued the interest of many others working for improved stewardship and water quality in agricultural areas. It will serve as a model on successful techniques and approaches to environmental improvement, farm profit and increasing stewardship of agricultural land. It will sometimes require out of the area, occasionally overnight travel.

The Chippewa 10% Project Coordinator reports to LSP's Director of the Community Based Food Systems Program Director, Terry VanDerPol. George Boody, as the key LSP lead on the research, modeling and mapping work, co-leads the Chippewa 10% Project with Terry.

### **Qualifications**

- A strong commitment to improved water quality and stewardship of agricultural land in western Minnesota
- Good written and verbal communication skills
- Experience taking a systems approach to planning and problem solving
- Collaborative planning skills
- Track record of carrying forward a planned body of work to completion
- Ability to develop good working relationships with western Minnesota farmers and landowners
- Basic understanding of food distribution systems, especially as it relates to ramping up local/regional food economies
- Understanding of the agro-ecological environment of prairie and prairie lakes landscapes, especially negative and positive impacts of different agricultural practices.
- Some familiarity with government conservation programs (NRCS/SWCD).
- Ability to develop good working relationships with other public and private conservation leaders.

### **Duties**

1. Coordination
  - Arrange twice-annual meetings with the larger project team
    - Venue and logistics
    - Develop an agenda and meeting plan in consultation with project staff and member leadership

- Secure motel rooms
  - Prep meeting leaders
  - Ongoing communication and relationship building with members of the core team on the research/modeling, public outreach and farmer outreach fronts.
  - Plan with project director, team leaders and Chippewa River Watershed Project, our lead partner in the project.
  - Maintain the internet platform Huddle as an information sharing and communication platform
2. Build LSP's Leadership in stewardship farming
    - Recruit LSP members and help develop LSP leaders through Chippewa 10% Project work
    - Meet and work with Steering Committee
    - Report on activities and outcomes, to supervisor, granting organizations and the public.
    - Provide support to grant writing and reporting activities
    - Participate in LSP's staff activities such as all-staff meetings
  3. Strengthen organizational relationships to achieve program goals
    - Develop relationships and share information with other agricultural conservation leaders
    - Represent the Project at related conferences, trainings and events as assigned by the Project Director
  4. Education
    - Lead planning and implementation of workshop/field day/forum and general public outreach events
    - Generate publicity about activities and outcomes
      - Land Stewardship Letter, LSP's newsletter
      - Area publications
      - Radio
      - LSP website
  5. Farmer outreach and networks
    - Conduct one-to-one outreach meetings with farmers and landowners.
    - Participate/lead in some kitchen table meetings as determined in project planning
    - Participate and lead in selected farmer networks as determined in project planning
  6. Others as assigned by supervisor

To apply for this position please submit a cover letter and resume to LSP's Community Based Food Systems Program Director, Terry VanDerPol, at her e-mail address, [tlvdp@landstewardshipproject.org](mailto:tlvdp@landstewardshipproject.org) by April 23, 2013.