



JOURNAL

Serving the Needs of Land Professionals

May 2001

www.elrc.org

2000-2002 Officers

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Come Back To Where It All Began...

Join your fellow ELRC members and visit the land where our Country began—Tidewater, Virginia, during the ELRC Fall Conference, October 14-18, 2001 at the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. The Conference will feature informative sessions relevant to your daily experiences back home. Planned topics include:

- A discussion of the growing role of land trusts in land use and preservation decisions and how this applies to the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
- A discussion on federal funding initiatives and the budget, and their impact on conservation efforts.
- A look at a rapidly growing city's program of purchasing development rights to maintain open space.
- A rural area's efforts to stimulate economic growth through sustainable development and ecotourism.
- Examples of federal, state and local governments working together on land use and preservation efforts, such as the Southern Watershed Area Management Program, a cooperative effort between the cities of Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, and the Virginia Coastal Program; and, the False Cape State Park/ Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge cooperative access agreement.

...more Fall Conference news, page 4

From the ELRC President...

Dear Friends:

I still can't get over the level of attendance at this year's joint spring ELRC/WSLCA conference. As far as I can recall, it was one of the best meetings that we have ever held! I was excited to see a number of states represented that have traditionally not attended past ELRC related events. West Virginia has officially joined ELRC, and I know that folks from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Indiana who attended the Spring meeting in Washington, DC have been asked to seriously consider joining. I can only hope that our recently launched ELRC website will generate additional interest in the organization and perhaps can be used as a tool to entice other non-participating states to get involved. Visit us at www.elrc.org

Past president Jim Lawler from Minnesota was recognized for all he has done for our organization, through the presentation of a hand crafted wooden walking stick and a Buck knife. Traditionally we have given these tokens of appreciation soon after the president leaves office, so it is hoped that Jim does not feel slighted having had to wait an entire year!

We are all looking forward to an excellent Fall meeting with a high quality agenda to be held in October in Virginia. I hope to see many of you folks there! Meanwhile, as always, if there is anything I can do for you, as president, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Ed Leary, President

The ELRC

...fostering responsible public land management policies for tomorrow

The ELRC is an organization comprised of highly trained public land professionals in the eastern United States which provides a collaborative and unique forum for enhancing land stewardship and conservation.

The ELRC fosters communication, strengthens professional development, and promotes sound policies and practices among those involved in the management and administration of public lands, records, and natural resources.

For more information, write:
Ed Leary, Operations Director
103 South Main Street, Bldg., 10 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-0601
e-mail: eleary@fpr.anr.state.vt.us
or call Ed at (802) 241-3683

On The Federal Front



BLM, Eastern States to Acquire Land in Virginia

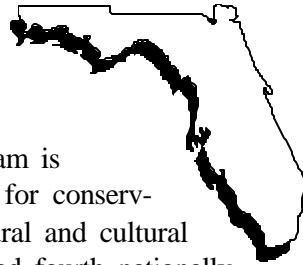
The Department of the Interior has been given an opportunity to acquire land in Fairfax County, Virginia, and manage it to provide open space for recreation, environmental education and wild horse and burro interpretation. The proposed acquisition consists of 800+ acres the Meadowood Farm on Mason Neck in Fairfax County. This acquisition would be consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan and help achieve Departmental goals to protect and conserve public land and natural resources. Though not an exchange, the acquisition is tied to the transfer of about 235 acres of land which has been identified for residential development at the soon-to-be closed Lorton Prison site.

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What's Happening in YOUR State?

Florida

Florida Today— Florida Forever



The Florida Forever Program is Florida's newest blueprint for conserving the state's unique natural and cultural resources. Florida is ranked fourth nationally in biodiversity, second in length of coastline (exceeded only by Alaska), first in the nation and the world in number of first magnitude springs, fourth in number of fresh water lakes, and second in wetlands acres. Combine this with the fact that its population is fourth largest in the nation and one of the fastest growing, and it is easy to understand why our ecosystems are considered to be the most endangered of all 50 states. Additionally, over 12,000 years of human habitation are recorded in Florida's past, including periods of Native American, Spanish, English, French and American cultures. Florida is home to the oldest continuous European settlement in America—St. Augustine.

Florida has a long history of protecting its natural and cultural heritage and its programs to protect these resources are some of the most aggressive in the United States and the world. In the past 30 years, the State has spent over \$3.7 billion for conservation purposes. This has been accomplished through several programs, including the highly successful predecessor of Florida Forever, the Preservation 2000 Program, which, in itself, was responsible for the public acquisition and protection of 1.25 million acres of land. The Florida Forever Program commits another \$3 billion investment over the next decade and demonstrates the state's continuing unparalleled commitment to protecting and restoring our vital natural resources.

The new program also continues to reach out to other public and private entities for cooperative

partnerships. Much of the success of previous programs was a direct result of these partnerships. Some partners provided logistical or management support, as well as direct acquisition dollars. Private non-profits sometimes act as intermediaries to facilitate land acquisition transactions. Of Florida's 67 counties, 24 have some kind of local land acquisition program. Voters throughout Florida have approved local referenda to raise nearly \$1.5 billion to acquire environmentally sensitive and recreation lands. These local government initiatives have dramatically enhanced the state's ability to protect its remaining important natural areas.

The Florida Forever Program will go even further than its predecessors to provide future generations of Floridians with a high quality of life. Its focus is broader, and includes greater provisions for protecting water quality and quantity and urban open space areas. Thanks to the vision of Florida's leaders and citizens, and to Florida Forever, residents and visitors will always be able to savor a glorious sunset from sugar-sand beaches, camp in cool, protected forests, and make their way across miles of connected trails. Millions of Americans can enjoy these experiences and know that we are also continuing to protect and create safe havens for Florida's many endangered and threatened plants and animals. What we experience as Florida today will also be our Florida Forever. Contact: Dr. Greg Brock or Donna Ruffner, Department of Environmental Protection (850) 487-1750.

...more State News on Page 5

Your State

Share your success stories. Let us hear about innovative activities or programs going on in your state. Send, Fax or E-mail your articles to Ed Leary, President, ELRC.

- A “Cracker Barrel” session for members to share their experiences and to draw on the experiences of others.

The conference also promises to be an enjoyable experience for members and spouses, while still offering valuable learning opportunities about the past and future of America’s land use practices.

- A bayside pig roast at First Landing State Park, the site where Captain John Smith and other members of the Virginia Company first came ashore in the New World in 1607.
- A day at the Jamestown Settlement and Colonial Williamsburg featuring presentations on archaeological endeavors and planning for the 2007 events with dinner at Shield’s Colonial Tavern.
- A trip to Virginia’s Eastern Shore and one of the country’s most significant migratory bird routes during prime migratory season.
- A visit to one of the last, truly undisturbed, beaches on the Atlantic Coast.
- An evening reception at the Virginia Marine Science Museum.

So join us in Virginia Beach. There’s no better time to visit than in mid-October when the days are warm and the evenings crisp. For more information, contact Gary Waugh, Public Relations Manager, Department of Conservation and Recreation (804) 786-5045 or gwaugh@dcr.state.va.us

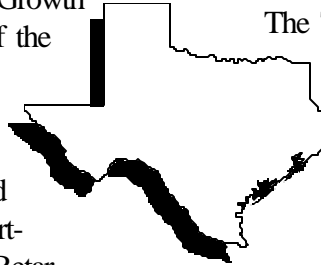


Tidewater- Hampton Roads

***Mark your calendars NOW!
October 14-18, 2001 in Virginia Beach!***

Texas GLO Undertakes New Urbanism Development

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) understands the importance of the Smart Growth principles that are such a vital part of the New Urbanism movement. In fact, one of the most challenging projects undertaken by the Texas GLO involved a 21-acre tract of land in Austin owned by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR), known as the Triangle. Located in the central city, this property is a vacant, triangular island of land with frontage on three major arterials. The site is surrounded by state offices, strip commercial development and single and multi-family residential development.



The revised project developed from that process now features additional residential, less retail, and more public space configured as a mixed-use New Urbanist infill development. After 4 years of work, all parties are very close to a final agreement on the project and, if all goes as planned the state's developer could break ground in 6 months.

The Triangle development was a new type of development, requiring a new type of development process devised by the GLO. This project illustrates the importance of building public/private partnerships and using them to produce a stronger, more economically viable project.

The Asset Management Division has pioneered ways to structure complex, performance-based ground leases and sales contract that produce optimal financial returns based on land value. For more information on the Triangle development or other Asset Management projects, please call Bo Tanner, Deputy Commissioner at (512) 463-9382.

Given the location of the tract, the GLO began a series of public meetings in 1994 to provide information and solicit input from neighborhood residents and surrounding property owners. The chief purpose of these meetings was to create a partnership between the city government, neighborhood residents and groups, the metropolitan transit authority and all other groups with an interest in this project. Community concerns regarding increased traffic, the nature of the development and its potential to change the character of the adjacent neighborhoods led to a lengthy negotiation period.

Texas law authorizes the creation of a special board composed of representatives of the state and local government to develop a compromise plan to substitute for zoning in such cases. Recognizing the importance of achieving consensus on this development, GLO hired a nationally recognized consultant, Calthorpe and Associates, to assist in devising a plan that balances the interests of the state and city governments as well as all individuals and groups interested in the project.

School Fund Reaps Benefits from Texas Power Program

The Texas General Land Office's innovative new State Power Program has ushered in a new age of cooperation between the State of Texas and the energy industry. This new Program allows the Land Commissioner to contract with energy companies to convert state in-kind oil and gas royalties into electricity.

The State Power Program will increase the Land Office's contributions to the Permanent and Available School Funds. Electricity generated from state royalty oil and gas is sold to public schools at a discount, lowering their operating costs. The cost schools pay for our electricity, even after a discount, results in an annual increase in revenues for the Available School Fund, which is distributed on a per capita basis annually to all independent school districts.

...more State News on Page 6

State News ...

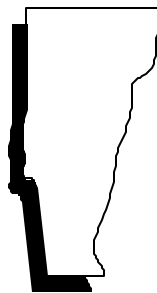
Reliant Energy of Houston, our first electrical provider, estimates Houston area schools this next year will save approximately \$5.8 million in electrical costs, while the Available School Fund will receive almost \$12 million in additional revenues. Multiply that throughout the state and the impact of the State Power Program on our schools becomes dramatic.

Almost every eligible school district briefed about the State Power Program wants to participate. Once the program gets into high gear, we anticipate impressive savings to our independent school districts and additional income each year for those same schools from the Available School Fund. That's a win-win for Texas taxpayers and, more importantly, our schoolchildren.

While the people of Texas have expectations for government to play a role as watchdog and regulator, it does not mean government and industry must be adversaries. On the contrary, by working in a cooperative and constructive manner, government can help oil the engine of industry, as proven by the actions taken during the last two years at the Texas General Land Office. Contact: David Hall, Deputy Commissioner for Energy Resources (512) 463-5001.

Vermont

Kate Willard Leads Vermont's Lands Administration Section



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Kate Willard to the position of Lands Administration Section Chief with the State Lands Division, Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation.

Kate started as Lands Acquisition Specialist in 1998 and came to the Agency from the Department of Agriculture. Since that time, she has been involved with many acquisition projects for

both the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation.

Kate will continue to be involved with acquisitions for the Agency as the chair of the Land Acquisition Review Committee. She will also be assisting with the administration of the Vermont Forest Legacy Program, overseeing surveying, mapping, and boundary maintenance activities, and investigating boundary disputes and encroachments on state lands.

For the time being, Kate will remain in her present office and retain the same telephone number (802) 241-3697.

Vermont General Assembly Considers Trust Fund

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) currently manages more than 350,000 acres of state-owned land. Property and facility ownership costs associated with these lands continues after acquisition, yet current budgets do not provide adequate funds to address ongoing management needs for these lands. The current session of the Vermont General Assembly is considering establishing an ANR Lands & Facilities Trust Fund which would address these financial needs. Legislation authorizing the establishment of the fund has been passed by the House and is currently in the Senate.

This fund, established within the State Treasurer's office, would accept gifts and grants from individuals, foundations, corporations and state and federal agencies. The income would be dedicated to the management of ANR lands, facilities and recreational assets as part of the Trust Investment Account. The Trust can accept restricted funds for specific purposes as designated by the donor. For the first 3 years, the Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation can spend no more than 5%

of the principal, annually, for immediate needs. The Commissioner is required to establish priorities for expenditures from the fund such as: cost, availability of funds, condition of the resource, facility or infrastructure, level of use, level of public need, intent of the donor, and the ability to protect or enhance a public investment or resource.

The legislation proposes that receipts, currently generated from timber harvested on state-owned lands, be redirected toward the stewardship of Agency lands. At the present time those receipts average \$400,000 annually are deposited in the General Fund. Contact Ed Leary (802) 241-3683.

Virginia

Virginia Outdoors Foundation Promotes Preservation of Open-Space Lands

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) announced that 29,003 acres were placed in permanent conservation easement with the Foundation in 2000. This number represents an increase of more than 100% over any previous individual year and brings the total acreage under easement with VOF to 170,012 acres in 64 local jurisdictions. Last year a total of 191 separate easements were recorded in 38 localities around Virginia. The counties of Botetourt, Carroll, Lancaster, Page, and Prince George, as well as the City of Winchester, gained their first easements in 2000.

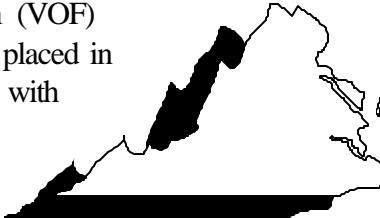
Properties protected by easement last year include farms, vineyards, and forest lands, properties within the Southwest Mountains National Rural Historic District, six Civil War Battlefields (Kernstown, Third Winchester, Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Toms Brook, McDowell), lands forming the settings of National Historic Register houses, as well as frontage along scenic roads and

scenic rivers. A number of significant public drinking water supply watersheds in the James River and Potomac drainage gained protection, as did areas in the watershed of the Jackson River, significant state trout waters. Over 95% of the land protected by VOF's conservation easements is located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Open-Space Lands Preservation Trust Fund, administered by VOF, which reimburses landowners for costs associated with conveying an easement with an emphasis on family farming landowners of modest means, assisted by supplying funds to twenty families. The fund aided in the preservation of Welbourne in Loudoun County, an historic 570 acre farm on State Scenic Goose Creek that has been farmed by the same family for 170 years, a historic James River farm in Charles City County containing bald eagle nesting grounds, an important wildlife corridor area on the border of Page and Warren counties, and productive farms in Amherst, Prince George, and Montgomery counties and others.

The Open-Space Preservation Trust Fund has purchased a limited number of easements, primarily on family farms. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis.

The VOF promotes the preservation of open-space lands and encourages the preservation of natural, scenic, historic, scientific, open-space and recreational areas of the Commonwealth. Voluntary conservation easements, permanent agreements between individual landowners and a holder such as VOF, are used to accomplish this mission. Easement donations which make up the large majority of easements granted in 2000, may enable donors to receive federal income tax deductions and Virginia state tax credits in addition to estate tax exclusions which aid families in keeping farms and other rural properties in the family for generations to come. Contact Tamara Vance (540) 951-2822.



On the Federal Front...(from page 2)

At the Meadowood site, BLM would conduct resource management planning and prepare a management plan in harmony with surrounding land use and community interests. The public is being encouraged to participate in the planning process. Many residents and groups have publicly expressed support for the proposed acquisition as a means of protecting significant open space while providing low-intensity recreational opportunities.

The 8,000-acre Mason Neck peninsula, approximately 18 miles south of Washington, DC, is also the site of Gunston Hall, historic home of George Mason IV, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights. Public uses on Mason Neck include: the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mason Neck State Park managed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and Pohick Bay Regional Park managed by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Cooperative management of this rural area provides 5,000 acres for recreation while protecting natural resources. Habitat is provided for migratory and resident waterfowl, bald eagle nesting, feeding, and roosting, and enhancement of species diversity for a variety of wildlife, including blue heron, wood ducks, screech owls, bluebirds, and tree frogs. Contact: Gayle Gordon, State Director, BLM, Eastern States (703) 440-1700.

Directory Updates:

Please mark your copy of the November 2000 ELRC Directory to reflect the following changes:

MASSACHUSETTS

Change Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

Add Ole M. Admundsen*, Assistant Director of Land Policy, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Change Environmental Management Department, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 700, Boston, MA 02114
mass.parks@state.ma.us

NEW YORK

Replace John P. Cahill, Commissioner, Environmental Conservation Department with Erin M. Crotty

Replace Greg Sovas, Director, Division of Mineral Resources with Bradley J. Field

Add James K. Jensen, Chief, Bureau of Real Property, Division of Lands & Forests, Environmental Conservation Department
Phone: (518) 457-7670; Fax: (518) 485-8784

VERMONT

Replace John Kassel with Scott Johnstone, Secretary, sjohnstone@fpr.anr.state.vt.us

WEST VIRGINIA

Add Jim Jones*, Chief of Real Estate Management and Executive Secretary, West Virginia Public Land Corporation, Division of Natural Resources, Bldg 3, Room 643, 1900 Kanawah Boulevard East, Charleston, WV 25305, Phone: (304) 558-3225, email: jjones@dnr.state.wv.us

WISCONSIN

Change Doug LaFollette, email: doug.lafollette@sos.state.wi.us

*key contact

Send all changes to the Directory to Cathy Rodine, BLM, Eastern States, 7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, VA 22153 FAX (703) 440-1722 e-mail: Cathy_Rodine@es.blm.gov.

Eastern Lands and Resources Council - ELRC - Serving the Needs of Land Professionals

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