

Driftless Area Land Conservancy

The Land Trust for Southwest Wisconsin

April 15, 2013

Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation
c/o: Brian D. Nodolf - President
11623 State Road 80
Livingston, WI 53554

Re: Driftless Area Land Conservancy Grant Request

Dear Mr. Nodolf,

Enclosed is Driftless Area Land Conservancy's proposal to the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation entitled: *Helping Forest Landowners Leave a Legacy in Iowa County*. We are very excited to be considered as a potential grantee and respectfully request \$1,500 to assist with our land protection efforts in Iowa County.

As a young organization working in a region with few urban centers, it is critical that we develop and steward positive and productive relationships with individuals, nonprofits, agencies, corporations and foundation partners, like you.

We feel strongly about our role of supporting private landowners and helping them protect their working forestlands. Protecting these properties supports the goals of the individual landowner while also providing benefits to wildlife and local economies for generations to come.

If you have any questions or need additional information with regard to this proposal, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you very much for your consideration in funding our important land protection efforts in Iowa County.

Respectfully yours,

David Clutter
Executive Director
(608) 692-2153
dave@driftlessconservancy.org

338 N. Iowa Street
P.O. Box 323
Dodgeville, WI 53533
608-930-3252

Elmer G Biddick

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Brian D. Nodoff - President
Rachel L. Jordan - Vice-President
Bradley D. Biddick - Secretary/Treasurer

11623 State Road 80 Livingston, WI 53554
Phone (608) 943-6363 Fax (608) 943-6365
www.biddickfoundation.com

Daniel B. Biddick
Peggy J. Biddick
James W. Neuendorf
William R. Warner

GRANT APPLICATION. Due Dates April 15th and November 1st

Date: April 11 2013

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) Driftless Area Land Conservancy

Address 338 N Iowa St PO Box 323

City, State, Zip Dodgeville WI 53533

Phone 608-930-3252

Person Responsible for the Grant David Clutter

Position in the Organization Executive Director

Organization's Purpose Our purpose is to protect the rural landscape and quality of life in southwest Wisconsin. This includes protection of farms, forests, grasslands, wetlands, soils and the natural beauty of the area. These objectives will be accomplished by preserving significant land and scenic areas while fostering an appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural environment.

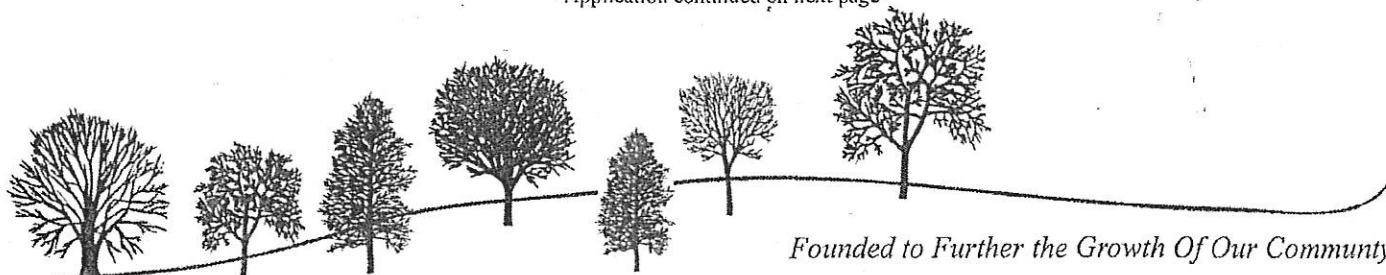
This application must include your organization's latest IRS Letter of Determination showing exemption and public support status. (Not required for units of Government & public schools).

Grant Request \$ 1,500

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below:

We respectfully request funding to assist with permanent protection of important forested land in Iowa County, WI. Driftless Area Land Conservancy is in communication with several landowners willing to donate the full value of the Conservation Easement, protecting their forests from inappropriate development but allowing for management and harvests in perpetuity. However, our operational budget is small and the costs associated with completing land deals is prohibitive. Funding from the Elmer G. Biddick Foundation will help us cover the legal fees, title costs and staff time to complete these important projects.

-Application continued on next page-



Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

Attachments to this grant that we find useful in considering your grant request.

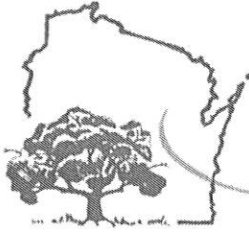
- A. Supporting information.
 - 1. Specific use of grant.
 - 2. Time schedule.
 - 3. Other sources of funding.
 - 4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.
 - 5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.

- B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition. (Videos are of limited use.)

Applications are considered in June and December of each year. The corresponding deadlines are April 15th and November 1st. Concise grants that address the needed information are appreciated.

PLEASE SEND THIS APPLICATION TO ELMER G BIDDICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:

Biddick, Inc.
11623 State Road 80
Livingston, WI 53554
Phone (608) 943-6363
Fax (608) 943-6365



Driftless Area Land Conservancy

**APPLICATION TO ELMER G. BIDDICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY
APRIL 11, 2013**

1. **Specific use of grant:** The grant will be used to cover costs of legal fees, title reports, and staff time to complete permanent conservation easements on important forested lands in Iowa County. Conservation easements are a voluntary land protection tool which enables a private landowner to restrict certain uses on his or her property in perpetuity.

Each conservation easement requires legal review to ensure that the easement adequately protects the conservation values of the property and will hold up in a court of law. Legal review is a requirement for each of our easement projects. In addition, we require a title report on a property prior to closing to ensure there are no other real property interests in the land that would undermine the purpose of the conservation easement.

Finally, an Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation grant would assist in covering critical staff time (e.g., executive director) necessary to draft and negotiate conservation easement language and complete all due diligence steps required to close a conservation easement.

2. **Time schedule:** We hope to close at least two easements protecting between 600 and 1000 acres of land in Iowa County by the end of 2013.
3. **Other sources of funding:** Currently, we have roughly \$60,000 in cash and/or commitments for our land protection associate to help defray her costs over the next two years. The executive director is on “soft money” and as a result the only dollars available as match would be funding we bring in through grants (like Biddick) and membership gifts.

Other sources of funding include landowners that may donate a “monitoring and legal enforcement fund” at the end of the process to cover future monitoring (once per year) and/or legal defense. These funds however do not cover staff or due diligence costs associated with completing a project in the current fiscal year.

4. **Describe the effect of postponing our request to another time:** If funding is postponed, we may not have the budget to protect important forest lands in Iowa County. Closing

these projects by year-end is critical for two reasons: 1. the current federal income tax deduction for donating conservation easements (up to 50% Adjusted Gross Income over 16 years) expires at the end of 2013; and, 2. Landowners and/or families may lose interest in donating an easements beyond 2013 (e.g., due to tax issues or enthusiasm).

- 5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt:** The effects of this grant, in the form of completed permanent protection of forested lands in Iowa County, will be felt immediately by the landowners. The landowners we work with have lived, raised families, and made improvements on their properties over many years and feel a great sense of pride and relief knowing that the places they love will remain intact long after they are gone.

These lands will continue to remain as working forests and therefore will continue to play an important role for local economies in Iowa County. Furthermore, in the long term, these projects ensure that there will always be places in Iowa County that display the beauty of Southwest Wisconsin, maintain the rural character, and provide habitat for wildlife. This benefits all residents of Iowa County by providing them scenic views and abundant wildlife to see, hunt, and enjoy.

- 6. Organization history, activities, services, and composition**

Organization's History

Driftless Area Land Conservancy was founded in 2000 by a small group of dedicated conservationists. Established to protect the rural landscape and quality of life in Southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area, the Conservancy has protected 28 properties covering nearly 4000 acres of prairies, forests, savannas, farms and cultural resources.

Our current board of directors is a committed group of conservationists, philanthropists and landowners that represent forestry, botany, education, legal and finance professions. Our current slate of officers is as follows: Peggie James (President); David Kopitzke (Vice President); Dale Moody (Secretary); and, Jason Dinges (Treasurer).

In our core 4-county service area (i.e., Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk) our two largest population areas are Richland Center (4,986) and Dodgeville (4,564). Given the lack of larger urban population centers, our organization has worked very hard to build a fundraising base that will sustain our efforts well into the future.

Our Organization's Mission

The mission of Driftless Area Land Conservancy is to protect the rural landscape and quality of life in southwest Wisconsin – this includes protection of farms, forests, grasslands, wetlands, soils and the natural beauty of the area.

Our Goals

The primary goal of Driftless Area Land Conservancy is to protect the rural character and quality of life of southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area so that future generations might experience the beauty, bounty and wonder of the area that we enjoy today.

We focus on implementing conservation strategies that protect rare natural communities, unique habitats and working lands in order to protect imperiled species while maintaining livelihoods that sustain the economy and character of the region.

Current Staff Composition

Paid full time 3 Paid part time 0 Volunteers 6 Other _____

- Executive Director
- Land Protection Associate
- Membership and Communications Coordinator

CURRENT PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Currently, our primary programs and activities revolve around three central themes: 1. Land and water protection efforts; 2. Effective fundraising; and, 3. Meaningful communications. Our voluntary land and water protection program supports a landowner's wish to protect their property from inappropriate land use or damaging development.

We currently have 5 project areas throughout our four-county service area (1. Pecatonica River and Southwest Grasslands; 2. Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area; 3. Willow Creek watershed; 4. Ridgeway Pines natural area; and, 5. the Lower Wisconsin Riverway and tributaries).

The Conservancy works with a network of landowners, community members, nonprofit and agency partners, attorneys, and financial planners to facilitate protection options – primarily through the use of conservation easements – and help landowners achieve their long-term protection goals.

Over the years we have been very fortunate to receive generous financial gifts and contributions from individuals, businesses, corporations and foundations in support of our conservation programs. We recognize that building our fundraising systems and diversifying our income streams is necessary to maintain, and sustain, a healthy and vibrant organization well into the future.

We also understand the need to focus considerable energy and resources on effectively engaging communities throughout our region. The Conservancy is a private, nonprofit conservation organization that works across the political spectrum to protect the natural,

cultural and economic underpinnings that maintain the rural character and quality of life of Southwest Wisconsin.

We reach our constituents in a number of ways, including: public outreach events (e.g., field trips, member appreciation events), our newsletter (2/year), website, email updates, social media (e.g., Facebook), a brochure, through service opportunities (e.g., Kiwanis) and by directly engaging donors and supporters (e.g., coffee outings). We place a premium on developing meaningful, long-term relationships with our conservation partners.