



Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District

185 State Street, Suite B, Ellsworth, ME 04605

Phone: 207-667-8663

www.hancockcountyswcd.org

Hancock County Local Work Group

Minutes from Wednesday, October 25, 2017

In attendance: Marge Saunders (HCSWCD Associate Supervisor)
Dan Vanwart (Farmer)
Theresa Davis (Forester)
Chuck Penney (USDA NRCS Acting District Conservationist)
Chris Phinney (USDA NRCS Soil Conservationist)
Zack Steel (HCSWCD District Manager)
Tom Fox (Farmer)

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- The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m.
 - Attendees introduced themselves.
 - Chuck reviewed the meeting objectives:
 - Need to decide the EQIP allocations for 2019 EQIP funds for Hancock County
 - Need to decide on the local ranking sheet questions
 - Need to select the fundable practices for Hancock County
 - Chuck gave a brief description of Hancock County EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) and the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program.
 - Chuck reviewed the 2018 EQIP allocations:
 - Cropland- 50%
 - Forestry- 15%
 - High Tunnel- 35%
 - Members then discussed the 2019 EQIP resource allocations in Hancock County and unanimously voted to prioritize them as follows:
 - Cropland- 35%
 - High Tunnel- 15%
 - Forestry- 50%
 - Chuck discussed fish passage projects & AOP under RCPP for 2019. There was also discussion on the, high tunnels, and cropland in relation to Blueberry producers and price of berry crop which is going to affect producers.
 - There was discussion on different invasive forest pests including spruce bud worm. The group discussed how certain practices, like sanitation cuts, can help to control these pests. MACD received a contract from the Maine Forest Service to conduct education and outreach on invasive forest insects and there will be a workshop hosted by the Hancock County SWCD sometime this winter/spring. It would be great to include information on NRCS programs at this workshop.
 - **2019 High Tunnel Ranking Questions (local) will not change from 2018.**
 - **2019 Forestry Local Questions will change:**
 1. Will the proposed practices benefit Bee populations or other pollinators? If yes award 50 pts.

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Page 2. Local Issue Questions Cont: (Forestry)

2. Will noxious and invasives be addressed (Brush Management) with the proposed action? If yes award 100 pts.
3. Has the applicant NOT had an EQIP contract in the last three years (2015-2018) EXCLUDING a forestry CAP contract? If yes award 75 pts.
4. If applying Forest Stand Improvement (Thinning for Wildlife and Forest Health) not at the PC at the benchmark condition, but will be with the proposed action? If yes, award 25 pts.

• 2019 Cropland Local Questions will change:

1. Will road, roadside, or construction site erosion be addressed with the proposed action? If yes, award 75 pts.
2. Will the proposed practices benefit Bee populations or other pollinators? If yes award 50 pts.
3. If selected, will this be the first EQIP contract for this participant, or has the participant had NO EQIP contracts awarded to them within the last 10 years? If yes award 125 pts.