

LOCAL WORKING GROUP 2021

Hosted by Kenai SWCD and Homer SWCD

Via Zoom

Date: Jan. 26, 2021

Time: 9 - 11:30 am

PURPOSE:

- Participants leave with a better understanding of NRCS programs and how they work
- NRCS leaves with a better understanding of priority natural resource concerns on the Kenai Peninsula

AGENDA:

- Welcome & Introduction (10-15 min.)
 - Kyra: kicks off with renaming exercise, explains Gallery and Speaker view, all end in Speaker view.
 - Mitch: welcome and purpose of meeting
 - Heidi: agenda preview
 - 3 part: NRCS intro, resource prioritization, ideas and innovations discussion
 - Heidi: Introduce Amanda
- NRCS Presentation: Amanda (15-20 min., +5 min. Q&A)
 - Overview of Farm Bill programs with emphasis on EQIP
 - Q&A (5 min.)
- Resource Concerns Prioritization Exercise (25-35 min. total)
 - Kyra: Introduction (5 min.)
 - Local and state-level priorities drive what activities/practices get funded
 - NRCS is unique: helps willing landowners assess, plan and fund conservation practices (resource concerns and how they tie to practices)
 - “Practices” are the on-the-ground results
 - Heidi: Slides (10 min)
 - NRCS uses this list for two types of land: ag land and forest (define)
 - Introduce the Resource Concern Categories (the “List of 17”)
 - Covers the gamut: Soil Water Air Plants Animals and Energy
 - Define unfamiliar terms like “weather resilience” even “degraded plant condition”
 - Questions?
 - Instant Polling (5-10 min.)
 - Poll #1 Top 5 categories on ag land
 - Poll #2 Top 5 categories on forest land
 - Brief discussion of results:
 - Heidi to facilitate. Kyra to take notes.

- Heid: After a break, we'll talk about NRCS practices that are addressing or could address these concerns.
- Short break (5 min.) (Heidi creates breakout groups)
- Kyra - welcome back, switch to gallery view
 - What would NRCS offer in response to those kinds of priorities?
 - Introduce Meg and Amanda
- NRCS Response to Poll Results (20 - 30 min. total)
 - Meg/Amanda: Discuss practices to address top 3 concerns in each category: ag and forest, noting practices that may be underutilized (10-15 min.)
 - Kyra: facilitate Q & A (10-15 min.)
- Looking Forward: Small Group Discussion (20-30 min.)
 - Kyra put question and link to Google Doc in chat box
 - Heidi intro: "Looking forward, what are your ideas for practices, projects or partnerships that NRCS could support or be involved in? What would you love to see in terms of:
 - **Conservation practices** that would be new to the state
 - Innovative **projects**, or
 - **Partnerships** to address priority resource concerns?"
 - Breakout Groups facilitated by Heidi, Kyra, Meg and Amanda - 10 mins.
 - Facilitators encourage conversation and take notes in shared Google Doc
 - Reconvene (Gallery View) for group reports - 10 min.
 - Heidi facilitates
 - Kyra takes notes (screen share Google Doc)
- Closing -- Heidi/Kyra (5 min.)
 - What happens next: written feedback to NRCS, STAC meetings (3 per year)
 - Quick meeting evaluation (?)
 - Thank you and adjourn