Western Lake Erie Basin Agriculture Project Director

Job ID: 44196

Location: Ohio

Full/Part Time: Full-Time

Regular/Temporary: Regular

OFFICE LOCATION

Dublin, Ohio (OH)
OH201

WORK WITH US

The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working to make a positive impact around the world in 69 countries, all 50 United States, and your backyard. Founded in 1951, the mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Visit www.nature.org/about-us to learn more.

The Nature Conservancy offers competitive compensation, 401k or savings-plan matching for eligible employees, excellent benefits, flexible work policies and a collaborative work environment. We also provide professional development opportunities and promote from within. As a result, you will find a culture that supports and inspires conservation achievement and personal development, both within the workplace and beyond.

POSITION SUMMARY
ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The Western Lake Erie Basin Project Director will work with TNC staff from MI, OH, and IN to implement key strategies in the WLEB Agriculture Conservation Business Plan. S/he serves as the principle contact with government agencies, other conservation organizations, foundations and the academic community. The Project Director will also work closely with elected officials and their staff, municipalities, state and federal agencies, and other non-profits across the basin to achieve measurable results in hydrologic management and restoration, reduced nutrient concentrations, decreased sedimentation, and improved habitat by helping to facilitate on-the-ground work and policy leverage that will lead to conservation results at a large scale. S/he will build from the relationships and large scale success of the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification program and new initiatives, including promoting the targeting of conservation programs and practices within the WLEB watershed, to achieve the greatest improvements in biodiversity, water quality and hydrologic function. The WLEB Project Director will be supervised by the Lake Erie Conservation Director as part of the Ohio Business Unit.

RESPONSIBILITIES & SCOPE

- Develop and implement hydrology focused strategies for the WLEB, including strategies involving public and private drainage, wetlands and other hydrological practices to be implemented at scale across the basin.
- Provide input on agricultural policies at federal and state (OH, IN, and MI as needed) levels.
- Serve as main point of contact for agricultural agencies and partners working in the region.
- Maintain, review and update WLEB Agriculture Conservation Business Plan goals, strategies, work plans and budgets to ensure strategies will include work in each of the three states.
- Increase TNC outreach efforts within the WLEB to promote conservation through partnership projects such as, demonstration farms, NRCS WLEB Initiative, and WLEB Partnership.
- Enhance TNC tri-state communication to coordinate TNC’s efforts within the WLEB and the Great Lakes.
- Supervise staff at remote locations to advance the WLEB Agriculture Conservation Business Plan.
- Write requests for proposal (RFPs) and secures grant/contract funding for the WLEB Project.
- Manages diverse sets of partners and multi partner projects.
• Frequent travel domestically and/or internationally, evening and weekend hours.

• May work in variable weather conditions, at remote locations, on difficult and hazardous terrain, and under physically demanding circumstances.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

• BA/BS degree and 5-7 years’ experience in conservation practice or equivalent combination of education and experience.

• Experience managing complex or multiple projects, including managing finances and coordinating the work of other professionals and partners.

• Supervisory experience, including motivating, leading, setting objectives and managing performance.

• Experience in partnership development (partners, community, government, etc.); experience with high level conservation contacts.

• Agricultural background and experience working in the region with current trends and practices in agriculture and conservation programs, drainage issues, or water quality.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

• 7-10 years’ experience in conservation practice or equivalent combination of education and experience.

• Demonstrated skills in leadership and innovation that result in delivery of practical, adaptable products and services to customers.

• Demonstrated experience influencing and implementing conservation policy and plans at the state and/or regional level.

• Knowledge of socio-economic and public aspects of current environmental and conservation issues.

• Experience writing and securing grant funding for program support.

• Experience applying scientific concepts/principles to achieve measurable on the ground conservation outcomes.

• Strong oral and written communication skills.

• Experience working in teams across a wide geographic region with diverse audiences.

• Politically savvy and experienced in partnership development (partners, community, government).

• Fundraising experience, including identifying donor prospects and donor cultivation.
AUTO SAFETY POLICY

This position requires a valid driver's license and compliance with the Conservancy's Auto Safety Program. Employees may not drive Conservancy-owned/leased vehicles, rental cars, or personal vehicles on behalf of the Conservancy if considered "high risk drivers." Please see further details in the Auto Safety Program document available at www.nature.org/careers.

Employment in this position will be contingent upon completion of a Vehicle Use Agreement, which may include a review of the prospective employee's motor vehicle record.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply to position number 44196, submit resume and cover letter as one document. All applications must be submitted in the system prior to 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 25, 2016.

Click “submit” to apply for the position or “save for later” to create a draft application for future submission. Once submitted, applications cannot be revised or edited. Failure to complete required fields may result in your application being disqualified from consideration.

Click HERE to Apply

If you experience technical issues, please refer to our applicant user guide or contact applyhelp@tnc.org.

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The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Our commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our conservation mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of men and women of diverse backgrounds, beliefs and culture. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority and we encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military, protected veteran status or other status protected by law.

The successful applicant must meet the requirements of The Nature Conservancy’s background screening process.