

SHERIDAN COUNTY
APPLICATION FOR ONE CENT OPTIONAL TAX FUNDS

FISCAL YEARS 2011 TO 2015
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015)

GENERAL INFORMATION:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: **The Sheridan Community Land Trust** PHONE: **673-4702**
CONTACT PERSON: **Colin Betzler** ADDRESS: **306 N Main St. PO BOX 7185 Sheridan, WY 82801**

AMOUNT OF FUNDS REQUESTED: **\$30,000** AMOUNT APPROVED: _____

TAX STATUS: **501(c)3 Non-profit** FEDERAL ID NO: **20-4385635** EMAIL: **director@sheridancilt.org**

DESCRIBE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION: **We work with private property owners to conserve and preserve the best of Sheridan County for the benefit for current and future generations.**

DESCRIBE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SELECTION PROCESS: **Elected Board, Governance and Nominating Committee solicit public interest in serving on SCLT, full Board interviews and appoints based on needs.**

NO OF BOARD MEMBERS: **8** TERM: **4 year terms**

LIST NAMES OF BOARD MEMBERS: **Mark Kinner – Chairman, Sally Morton – Vice-Chair, Alison Ochs – Treasurer, Julie Carroll – Secretary, Bill Mentock, Matt Johnston, Susanna Meyer, and Edith Clarke-Harper.**

BRIEFLY LIST PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES FOR REQUESTED FUNDS (Indicate if the funds are to be used for an operational subsidy or for one-time expenditures such as a project or equipment acquisition or capital improvements; indicate whether other sources are available and been applied for; indicate the reason County, rather than the City, Optional One Cent Sales tax funds are appropriate; if possible, estimate the number of citizens that will benefit):

Funds will be used to cover roughly 30% of general operations and support services expenditures. Other sources of funding are available and we continue to apply to various funding sources including the Wyoming Community Foundation, Watt Foundation, Foundation for Community Vitality, Scott Foundation, Norcross Foundation, and several others on a project-specific basis. We have been successful in securing 3 grants totaling \$58,000 over the past 2 years and will see the bulk of those funds this current fiscal year. We plan to receive at least \$15k annually from our membership, as well as \$10,000 annually from grant solicitations.

Optional One Cent Sales tax funds are appropriate in this case as we serve private landowners within the entire county with our unique services. Tangible benefits are something we continue to communicate to the public, but with our easement goals looking 5 years into the future, 75% of Sheridan County residents, both current and future stand to recognize some benefit from projects which we are involved with. The City of Sheridan has previously awarded One Cent funds at \$25k annually to SCLT. Sheridan County has previously awarded One Cent funds at \$20k annually.

OBLIGATIONS:

ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES OF APPROVED FUNDS (Indicate amount per year and years for which funds are requested):

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1. <u>\$2,400 x 4yrs</u>	<u>Annual Office rent of \$200 includes internet and utilities.</u>
2. <u>\$9,000 x 4 yrs</u>	<u>Support services including 3rd party bookkeeping, board insurance, tax preparation.</u>
3. <u>\$3,600 x 4 yrs</u>	<u>Printing, postage, mailing, office supplies, telephone.</u>
4. <u>\$5,000 x 4 yrs</u>	<u>Includes mileage comp (no vehicle), annual land trust conference and Board Training.</u>
5. <u>\$2,000 x 4 yrs</u>	<u>Covers annual health insurance payment made to single employee.</u>
6. <u>\$8,000 x 4 yrs</u>	<u>Covers payroll taxes associated with lone employee.</u>
<u>Total: \$30,000 x 4 yrs</u>	

GOALS AND BENEFITS TO THE SHERIDAN AREA COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE EXPENDITURES LISTED ABOVE:

1. Provide education and information to interested landowners regarding conservation easements and historic preservation easements.
2. Major efforts include conservation of the Tongue River using conservation easements from the I-90 bridge east 13 river miles to the Decker Hwy bridge, coordinating with local property owners in this stretch to provide creative solutions for estate planning, improved development ideas and ultimately the protection of this intact and largely undeveloped riparian corridor with a rich mining and agricultural history worth preserving.
3. We plan to have 10,000 acres county-wide under conservation easement through the end of FY 2015
4. Goal of 10 historic preservation easements on properties by end of FY 2015.
5. We will continue working to establish a Historic Preservation Trust Fund with local representatives to give value to historic preservation easements statewide.
6. We plan to have 400+ giving members of SCLT by the close of FY 2015.
7. Continue to operate in a consultation/participation capacity with County and City planning efforts.
8. Continue to represent public access with increased recreation/hunting opportunities in all transactions.

DESCRIBE LAST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BENEFITS ATTRIBUTED TO CURRENT ONE CENT OPTIONAL FUNDS RECEIVED (If applicable):

The Sheridan Community Land Trust was created in 2005 and established as a nonprofit in 2006. SCLT was run by a volunteer board of directors since inception, with a full-time Executive Director hired in June 2009, made possible through One-Cent support. SCLT currently holds 2 easements in Sheridan County, a conservation easement on the VOA (formerly WYSTAR property) and a historic preservation easement on the Sheridan Inn. SCLT celebrated the landmark historic preservation easement, the first of its kind in Wyoming in May, 2009.

Since hiring a full-time E.D., SCLT (directly supported by One-Cent funds) has been able to increase and sustain its public outreach and education priorities, meeting with 20+ interested landowners since June 2009 to discuss the specifics of placing conservation easements on private ground. SCLT is currently pursuing 3 conservation easements totaling over 1000 acres and hopes to celebrate at least one of these easements summer of 2010. These meetings and potential easements would not happen without an active local land trust, as other land trust entities most likely would be uninterested in these smaller tracts of land outside of key habitat areas.

One-cent funds have been a consistent and much appreciated percentage of SCLT's total income the last several years, and have been key in supporting SCLT's efforts to secure private funding through grant opportunities and member-raising. We will continue to maintain a survival budget in our efforts to give the highest return back to the taxpayers who support us and benefit from our existence.

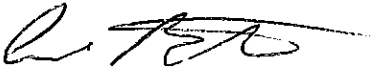
PLEASE INDICATE IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS APPLYING FOR THE CITY OF SHERIDAN OPTIONAL ONE CENT TAX FUNDS. IF SO, THE AMOUNT REQUESTED AND FOR WHAT YEAR(S) AND PURPOSE.

At this time SCLT does plan to request funding from the City of Sheridan's one-cent funds for FY 2011-2015. We will be requesting \$30,000 annually which will go strictly to operations for the continued full-time presence of SCLT in our county. We would encourage the City and County to discuss the structure and commitments to continued one-cent funding of SCLT.

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR LAST FISCAL YEAR AUDIT (Or a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement).**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET.**

****PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE LATEST IRS FORM 990 (If Applicable).**

SIGNED:  Colin Betzler

Title: Executive Director

Date: March 31, 2010