



ESRT Job Description for Board of Trustees

Job Description

RESPONSIBLE FOR: Ensuring good governance and financial sustainability; contributing to the strategic development of the Trust via the delegated authority to the Director; advocating for the Trust.

ROLE: Part-time, voluntary

LOCATION: Home-based. Board meetings at locations agreed by the Trustees.

Organisation

The Essex and Suffolk Rivers Trust (ESRT) is an environmental charity dedicated to protecting, conserving, and rehabilitating rivers across Essex and Suffolk (Charity No. 1157392). The Trust's mission is to deliver outstanding river ecosystem enhancement through science-based action, collaboration, education, and engagement. ESRT is a member of the national Rivers Trust and is part of the rivers trust movement, which comprises over 60 local trusts described as having 'wet feet' because they concentrate their efforts on practical environmental enhancement works on the ground. The Trust's core values are central to all it strives to achieve, including bringing positive energy and expertise, increasing good relationships, and delivering to a high standard, making a real difference to rivers and estuaries.

The Trust was set up in 2013, and although it has remained relatively small, real change on the ground has been achieved with the help of an active Board of Trustees and volunteers. The Trust is currently employing five staff, the Director, a Natural Rivers Manager, an Administration and Communications Officer, A project Support Officer and a Bluespaces Delivery Manager. It benefits from an increasingly strong reputation with partners and is now building financial reserves with the aim of diversifying our income sources. With strong foundations and a stable staff base, the Trust is at an exciting time in its development and is seeking to grow. This ambition is based on building long-term financial sustainability; developing our systems and processes; increasing our effective coverage across the six catchments we work in and tackling the nature and climate emergencies through practical action.

Role Summary

The key activities of the Board of Trustees are to oversee the Trust's delivery of its strategic plan and financial sustainability; ensure the good governance of the Trust; advocate for the Trust where required and provide support and challenge to our Director and staff.

The Trust meets quarterly. Meetings are a mix of online and in-person board and where possible, includes a visit to see some of our work on the ground. There is an opportunity to see our work outside formal board meetings with our project staff.

In addition, Trustees may be expected to participate in sub-group meetings in a governance role on an as needs basis, related to Trustees areas of interest and expertise. Since 2023, we have been developing our new business plan and we will welcome new Trustees input to this process.

The Trust is embarking on a period of growth and Trustees will be helping facilitate a successful period of change, growing its reputation and influential voice.

You will bring specific knowledge and expertise that contributes to our growing organisation.

You will oversee the continued financial sustainability of the Trust, contributing strategy insights to the development of different income streams and project funding as appropriate.

You will have a passion for helping nature and in particular an interest in helping rivers at a point of real crisis.

You will bring a proactive, and reflective attitude towards diversity and inclusion central to our culture and purpose.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governance of the Trust

- Monitor the performance of the Trust and ensure that it satisfies all regulatory and legal compliance requirements.
- Ensure the risks to which the charity is exposed are reviewed regularly and systems are established to mitigate these risks without becoming risk averse.
- Ensure that the Trust's financial dealings are systematically accounted for, audited and publicly available.
- Ensure that the Trust is fair and open to all sections of the community in all activities.
- Ensure the Trust has a governance structure that is appropriate to an environmental charity of its size/complexity, stage of development, and its charitable objects and that these structures and the governing instruments are reviewed regularly.

The Leadership of the Trust

- Maintain the Trust's culture in creating a working environment that is welcoming, inspiring and flexible.
- Support the implementation of the Trust's vision and strategy ensuring that it achieves its charitable, environmental, and financial objectives.
- Ensure the Trust hears key stakeholders' voices and views, especially beneficiaries and champion diversity and inclusion through the process.

Visible advocacy for the health of rivers and estuaries and the wildlife they support

- Actively promote the Trust to potential donors for fundraising and partnerships.
- In combination with senior staff, represent the Trust at strategic meetings where possible.
- Ensure that, whenever practicable, attend key Trust events and have informal opportunities to meet staff and beneficiaries.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

When completing your application, please keep these requirements in mind.

We are particularly interested to hear from people who:

- Have experience of leading and managing growth within an organisation.
- Can highlight how we could support finance and business in delivering biodiversity and carbon offsets.

- Have experience in developing successful corporate funding relationships.
- Have a background in any of the following areas: water and wastewater management, aquatic conservation, human resources or fundraising
- Can broaden and deepen the diversity of thought and experience represented in our organisation. We aim to represent and reflect diverse communities.
- Have experience and understanding of land-use and farming and the opportunities available for landowners and environmental organisations to work together to bring positive impacts for all.

It would also be ideal if you had any of the following:

- A desire to tackle nature and climate emergencies, in particular in the water environment.
- A track record of successfully working within or managing a senior team.
- Experience in writing funding bids and a good understanding of what makes them successful.
- An ability to think strategically and discern how to prioritise opportunities that will ensure growth and sustainability.

APPLICATION PROCESS

At ESRT we believe in equality of opportunity and positively encourage applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marital/civil partnership status or pregnancy and maternity. We are committed to better reflecting society and the communities who use, need, and enjoy our rivers within our workforce.

Please email the following to helen.dangerfield@essex Suffolkrivertrust.org.

- your CV
- a covering letter (two pages maximum) focussing on why would like to become a Trustee; your relevant knowledge, experience, and skills and what you would like to offer to the Trust.

Our closing date for applications is 9th September 2024. No agencies please. We would be happy to discuss the role further.

More information: www.essex Suffolkrivertrust.org.