

Erie Basin Resource Conservation & Development Conservation Education Endowment Fund

Section 1: Policy

1.1 Name: The name of the organizations long term investment shall be Erie Basin Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Conservation Education Endowment Fund (here after referred to as Endowment Fund).

1.2 Purpose: The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to establish a reserve fund for long term sustainability of conservation education grants made to conservation organizations in the Erie Basin RC&D ten county area.

1.3 Objective: The objective of the Endowment Fund is to maximize the investment returns for sustained growth and future utilization of earned income from the Endowment Fund.

Section 2: Endowment Fund Statement

2.1 Statement: The Erie Basin RC&D hereby establishes a permanent Endowment Fund to guarantee, forever more, an independent base of financial stability for conservation education. Income earned from the Endowment Fund investments will provide the Erie Basin RC&D Council with the needed additional revenue to support the growing request for grant funding for conservation education.

2.2 Restrictions: The principle of the endowment fund will not be expended. Interest, dividend income gains from investment may be reinvested in the principal of the Endowment Fund and/or used to meet specific conservation education grant request as determined by the Erie Basin RC&D council, including 10% of the request funds for Erie Basin RC &D Endowment Fund administrative cost.

Section 3: Endowment Fund Goal

3.1 Goal statement: The Erie Basin RC&D hereby establishes the initial Endowment Fund goal of \$50,000 to be reached by the year 2015.

Section 4 Endowment Fund Growth

4.1 Investments: Erie Basin RC&D hereby sets forth the following standards to ensure steady growth of the endowment fund.

- a. Erie Basin RC&D will not withdraw monies from the endowment fund other than income earned from fund investments. All assets placed into the endowment fund from contributions, gifts, donation, carryover, events,

meetings, workshops, and budgeted amounts will be considered principal and not be expended.

- b. Erie Basin RC&D will not remove monies from said endowment fund until the fund surpasses \$50,000 at which point only investment income may or may not be utilized.
- c. Up to 50% of all undesignated funds that arrive at Erie Basin RC&D will be transferred to the endowment fund principal to the point the \$50,000 is achieved.
- d. In the event, Erie Basin RC&D has unobligated carryover funds at the end of any given fiscal year, up to 25% of these funds will be transferred to the endowment fund principal to the point the \$50,000 is achieved.
- e. Upon which, Erie Basin RC&D receives unbudgeted or unexpected gifts, contributions, donations, or bequests that are otherwise not obligated for a specific purpose, up to 50% of these funds will be placed into the Endowment Fund principal to the point the \$50,000 is achieved .

Section 5 Endowment Fund Committee

5.1 Committee Members: Erie Basin RC&D will establish an Endowment Fund committee of 3-5 individuals that monitor the growth of the said fund and make progress reports at regularly scheduled Erie Basin RC&D Council meetings.

6.0 Endowment Fund Holdings

6.1 Financial Institution: The Erie Basin RC&D may hold and manage the assets of the Endowment Fund until the said Fund reaches a point where the Council no longer feels that investments are being maximized. At this time they may seek additional professional assistance.

7.0 Amendment of Endowment Fund Policy

7.1 Amendments: The Erie Basin RC&D council may vote to amend this policy at any regularly scheduled meeting. A vote to amend the said policy may occur only if there is a Council Member present from each of the ten participating Erie Basin RC&D counties.

7.2 Endowment Fund Dissolution: The Erie Basin RC&D Endowment Fund may not be dissolved. The Endowment Fund has a specific purpose for long term sustainability of funding conservation education grant requests. However, should the organizations board of directors vote to disband, then the said assets must be dispersed according to the Internal Revenue Service code for organization disillusionment.

This policy was adopted by the Erie Basin RC&D on 3/18/2009
Date

Erie Basin RC&D

Date