CSC Project Proposal – 2020
Date submitted: December 1, 2019

Project Title: **Host a TerraCorps Member to Assist Land Trusts with Stewardship**

Goal: Host a TerraCorps member (when the program begins in Rhode Island in August 2020) to help land trusts establish systems for monitoring the properties they protect. Specifically, the TerraCorps member will help 12-15 land trusts complete the heavy lift of putting property and conservation easement boundaries for their protected properties in ESRI - GIS system. The TerraCorps member will also coach land trust leaders on the use of the ESRI app the Council is developing for monitoring their protected properties. This project:

- Builds on prior projects the CSC has funded to establish systems that help land trusts improve stewardship of the properties they protect. It also builds on the RI Land Trust Council's (Council) land trust excellence initiatives to help land trusts develop and implement programs to monitor their properties.
- Addresses one of the fundamental stewardship challenges for land trusts and their consultants: knowing where their property boundaries and easement boundaries are in the field so that they can prepare baseline documents and monitor the properties they are protecting.
- Is a systems scale initiative that will benefit many land trusts and improve the collective stewardship capability for protected lands in Rhode Island.
- Enables many smaller land trusts to benefit from the TerraCorps program starting in Rhode Island - including land trusts without the financial and organizational capacity to host a TerraCorps member.
- Employs the increase in organizational capacity made possible by federal funding for TerraCorps to implement systems changes.

Brief Description: Rhode Island Land Trust Council has been working with TerraCorps - a specialized AmeriCorps program for land trusts - to help TerraCorps expand from Massachusetts into Rhode Island starting in August 2020. The Council will host a TerraCorps member in 2020 with skills to help land trusts around the state establish their account on ESRI - GIS system using the Council's group license. The TerraCorps member will help these land trusts delineate and upload boundaries for the properties they own and conservation easements they hold. The TerraCorps member will then coach land trust leaders on how to use "bad Elf" GPS device and an iPad and the ESRI app that is being developed as a CSC project for monitoring protected properties.

Work on a 2019 CSC grant-funded project led ESRI to donate a group GIS license to the Council with the ability for each land trust to have their own log in. The Council, in partnership with Peter August and Greg Bonynge at the URI Environmental Data Center, is also developing an app that works with ESRI so that land trust leaders can use an iPad in the field to find their property boundaries and monitor their properties. The Council has an intern from the 2019 CSC funded project working on this app. The Council is working with 2 land trusts as a pilot to delineate and upload property boundaries into the ESRI system so that we can test the app. The CSC funded Intern Project also enabled the Council to acquire a Bad Elf GPS receiver and iPad in 2019 for

use by land trusts to find property boundaries in the field and monitor their properties. These tools would be used by the TerraCorps member for this project.

Deliverables: The deliverables for this project are:

1. A workshop at the 2020 Land & Water Conservation Summit showcasing the ESRI GIS system and promoting the opportunities it provides for land trusts. This will be initial recruiting of land trusts to participate in this project.
2. RI Land Trust Council applies for and hosts a TerraCorps Member beginning in August 2020 to help land trusts with stewardship.
3. The TerraCorps member will help 12-15 land trusts delineate and upload the boundaries for the properties and conservation easements they protect into the Council's ESRI GIS system. The TerraCorps member will also coach land trust members on how to use the ESRI system and app for monitoring their properties and easements
4. The Council will hold at least one workshop in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021 demonstrating the use of the ESRI GIS system and app for monitoring protected lands.

Timetable and Benchmarks:

February 2020 RILTC submits an application to host a TerraCorps Member

March 2020 Workshop at the Land & Water Conservation Summit to showcase the Council's ESRI GIS system and app for stewardship and to promote land trust interest in using this software and app.

Spring 2020 Recruit a TerraCorps member.

August 2020 Launch the project and begin to help land trusts delineate and upload property and conservation easement boundaries.

Fall 2020 Workshop to showcase the ESRI GIS software and app and train workshop leaders how to use the app for monitoring and stewardship.

Budget:

Amount	Purpose
$ 8,250	RILTC Service Fee for TerraCorps
$ 3,300	Carol Trocki consulting to provide training and coaching for the TerraCorps member on property delineation and uploading in the ESRI GIS system. We expect to recruit a TerraCorps member who has solid experience with ESRI GIS so that the training and coaching will be specifically for property/conservation easement delineation and uploading.
$ 2,100	Mileage for TerraCorps member travel for working with land trusts and the related workshops.
$ 1,200	Computer for TerraCorps member - PC that works with ESRI
$ 1,782	TSNE MissionWorks fiscal sponsor costs

Total $ 16,632

Project Budget Match:
      $ 18,450   TerraCorps funding for TerraCorps Member
      $ 13,920   Supervision - Land Trust Council's Director
      $ 200   Phone line for iPad for using GIS in the field

Total $ 32,570

We will ask land trusts to make a cost share payment for delineating and uploading property boundaries. We will ask for a base of $250 and negotiate additional amount for organizations which require extensive time because of the number of properties they protect and limited existing information digitized for their property boundaries. The funding generated by these cost share payments will go toward the Director's time coordinating and administering this project, recruiting and networking with land trusts and supervising the TerraCorps member.

University of Rhode Island is contributing in-kind support setting up and maintaining the ESRI GIS ARC-GIS software.
ESRI has donated the GIS license for the Council's and land trusts' use of the software.

Payments will be made to the fiscal agent for the project: TSNE MissionWorks. Contact Information is:

      TSNE MissionWorks
      89 South Street, Suite 700
      Boston, MA 02111

Project oversight will be done by: Rupert Friday, Director, RI Land Trust Council