

April 9, 2020

Letter of Commitment to First Light Conservation Community Delegation on Wabanaki Land Access and Land Issues

This letter documents the commitment of The Nature Conservancy in Maine (TNC) to serving on the Conservation Community Delegation on Wabanaki Land and Water Access and Stewardship. Wabanaki Leaders and Community Members engaged with the First Light Journey have requested that the conservation community form a similarly sized Delegation to work with the Wabanaki Task Force being formed. Attached is a working document outlining the initial set of goals of such a Delegation.

This Delegation is envisioned to meet by phone or in person, approximately every 6 weeks or a total of about nine times a year, and members are expected to commit approximately 2 hours a week on products or other aspects of the collaborative effort. TNC commits that both Molly Payne Wynne (Senior Freshwater Scientist) and Susan Caldwell (Conservation Coordinator) will represent TNC on this Delegation at least through June 2021. As part of this role, Molly and Susan will keep the other staff of TNC apprised of this work progress and engaged in the goals of the ongoing First Light Journey.

TNC understands that the Wabanaki Task Force and Conservation Community Delegation will incur costs and require funding for capacity and implementation of the First Light Journey goals. TNC commits \$25,000 to New Learning Journey to support the effort in our FY20 budget (ending June 30, 2020), specifically towards capacity work for the creation of the Wabanaki Task Force and hopes to provide additional funding in FY21 at a similar funding level. TNC will also work with other Delegation members to support fundraising efforts to further the collaborative effort.

When invited to collaborate, TNC works in partnership with indigenous peoples to strengthen their role in stewarding the lands and waters upon which all life depends. We believe this is one of the most impactful and enduring actions we can take to protect critical places, address climate change and create a future in which people and nature thrive. TNC aims to help transform the way land and waters decisions are made by strengthening the voice, choice and action of indigenous peoples to shape and manage land and water in ways that improve lives and conservation outcomes.

TNC is honored to have been able to participate in the First Light Learning Journey since 2018 and is pleased to commit to continued participation in this important work in Maine.

Sincerely,



Kate Dempsey
The Nature Conservancy, Executive Director