

Penobscot County Local Working Group



Penobscot County
Soil & Water
Conservation
District



1423 Broadway
Suite #2
Bangor, ME 04401

Tel: (207) 990-3676
Fax: (207) 942-1782

Local Working Group Meeting February 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes Bangor USDA Service Center

Attendance:

- Penobscot County SWCD: Bob Fogler, Carol Weymouth, John Simon, & Pam Wells
- NRCS: Charles Penney & Don Todd
- Public: Kirby Ellis & Charles Boothby

Farm Bill Delivery:

- 1) 2018 Program Overview: A breakdown of Fiscal Year 2017 programs was presented. There were 56 new contracts totaling \$863,000.00. There were 56 active contracts at the end of FY 2017.
- 2) 2019 Planning and Evaluation: The program schedules from Maine NRCS State Office were presented.

EQIP 2018

- 1) **Review Eligible Practice List & Recommendations:** NRCS has changed the practice list to national rates.
 - a) The LWG decided to change Animal Waste question 1 to 25 point and question 3 to 25 points. They decided to add a 6th question for existing animal waste storage with a need for expansion for 25 points.
 - b) The LWG decided to change the Forestry question 1 to 50 points and question 5 to 25 points.
 - c) The LWG agreed on no changes to Cropland
 - d) The LWG agreed on no changes to High Tunnel.
- 2) **National Initiatives and State Initiatives:** There are three National Initiatives that will be offered this year and eight state initiatives.

National Initiatives

- a) On-Farm Energy
- b) Organic
- c) National Water Quality

State Initiatives

- a) Beginning Farmer
- b) CAPS
- c) CIG
- d) Pollinator Initiative
- e) Irrigation
- f) Working Land for Wildlife
- g) Socially Disadvantaged
- h) Tribal

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i)

Resource Concern Priorities

1) 2019 Application Evaluation Ranking Tool: The local questions were changed to:

a) For **Livestock Waste**

- i. Ag waste, does this farm have no existing manure storage or stacking sites available? If yes award 25pts
- ii. Are the proposed practices designed to address silage leachate runoff? If yes, award 50 points
- iii. Are the planned practices situated in the Sebasticook Lake or Kenduskeag Stream watershed? If yes, award 25 points
- iv. Are concentrated nutrients negatively affecting perennial streams, rivers, ponds or lakes that are located within 500 feet of the source? And will be addressed by this contract? 75 points
- v. Are concentrated nutrients negatively affecting perennial streams, rivers, ponds or lakes that are located within 500-1000 feet of the source, and will be addressed by this contract? 50 points
- vi. Ag waste, does this farm have an existing manure storage that is in need of an expansion? If yes award 25pts

b) For **Cropland**

- i. Are planned practices on soils classified as HEL? If yes, award 100 points
- ii. Are the planned practices implementing new crop rotations to reduce tilling or increase soil residuals to improve soil quality? If yes award 100 points
- iii. If practice 340, cover crops, is planned, will multiple species mix (minimum of 5) be used? If yes award 50 points.

c) For **Forestry**

- i. Has the applicant NOT had an EQIP contract obligated in the last three years (2016-2018) EXCLUDING a forestry CAP contract? If yes award 50 points
- ii. Are the proposed practices going to address forest health conditions identified in the FMP that target invasive species and/or pest species? If yes award 50 points
- iii. Are the proposed practices going to address forest health conditions identified in the FMP that address disease and/or pest resource concerns? If yes award 50 points
- iv. Was the application deferred and not funded in the 2017 sign up and being resubmitted for the same practices in 2018? If yes award 25 points.
- v. Does the applicant have an active FMP? If yes, award 25 points
- vi. Does the application have an (AOP) Aquatic Organism Passage or a Stream Crossing practice planned for 2018? If Yes award 50 points.

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d) For **High Tunnel**

- i. 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 20 points.
- ii. Does the farming operation sell agricultural products at a farmer's market? If yes, award 60 points
- iii. Does the farming operation sell agricultural products to local, regional, or national businesses? If yes, award 60 points
- iv. Does the farming operation offer customers a community supported agriculture (CSA) share? If yes, award 60 points
- v. Will this be the first Seasonal High Tunnel used by the applicant for the production of crops in the ground? If yes award 50 points

2) **Determine Current Request Needs and Establish Application Percentages:**

- a) The funding rates for Penobscot County's EQIP allocation for 2019 will be:
- i) Animal Waste: 33%
 - ii) Cropland: 30%
 - iii) Forestry: 30%
 - iv) High Tunnel 7%

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy J. Polyot
District Manager