

2018 Local Working Group Meeting Minutes (discussing FY 2019):

Held by: Waldo and Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Feb. 21, 2018

The annual meeting of the Waldo and Knox Local Working Group was held at the Searsmont Municipal Building, 37 Main St. S., Searsmont, ME, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m

In attendance for this meeting were: Waldo & Knox County NRCS Service Center District Conservationist – Brittany Hummel; Waldo County SWCD Chair - Andy Reed; Waldo County SWCD staff - Aleta McKeage, Kym Sanderson; Knox-Lincoln SWCD Chair & Maine Dept. of Ag, Conservation and Forestry - Mark Hedrick; Knox-Lincoln SWCD Supervisor – Diane Schivera; Knox-Lincoln SWCD staff – Hildy Ellis; Maine Forest Service District Forester - Morten Moesswilde; Consulting Forester – Jake Maier; Landowners – Jim Colcord (forest land), Paul Sweetland (blueberries), Nanne Kennedy (Meadowcroft Farm & Maine State Technical Committee member); Coastal Mountain Land Trust Representative – Hale Morrell.

At 1:05 p.m., the Waldo County SWCD Office Mgr. Kym Sanderson called the meeting to order and thanked attendees for their participation. Introductions followed, with each person stating their name and organization/department/town of residence or land ownership.

Waldo & Knox -Lincoln SWCDs outlined signature projects accomplished by the District during the prior year.

District Conservationist Brittany Hummel explained how Local Working Group recommendations were utilized to provide input for the Environmental Qualities Incentives Program (EQIP). Attendees received handouts of the meeting agenda and prior year recommendations, membership applications, fund pool categories and percentages, plus conservation priorities. Brittany also reviewed state and national funding pools and ranking questions in response to inquiries. In addition, a tentative list of program deadlines was presented.

Questions about the process were answered and discussion about local priorities indicated emerging issues that may need to be addressed in the future, including climate change and new forestry practices.

The group reviewed prior year fund pool categories and percentages, inquiring if the percentages for fund pools addressed the need. Information also included the EQIP conservation practices that fall under specific fund pools. Discussion included the types of applications being submitted by participants as well as whether the resource concerns were high or low priority.

The group recommended the following changes to the funding categories: 1) Combining two individual categories used in 2018 – cropland and pasture - into one category called Crop & Pasture; 2) as well as the following allocation percentages:

- Animal Waste: 53%
- Forestry: 15%
- Crop & Pasture: 5%
- Blueberry: 17%
- Small AU producer: 10%

Following review of local ranking questions, the group determined the following changes: See attached.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kym Sanderson, Waldo County SWCD

Hildy Ellis, Knox-Lincoln SWCD