

Charter for River Raisin Partnership

PREAMBLE

In October 2009, the Legacy Land Conservancy (LLC), the River Raisin Watershed Council (RRWC), the Raisin Valley Land Trust (RVLT), the Stewardship Network (SN), The Nature Conservancy, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation and Storer Camps submitted a proposal to the Department of Environmental Quality (now known as the Department of Natural Resources and Environment - DNRE) for a Non-Point Source pollution grant. This proposal is consistent with the River Raisin Watershed Management Plan (RRWMP), approved by the DNRE in September 2009. The groups listed above agreed that they would work toward achieving the tasks in the proposal, and in implementing others tasks recommended in the RRWMP, regardless of the outcome of the grant proposal. In order to establish a framework for doing so, the partners adopt the following Charter:

CHARGE: The purpose of the River Raisin Partnership is to implement land and water protection and stewardship projects in the River Raisin Watershed, along with associated public outreach, consistent with the RRWMP.

- 1) To serve as a coordinating body for ongoing public and private land and water protection and stewardship efforts, ensuring the highest possible level of cooperation and communication, and least possible amount of duplication and overlap.
- 2) To provide a virtual single point of entry for landowners interested in land and water protection and/or stewardship.
- 3) To serve as a forum for establishing common priorities where feasible, leveraging available public and private resources, facilitating communications between members, and providing a clearer path of entry to citizens seeking information on resources. River Raisin Partnership is advisory in nature.
- 4) To provide technical advice to elected officials on public policy issues relating to land use, land and water protection and stewardship from time to time, as requested.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in River Raisin Partnership shall be open to all organizations that work for the protection and stewardship of land and water resources in the River Raisin basin. Charter members are: River Raisin Watershed Council, Legacy Land Conservancy, Raisin Valley Land Trust, and Stewardship Network.

Other groups may join at any time, upon consensus agreement of the current members.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- River Raisin Partnership will work through its members representing its organization.
- River Raisin Partnership is open to a wide variety of organizations with a commitment to direct land and water protection and stewardship. Membership is voluntary.
- Each River Raisin Partnership member organization is entitled to one vote, although it is anticipated that most business will be accomplished via consensus.

- River Raisin Partnership representatives should be at a senior, or project manager level, or its equivalent, although members are encouraged to involve other staff as needed. By definition, board members or consultants functioning as staff shall be considered senior level.
- River Raisin Partnership recognizes that it may, from time to time, require assistance in order to achieve its desired goals. It is the River Raisin Partnership's intent to utilize staff from its member organizations, and/or student resources assigned to these member organizations, to achieve this work. River Raisin Partnership will not retain independent staff for its efforts.
- River Raisin Partnership will develop an annual work plan for its joint activities. This work plan will be executed under the leadership of River Raisin Partnership members, and all work emanating under the River Raisin Partnership name is subject to the approval of the River Raisin Partnership membership. All River Raisin Partnership members are expected to take responsibility for parts of the work plan, as appropriate to their organizational size and expertise. Task leaders will report to the full group at each meeting. The tasks outlined in the work plan will be concurrent with the goals of the organizations represented by River Raisin Partnership members.
- River Raisin Partnership leadership will be determined in a manner that promotes efficient organization of the group, while ensuring that no single organization dominates the group, or is perceived to control the group or its agenda.
- River Raisin Partnership, as an entity, will not endorse specific ballot initiatives or legislation, although it may serve as a forum for disseminating technical information on the implications of such proposals.
- River Raisin Partnership will seek to coordinate priority areas and project areas between the members, and will encourage the use of jointly accepted technical information as a screen for making land and water protection and stewardship decisions.
- River Raisin Partnership will formalize communications between its members, leading to more effective land and water protection and stewardship.

River Raisin Watershed Council

Raisin Valley Land Trust

Stewardship Network

Legacy Land Conservancy