

## **STEBEN COUNTY LAND BANK CORPORATION CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

**Conflicts of Interest:** A conflict of interest is a situation in which the financial, familial, or personal interests of a director, employee, or contractor come into actual or perceived conflict with their duties and responsibilities with the Steuben County Land Bank Corporation (the “Land Bank”). Perceived conflicts of interest are situations where there is the appearance that a board member, employee, and/or contractor can personally benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity, or where a board member, employee, or contractor may be influenced to act in a manner that does not represent the best interests of the Land Bank. The perception of a conflict may occur if circumstances would suggest to a reasonable person that a board member, employee, and/or contractor may have a conflict. The appearance of a conflict and an actual conflict should be treated in the same manner for the purposes of this policy.

Board members, employees, and contractors must conduct themselves at all times in a manner that avoids any appearance that they can be improperly or unduly influenced, that they could be affected by the position of or relationship with any other party, or that they are acting in violation of their public trust. While it is not possible to describe or anticipate all the circumstances that might involve a conflict of interest, a conflict of interest typically arises whenever a director, employee, or contractor has or will have:

- A financial or personal interest in any person, firm, corporation or association that has or will have a transaction, agreement or any other arrangement in which the Land Bank participates.
- The ability to use his or her position, confidential information or the assets of the Land Bank, to his or her personal advantage.
- Solicited or accepted a gift of any amount under circumstance in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence him/her, or could reasonably be expected to influence him/her, in the performance of his/her official duties or was intended as a reward for any action on his/her part.
- Any other circumstance that may or appear to make it difficult for the board member, employee, or contractor to exercise independent judgment and properly exercise his or her official duties.

Section 73 and Section 74 of the Public Officers Law also applies to directors, officers, and employees of the land bank per Section 1605 of Not for Profit Corporation Law. If inconsistencies between this policy and the aforementioned Law exist, the latter takes precedence.

### **PROCEDURES**

**Duty to Disclose:** All material facts related to the conflicts of interest (including the nature of the interest and information about the conflicting transaction) shall be disclosed in good faith and in writing to, when reasonably feasible, the Governance

Committee, otherwise to the directors at a meeting of the directors. Such written disclosure shall be made part of the official record of the proceedings of the Land Bank.

**Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists:** The Governance Committee or the directors, as applicable, shall advise the individual who appears to have a conflict of interest how to proceed. The Governance Committee or the directors of the Land Bank, as applicable, should seek guidance from counsel or New York State agencies, such as the Authorities Budget Office, State Inspector General or the Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) when dealing with cases where they are unsure of what to do.

**Recusal and Abstention:** No board member, employee, or contractor may participate in any decision or take any official action with respect to any matter requiring the exercise of discretion, including discussing the matter and voting, when he or she knows or has reason to know that the action could confer a direct or indirect financial or material benefit on himself or herself, a relative, or any organization in which he or she is deemed to have an interest. Board members, employees, and contractors must recuse themselves from deliberations, votes, or internal discussion on matters relating to any organization, entity or individual where their impartiality in the deliberation or vote might be reasonably questioned, and are prohibited from attempting to influence other board members, employees, or contractors in the deliberation and voting on the matter.

**Records of Conflicts of Interest:** The minutes of the Land Bank's meetings during which a perceived or actual conflict of interest is disclosed or discussed shall reflect the name of the interested person, the nature of the conflict, and a description of how the conflict was resolved.

**Reporting of Violations:** Board members, employees, and contractors should promptly report any violations of this policy.

**Penalties:** Any director, employee, or contractor that fails to comply with this policy may be penalized in the manner provided for in law, rules and regulations.