

Liberty Prairie Foundation

February 2, 2011

Dear Friends,

I want to let you know about an important change at the Liberty Prairie Foundation and ask your help in finding us the very best leadership for the upcoming years.

After 15 years, Michael Sands has decided to step down as Executive Director of the Foundation in order to focus on programmatic issues around local food. He is continuing on a part-time basis as a Senior Associate, primarily focusing on local food systems. He will also be working on other entrepreneurial opportunities in the region.

Mike has been essential to the development of Prairie Crossing, its farm, and the Liberty Prairie Reserve. The diversity of his policy interests, his scientific expertise in many fields, plus his personal warmth and commitment have hugely contributed to making Prairie Crossing what it is today. We are delighted that he is staying with the Foundation part time, though in a different capacity.

Now we need to find a new Executive Director who can build on the Foundation's successes and help direct its influence in equally ground-breaking ways in the years ahead. I attach the job posting and, on behalf of the Foundation Board, would appreciate any suggestions you may have.

For background: The Foundation does important and interesting work. The Liberty Prairie Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) operating foundation, has provided critical financial support and leadership for the creation of the 5000-acre Liberty Prairie Reserve and its stewardship organization, the Liberty Prairie Conservancy, now an effective county-wide land trust. The Foundation owns the 100-acre Prairie Crossing Farm and leases land for organic agriculture to commercial farmers, new farmers at the Farm Business Development Center, and the Prairie Crossing Learning Farm. The Foundation has also prepared and promoted modern, environmentally responsible plans for new roads and public transportation. The Foundation's Byron Colby Barn hosts an early music concert series, a film series on food, conferences, workshops, and other cultural and educational events for the general public.

Please forward the attached job posting to any qualified person or let me know your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Vicky Ranney
Chair, Liberty Prairie Foundation Board
vranney@aol.com
Cell: 847-682-4279

JOB OPPORTUNITY
Executive Director
Liberty Prairie Foundation

Executive Director for the Liberty Prairie Foundation, with responsibility for diverse programs and policy advocacy, including land stewardship and a thriving organic farm operation that combines food production with training and education.

The Foundation contributes actively to a high quality of life in the Prairie Crossing conservation community in Grayslake, Illinois, and surrounding areas. An operating 501 (c) (3) foundation, it has provided critical financial support and leadership for the creation of the 5000-acre Liberty Prairie Reserve and its stewardship organization, the Liberty Prairie Conservancy, now an effective county-wide land trust.

The Foundation owns the 100-acre Prairie Crossing Farm and leases land for organic agriculture to commercial farmers, new farmers at the Farm Business Development Center, and the Prairie Crossing Learning Farm. The Foundation has also prepared and promoted modern, environmentally responsible plans for new roads and public transportation. The Foundation's Byron Colby Barn hosts an early music concert series, a film series on food, conferences, workshops, and other cultural and educational events for the general public.

Required:

- Leadership skills
- Entrepreneurial orientation
- Management ability and experience
- Interest in and knowledge about public policy affecting regional development
- Fundraising ability to supplement base Foundation budget resources

Applicant must be equipped to expand on the Foundation's 15 years of success in land conservation, organic & sustainable farming, analysis and advocacy of good public policies, and path-breaking community building.

Compensation negotiable.

Apply with a letter describing why you are interested in and potentially qualified for this position, a resume, and two references by March 5/2011 to:

lwiens@prairiecrossing.com Work: 847-548-4062 x13; Cell: 847-612-8019

Linda Wiens

Senior Associate, Special Projects

Liberty Prairie Foundation

32400 North Harris Road

Grayslake, IL 60030

For more information: www.prairiecrossing.com