

From: Nate Pennell <nate.pennell@myfairpoint.net>
Subject: Minutes USDA Local Work Group Meeting

USDA LOCAL WORKING GROUP MINUTES WASHINGTON COUNTY SWCD

The annual meeting of the Washington County USDA Local Working Group was held at the USDA Service Center Conference Room in Machias, Maine on January 19, 2023 at 10 am. In attendance were District Supervisors Tim Tabbutt and Jeff Orchard; SWCD Staff Nate Pennell; NRCS District Conservationist Bob Bills; Steve Koenig, Project SHARE; and Joe Roy, Maine Dept. of Inland Fish and Wildlife.

Nate Pennell, SWCD District Manager called the meeting to order. He thanked all for their attendance. Each person introduced themselves. Nate provided a two page list of District accomplishments in 2022. He discussed the role of the local working group as a subcommittee of the USDA-NRCS State Technical Committee.

Bob Bills, NRCS District Conservationist explained how the local working group recommendations are utilized in the EQUIP Program. Bob provided a 14 page handout which he reviewed with those present. He reviewed prior year fund pool categories and percentages as well as deadlines. All questions were answered and emerging issues discussed. Prior year pool categories and percentages were recommended to remain the same.

Forestry 40%	Forestry Health High Priority
Cropland 40%	Water Quality and Air Quality High Priority
High Tunnels 10%	Wildlife Habitat High Priority
Ag Waste 10%	Soil Erosion Medium Priority

Bob thanked all for coming, providing suggestions, and good discussion.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance and assistance. Meeting adjourned at 12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nathan Pennell
1/24/2023