



WEST WISCONSIN
LAND TRUST



BAYFIELD
REGIONAL
CONSERVANCY

December 15, 2017

Warm holiday greetings to our conservation friends!

We have an exciting announcement to make and we wanted to make sure our key colleagues, partners, and supporters were the first to hear about a new development that will have a long-lasting impact on land conservation in our region.

After nearly two years of discussions the boards of West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT) and Bayfield Regional Conservancy (BRC) have approved a merger to create a new land conservation organization. After a thorough exploration of our resources, the conservation challenge ahead, and our commitment to in-perpetuity conservation, the board came to the conclusion that a larger, more robust organization was needed for greater impact and long-term sustainability.

This new entity will combine the service areas of both organizations to form a single 20 county service area in western and northwestern Wisconsin. This new land trust will retain the existing BRC office in Bayfield as the northern field office with administrative offices in the existing WWLT location in Menomonie.

The conservation team, to be led by Rick Remington from West Wisconsin will also include Erika Lang, BRC Conservation Director, Jane Anklam, WWLT Northwoods Land Conservation Manager, and Andrew Norman, WWLT Conservation Specialist. These professionals have over 70 years of combined experience in land conservation, land management, and working with individuals and communities to conserve our natural heritage. Mary O'Brien of BRC will serve as the new organization's Communications and Development Director.

A Charter Board comprised of all of the organizations' current board members will govern beginning March 1, 2018 which is the official start date. A permanent Governing Board will be established later in the year. The BRC and WWLT boards include individuals with backgrounds in natural resources, higher education, business and professional services.

The formation of the new organization has already gotten underway, including fundraising for the many integration tasks (including a new name!). Our target for the public launch of the new organization is late April 2018. Bob Fitzwilliam, Executive Director of WWLT will continue to serve in that capacity with a planned retirement in early 2018. A search for an executive director of the new organization will begin shortly.

BRC and West Wisconsin are accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, a national organization, which establishes standards and practices for land trusts to ensure that protection and stewardship of lands and easements are protected forever. Of the 1,000 land trusts nationally, 400 are accredited. The new land trust will retain this national accreditation.

We want to thank the many donors and professional services that helped our organizations navigate this complex initiative. It was hard work and we could not have done it without the generous support and the wise expertise that we were so fortunate to receive. We are extremely excited about the future of this new organization and look forward to your continued partnership as we enter this new era.



Peter Vaughan, President
West Wisconsin Land Trust Board of Directors



Kim Bro, President
Bayfield Regional Conservancy Board of Directors

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