

## STAC Minutes 5.15.24

- 9:00 Welcome/ Introduction
- 9:02 FSA Jeff Holmes with FSA updates
  - Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
  - Disaster Declarations
  - Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP)
  - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
  - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- 9:17 Congressional Staff Updates
  - Sen. Shaheen's Office
    - Farm Bill updates, still in the markup with two chambers
    - Opportunity for disaster supplemental funding
- 9:19 RD Updates Sarah Waring
  - Marc RD budget for programmatic work was decreased. REAP increase in funds with a large back log of projects.
- 9:27 Congressional Staff Updates
  - Sen Hasan's Office
  - Kruster's Office
    - 6 projects to RD
    - Not seen a final version of the Farm Bill
    - FCEP- Forest conservation Easement Program- Keeping private forest lands.
  - Pappas' Office
    - Unavailable to attend.
- 9:31 Break
- 9:37 Programs
  - Stephanie – FA Programs (CSP, AMA, EQIP)
    - 9:40 allocations and what is remaining.
  - Jess- RCPP
    - 9:42 – allocation and what is remaining.
  - Tracey – Entity Held Easements, ACEP-ALE/ RCPP
  - Brooke- ACEP-WRE
- Local Working Group Data
  - 9:51-Belknap
    - People are interested in the development of FMP and conservation planning.
    - Want to see more collaboration and outreach
    - Looking at Easements as a tool for watershed management
  - 9:52- Cheshire/ Sullivan County: Lionel
    - Sustainability, conserving natural resources and local ag.
    - Difficulties in bringing products to local markets.
    - Increase interest in Silvo pasture.
    - Energy, request of more scenarios and practices.
    - Wildlife exclusion fencing.
    - Forestry increasing concern of precipitation.

- Recommendations
      - Activate and fund 96” exclusion under 382 fences.
      - Activate and create more payment scenarios for logging.
      - To fund energy generation, critically needed. REAP To complicated and cost share is not effective.
      - Increase federal share for conservation program from 50% to 75%
- 10:54-Coos County: Whitney Lewis
  - Optimal Natural Resource and maintaining the balance.
  - Keeping connections strong at the State and Local level
  - Need for education program in the community and the schools
- 10:03- Hillsborough/ Merrimack County
  - Hillsborough
    - Interested in ongoing Education and education opportunities.
    - More small farms and operation and home gardens
    - Conservation interest in protecting the land.
    - Development pressure and affordable housing.
    - Pond construction and restrictions
    - A lot of resources to ag producers but there is not a central location. Recommendation an office hour.
    - Increase in small scale family farm and future growth in consulting.
    - 10:06: Practices of interest.
    - Erosion on farms with increase in precipitation.
    - More public education programing.
    - Practices for solar.
  - Merrimack
    - Need to finish conservation program.
    - Do a good job in advertising the good needs. More sings on farms and social media.
    - Not enough equipment in the state.
- 10:09- Ian Hanley – State Conservation Committee
  - Primary Concerns and summary
    - Farm Viability against development pressure
    - Strength of local food systems
    - Supporting climate resilient practice
    - Invasive species control
    - Need for conservation planning and keeping working lands.
    - Organic transition
  - Needed partnerships.
  - Legislative concerns
  - Easements
- 10:54: Coos County Whitney Lewis
  - Optimal Natural Resource and maintaining the balance.
  - Keeping connections strong at the State and Local level

- Need for education program in the community and the schools
    - Trying to bridge the gaps on Envirothon and getting more people involved.
    - The need for additional positions and funding.
  - Questions: 10:18
    - Lionel, are there any specific energy practices that were mentioned in the LWG?
      - Solar, small wind, ED charging stations
- 10:35- Angelica Quintana
  - Forest landowners can access funding through the state and extension through forest service program.
- 10:45- Cooperative extension Forestry- Steven Roberge
- 11:05-Invited Lightning Round Presentation
  - American Farmland Trust
    - 11:16 Urban and Small Farm Outreach.
  - 11:28-UNH Twilight Meetings/ IPM outreach-Catherine Coverdale and Jermeiy Delisle
    - Tree Fruit twilight Meetings
    - Small Fruit and Vegetable Meetings
  - 11:39 Steven Roberge- Cooperative Extensions update and Forestry
  - 11:41: Source Water Protection
    - Trying to build partnerships in the state. There is a need for protecting forestry and good stewardships.
    - Holding a Northeast meeting in Boston on Sunday August 11. Forest and Water partnership
- 11:51- Adjourn