

Watershed Conservation Project Manager

Agency: Midwest River Conservancy (501(c)3)

Location: Midwest U.S. (duty location flexible)

Category: Full time position

Salary: \$50,000.00, limited benefits

Start date: 09/15/2020

Description:

The Midwest River Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c)3 land trust organization dedicated to preserving rivers and surrounding land throughout the Midwest. By connecting local governments and landowners to the resources needed to protect individual tracts of land, the Conservancy is building a grassroots mosaic of protected areas across the Midwest. This is achieved through a combination of local government protections on public areas and private conservation easements.

MWRC is seeking a motivated and passionate aquatic resource professional to oversee the Private Conservation Easement Program (PCEP). The program is designed to assist landowners interested in entering conservation easement agreements with state and federal governments. The program provides technical assistance in designing easements, as well as some grant-based financial assistance to enact agreed-upon conservation measures. The ideal candidate would provide leadership and technical expertise to reinvigorate the existing program. The program manager would be responsible for the following: coordinating our team of Conservation Easement Specialists; consulting on high-profile projects; fundraising campaigns across the Midwest; negotiations with all levels of government; liaison between other NGOs and land trusts. Chiefly, the manager oversees the process of land acquisition/easement creation across all projects and ensures amicable agreements between all parties, while accomplishing both the landowner's and MWRC's goals. This often involves coordinating with sister NGO's less focused on watershed conservation, but who align with the landowner's goals.

Qualifications:

- A four-year degree in business, ecology, wildlife/fisheries science, or related field by date of hire AND have two years of relevant experience. A master's degree may be substituted for one-year of employment experience and is preferred.
- Advanced knowledge of the following: watershed and land conservation Best Management Practices, local/state/federal guidelines for conservation land acquisition and easement creation, landowner rights, effective science communication to the public.
- Demonstrated experience managing multiple projects, budgets, and a medium-sized (<10) staff
- Demonstrated ability to acquire grants and other external funding resources.
- Strong interpersonal skills beneficial to one-on-one meetings with diverse landowners and groups.
- Aptitude developing relationships with public officials and philanthropic funders.
- Experience/comfort leading public meetings with diverse public groups, scientists, stakeholders, and decision-makers.
- Must be able to collaborate effectively with adjacent state/federal/tribal agencies and NGOs.
- A passion and enthusiasm for protecting public natural resources.