

Lower Connecticut River Valley and Coastal Region Land Trust Exchange  
Funding Guide/Matrix Weighting Worksheet

First! Thank you for your time and participation as LTE moves forward to initiate collaborative projects to use the relationships and tools created through the last 8 years with our regional conservation partners and the Land Trust Advancement Initiative.

**Please only have the person that is responsible for representing your land trust to LTE answer the questions in this 3<sup>rd</sup> survey to create a funding guide for the LTE .** The survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KJC6RPV> . As discussed at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting it was decided to group the agreed upon conservation criteria into 4 groups for weighting purposes. The first group represented by a 1 will be the group that you consider to be the most important criteria for informing the funding guide at the regional scale and the fourth group will be the criteria you feel are the least important for informing the funding guide. The ones in between would be in groups 2 or 3 accordingly. **Your participation before August 15<sup>th</sup> will allow me to put a draft funding guide together for the September 20<sup>th</sup> LTE meeting.**

**The first group should have 5 criteria; the second group should have 5 criteria; the third and fourth groups should have 4 criteria each.**

**On page 2, 3, and 4 of this document is a worksheet that you can use to discuss the weighting with your board.** If you would like to have each board member complete one I will tally them for you if you would like and enter the final results into the survey for you. You could scan them and email them to me or send hardcopy. Please call to check the address as we will be moving to the Haddam Office during the summer. If you have any questions please call me at 860-581-5884 or email at [mburns@rivercog.org](mailto:mburns@rivercog.org) .

Information regarding these survey questions:

LTE Conservation Plan can be found on the home page at: [www.lcrclandtrustexchange.org](http://www.lcrclandtrustexchange.org)

RiverCOG mission as it concerns the LTE:

Create a stronger connection between the local, regional conservation community, and the Regional, State, and Federal land use planning process;

Further our ability to provide an educational and planning opportunity for environmental and landscape protection for members of our region's land trusts and conservation commissions to promote landscape linkages, tool creation, data acquisition, and sharing to enable effective collaboration and cooperation, in a regional manner, towards the creation of trails and greenways, and protection of existing habitat, water quality, and scenic and cultural landscape corridors; and

Identify possible collaboration mechanisms and business structures that will not take away from an individual land trust's unique and important relationship and place in its own community, but enable them to practice best management and business principles. This could allow each to operate to its greatest potential concerning long term planning goals, future land acquisition, and the sustainable stewardship of their already existing protected open space. Business structures and collaboration mechanisms could include shared staff to help with record keeping, membership mailings, newsletter production, record keeping, fund raising, and grant writing as well as office space to provide a place for meetings, and where members could share computer hardware and software.

To use this worksheet please assign a group number from 1 – 4 to each of the criteria numbered 1 - 18 **in the space provided**. The first group represented by a 1 will be the group that you consider to be the most important criteria for informing the funding guide at the regional scale and the fourth group will be the criteria you feel are the least important for informing the funding guide. The ones in between would be in Groups 2 or 3 accordingly.

- **The first group should have 5 criteria;**
- **the second group should have 5 criteria;**
- **the third and fourth groups should have 4 criteria each.**

**1. Is the project within an LTE conservation plan primary or connecting corridor?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Is the project connected to existing open space?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. What is the index score of the primary or connecting corridor as determined by the LTE conservation plan?**

Index score 4: \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Points

Index score 5: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Points

Index score 6: \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Points

Index Score 7: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. What local criteria, as designated in the LTE conservation plan, are in the project area?**

Core Forest: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

Hydrology/Wetlands: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

Early Successional Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

Critical Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. What is the total area of local criteria contained in the project area as designated in the LTE conservation plan? (Core Forest, Hydrology/Wetlands, Early Successional Habitat, and Critical Habitat)**

Points awarded by the number of projects being vetted.

Example: if there are four projects, then the project with the greatest area of local criteria would get 4 points. The property with the least area of local criteria would get 1 point. The ones in between would get 3 or 4 accordingly.

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. What is the size of the project area?**

Points awarded by the number of projects being vetted.

Example: if there are four projects, then the largest project would get 4 points. The smallest property would get 1 point. The ones in between would get 3 or 4 accordingly.

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. What is the price per acre?**

Points awarded by the number of projects being vetted.

Example: if there are four projects, then the project with the lowest cost per acre would get 4 points. The property with the highest cost per acre would get 1 point. The ones in between would get 3 or 4 accordingly.

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Is the project in an existing Natural Diversity Database(NDDDB) area and/or site for an endangered species or species of Greatest Concern?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Is the project located within a State Designated Greenway?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Does the project have historic significance?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Will the property be accessible to the public?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**12. Does the project provide a viewshed either looking out from the project, or looking into the project area from a public viewing location?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Are there Prime Agricultural Soils located within the project boundary?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**14. Is it a multi-town project?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**15. Do municipal planning documents include the project in an area for open space protection?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Is it suitable for education or scientific purposes?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**17. Are there any site concerns from historic property usage?**

No: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Does it have pending development applications or approvals?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Point

**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_