



Summary of questions from the PSCC Executive Director Open Houses

What is the most important characteristic/experience that you're looking for in the position? And the biggest goals for the position?

Ability to make bridges/connections to expand beyond land trust community. Identifying needs/gaps for each group that PSCC will try to be doing outreach to (local units of government, etc). New executive director will have to lead this effort, along with the board.

Is grant writing a necessary skill?

We don't expect anyone to have all of the skills listed. Best to identify what skills you do have, and how those assist with PSCC goals. But yes, grant writing will be important. Three years's worth of funding for the executive director position is in hand.

Is this a fully remote position?

Yes. No central office, but travel is likely to members's meetings, state advocacy, etc. Ideally live in Illinois with up to six months and a stipend for relocating.

Is PSCC its own 501c3 or a fiscally-sponsored entity?

Yes, we are our own 501c3. We have been in existence for 15-plus years.

Of the \$130k annual budget, how does it break down by income type?

Taking away the funding for the executive director position, PSCC works on about \$25,000 per year, with the majority coming from memberships and annual conference income. PSCC will want to have an individual donor portfolio and increase grant income.

What helped determine creating this position at this point in time? Was there something in the land trust and conservation movements that helped to bring this opportunity about?

The state of Illinois had a robust grant-funded program called Vital Lands, which brought conservation communities together across the state. This stopped recently, opening up an opportunity for PSCC to begin to think on how to integrate Vital Lands Coalition work into their own....serving as Illinois's convener for conservation organizations. Initially wanted to do a merger, but Vital Lands just ended instead.

Does PSCC have any collaborations with bordering states? (i.e., Milwaukee's Urban Ecology Center)

Primarily, the individual land trusts (members of PSCC) may have those strong relationships with groups in other states. We do follow similar organizations to ourselves, like Gathering Waters in Wisconsin, to model or learn from.