

Wetland Task Force Meeting Agenda - 5.22.2025

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM @ RI City Hall OR Via Zoom -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86316935380?pwd=sgTyM39ft7WKMxmEZE96cpCJTWPhsd.1>

Meeting ID: 863 1693 5380

Passcode: 627023

Wetland Task Force Members and Key Roles

Attended meeting

- Ashley Harris - RI Mayor
- Miles Brainard - RI Community Economic Development
- Thomas Flaherty - Assistant to RI City Manager & Economic Development Director
- Todd Thompson - RI City Manager
- Sarah Hayden - RI Community Engagement Manager
- Randy Hurt - RI Second Ward Council Member
- Tanner Osing - Planning & Zoning
- Missy Gasiorowski - General contractor with Hodge construction with the development
- Hannah Alexander - NTI Representative
- Mike Thoms - Resident
- Nina Struss - River Health & Resiliency Organizer with Prairie Rivers Network
- Tim Pressly - Land owner
- Jon Duyvejonck - Retired Wildlife Biologist (USFWS), Sierra Club
- Kathy Wine - Executive Director at River Action
- **Special Guest:** Alan Branhagen, Natural Land Institute - Executive Director

Agenda

A. Discussion with Alan Branhagen, Natural Land Institute - Executive Director Regarding Conservation Easement with Land Trust

- a. Questions for Alan
 - i.

B. Notes on Conservation Easement from 4.25 Meeting:

- a. **Conservation Easement with land trust** (i.e. Natural Land Institute, Prairie Land Conservancy or Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation)

i. **Process**

1. *The city enters into agreement with land trust (for example, NLI) for conservation easement.*
2. *NLI will go through a check list during site visit(s) to determine costs and baseline assessment for property. Two appraisals are needed to understand the value of the conservation easement.*
3. *NLI will help write a management plan for proper function of the property.*
4. *NLI hires a consultant & legal team for review and development of the conservation easement agreement.*
5. *Estimated time for the entire process (not including creation of a wetland management plan) would be a minimum of 9-month process.*
6. *Once CE is secured, the site is inspected annually in perpetuity to ensure compliance, but the land trust is not responsible for care and maintenance of the site.*

ii. **Considerations**

1. *A wetland management plan is not required, but is strongly suggested and would be the city's responsibility.*
2. *The entire process for CE would potentially take 9 months, but would have to seek out an additional consultant and funds for the wetland management plan.*
3. *No administrative burden to the city, NLI handles all of the legal logistics.*

4. *Fees range from \$7,500 - \$10,000 for the CE (does not include the wetland management plan) and would fall under the city's responsibility.*
5. *Additional partners would be critical to ensure proper site maintenance (i.e. invasive species removal, prescribed burns, etc.) if needed.*
6. *A basic conservation easement (without a management plan) would provide protection in perpetuity, but would still take the same amount of time to secure.*

C. Open Discussion & Questions (if time allows)

D. Next Steps - Suggestions for agenda for next TF meeting on **Wednesday, May 28th at 8:30 AM.**