

## **2022 Local Working Group Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Date: 10/26/2022

Location: AVSWCD USDA Facility  
254 Goddard Rd  
Lewiston, ME 04240

**Attendance:** Jim Johnsons (DC), Alex Stace (NRCS), Emma Lorusso (AVSWCD), Theresa Bessette (ASVSWCD), Alex Pine, Clive Madden, Carol Weymouth, Tracy Krueger, Kristin Feindel, Adam Kelly, John Schott, Samantha Lorenzeth, Amy Soper, Steve Sinisi, Omasombl Katuku, Ben Whatley .

**Call to order:** Emma Lorusso called the meeting to order at 9:40am.

Emma Lorusso offered a welcome to the attendees and spoke of the role of SWCD's in protecting and maintaining our local natural resources and of the relationship between AVSWCD and NRCS in achieving those goals. She offered an overview of the goals of the Local Working Group and the importance of gathering local landowner to assess their needs and concerns. She also provided a brief overview of the projects that the District is currently involved with and made mention of the various organizations and agencies that AVSWCD collaborates with. Emma also mentioned the goals

Jim Johnson the District Conservation began his presentation with a brief history of the District in relation to NRCS, current NRCS programs, and changes in Farm Bill Funding and the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act on future NRCS programs and funding.

Jim went on to explain federal guidelines pertaining to programs including the shift in priorities with more focus on projects addressing to climate change concerns. He also discussed new funding projects for urban farms.

Jim facilitated discussion about application process and different types of funding programs.

Discussion about the ability of funding to be adjusted in response to economic and supply chain issues.

Jim defined the different fund pools that are available; Animal Waste, Cropland, Pasture, Forestry, and Wildlife and some of the programs within each fund pool.

Discussion about changes in the agricultural/farming/forestry industries in the two counties.

Reminder that the Fund Pool under discussion is the Local Pool only.

Alex Stace outlined the three main goals for the meeting:

- Prioritizing resources concerns.
- How to distribute funding between local pools.
- Input on ranking questions.

He also highlighted the resource concerns as identified by previous years LWG's.

Group discussion about resource concerns and how funds should be allocated.

Final decision on funding allocation based on highest number of votes:

Animal Waste	60 %
Cropland	20 %
Forestry	10 %
Pastureland	3 %
Small Farms	2 %
Wildlife	5 %

Alex presented topics regarding environmental concerns and asked for discussion and a ranking of priorities. The outcome is noted below:

High:

- Water Quality: nutrients, sediment, pathogens for groundwater and surface water.  
Sources: manure/compost, soil erosion
- Water Quantity: too little (drought), too much (flooding)
- Soil Erosion: farmland and streambank
- Soil Health: organic matter, compaction

Medium:

- Livestock: water, shelter, feed and forage
- Wildlife Habitat: food, water, space, cover for aquatic and terrestrial
- Plant Health and Productivity: pasture, cropland or forest, including woody invasive management

Low:

- Air Quality: particulates
- Air Quality: greenhouse gas emission,
- Air Quality: odors