



## Attestation of Membership Elements for Wisconsin Land Trusts

*The mission of Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's Alliance for Land Trusts is to help land trusts, landowners, and communities protect the places that make Wisconsin special. To fulfill our mission, we work to build a strong and cohesive land trust community. Earning and maintaining accreditation by the Land Trust Commission OR regularly attesting to the following elements is a requirement of membership in Gathering Waters and an important part of operating a sound and successful nonprofit land conservation organization.*

\_\_\_\_\_, [insert name of land trust] (the "Land Trust") has reviewed the Benefits and Requirements of Membership, and the Land Trust understands and agrees to Gathering Waters' right to deny or revoke the membership of the Land Trust at any time.

As consideration for membership in Gathering Waters the Land Trust attests to the following elements:

- ✓ Commitment to practices consistent with the *Wisconsin Land Trust Statement of Principles*, developed by the Land Trust Council, affirming dedication to ethical operations.
- ✓ We have read, understood, and make a commitment to implement the 2017 revised Land Trust Standards and Practices.
- ✓ Compliance with all federal, state, and local law.
- ✓ Commitment to the use of sound financial practices including the development and implementation of effective internal controls, the use of a board-approved annual budget, and regular financial reporting (at least quarterly) to the board of directors.
- ✓ *If Land Trust holds Conservation Easements:*
  - Participation in the Terrafirma conservation defense program or demonstration of a commitment to fund conservation easement defense (i.e., an adequate reserve fund set aside to monitor and enforce easements, and/or a policy requiring that adequate funds be set aside for each additional easement the land trust takes on and a policy for holding/investing internal funds).
  - Additionally, the land trust must have a baseline documentation report for each easement it holds (or a board-resolved plan to complete reports in a timely manner), and a written policy faithfully followed by the land trust to annually monitor each easement.

The Land Trust Board of Directors hereby attests to these Membership Elements.

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### **Date of Board Approval**

*Please be aware that Gathering Waters is relying on the Land Trust to truthfully and accurately make this attestation. Gathering Waters is not able to verify the accuracy of the attestation, nor necessarily examine the records or files of the land trust. Therefore, third parties seeking to engage the Land Trust in a business or other relationship are advised to do their own analysis based on the terms of the proposed relationship.*