**Erie Basin Resource Conservation & Development**

**Conservation Education Program**

**Section 1: Policy**

 1.1 Name: The name of the organization’s long-term investment shall be Erie Basin Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Conservation Education Program.

1.2 Purpose: The purpose of the Program 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 Program is to maximize the investment returns for sustained growth and future utilization of earned income from the donated funds.

**Section 2: Program Statement**

 2.1 Statement: The Erie Basin RC&D hereby establishes a permanent Program to guarantee, forever more, an independent base of financial stability for conservation education. Income earned from the donated Funds 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 designated donations and any Interest will be used to meet specific conservation education grant requests as determined by the Erie Basin RC&D Council, including 10% of the request funds for Erie Basin RC &D Program administrative cost. It will also help fund the Mini Grant program.

**Section 3: Program Intentions**

 3.1 Goal statement: Erie Basin RC&D hereby sets forth the following standards to ensure Program success.

a. Erie Basin RC&D will only use the Program designated contributions, gifts, donations, and earned income from interest and perhaps events, for the purpose of holding meetings, workshops, and funding budgeted amounts for Education Mini Grants;

b. 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 Program account to the point the $20,000 is achieved.

c. If Erie Basin RC&D receives unbudgeted or unexpected gifts, contributions, donations, or bequests that are otherwise not obligated for a specific purpose, up to 20% of these funds will be placed into the Program account to the point the $20,000 is achieved.

 **Section 4: Program Committee**

 4.1 Committee Members: The Erie Basin RC&D Executive Committee will monitor the growth of the Program account and make progress reports at regularly scheduled Erie Basin RC&D Council meetings.

**Section 5: Financial Concerns**

 5.1: The Erie Basin RC&D may hold and manage the Program Funds 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.

**Section 6: Amendment of Program Policy**

 6.1 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.

6.2 Program account Dissolution: The Conservation Education Program account has a specific purpose for long term sustainability of funding conservation education grant requests. However, should the Erie Basin RC&D Officers 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 Council on \_\_3/18/2009.**

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