

2025 Statewide Local Working Group Summary Report



Massachusetts Association
of Conservation Districts

Conserving Natural Resources for Future Generations

In coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture -
Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

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Overview

On April 15th, 2025, the annual Statewide Local Working Group meeting was held by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) in coordination with the USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service). The purpose of this meeting was to provide a platform for stakeholders across the state of Massachusetts to discuss their natural resource concerns for the regions they live and work in. It also offered the chance to share the mission of the Conservation Districts (CDs) and to speak about NRCS program offerings and Districts' roles in locally led conservation efforts. Ninety-three participants attended the main discussion, with seventy-five breakout room participants.

Introduction

This report provides details on the 2025 meeting process, summarizes the conversations from the resource-specific breakout rooms, quantifies data gathered in the county-level surveys, and provides recommendations to the NRCS as proposed by participants to address and remediate resource concerns through financial and technical assistance programs.

Local Working Group Background

The purpose of Local Working Groups (LWGs) is to provide direct feedback and recommendations to the NRCS for programming changes based on the principle that community stakeholders are best suited to speak on and address local resource concerns. LWGs function to elevate those concerns to the state and federal government so that these entities can adjust programming and funding to address these concerns. 2025 marks the fourth year that Massachusetts convened Local Working Groups in a statewide format. This creates the opportunity for conversation and connection to be made across county lines which highlights the overlap and differences between resource concerns in different areas of the state.

LWG participants include farmers/ag producers, owners/operators of nonindustrial private forest land, individuals representing a variety of disciplines in the soil, water, wetland, plant, forestry and wildlife sciences, members of the Conservation Districts, and other individuals who provide informed input on natural resources concerns in their community. The 93 participants represented each of the 14 counties in Massachusetts.

The most immediate annual change stems from the NRCS list of ten priority practices that each year are given a 90% cost-share rate to help promote conservation practices that have been identified as priorities by the LWG participants. This list is scheduled for yearly re-evaluation with practices being added, taken off, or modified to better suit the needs of the NRCS customer base.

The Priority Practice List for Fiscal Year 2025 is as follows:

NRCS Practice Code	Practice Name
313	Waste Storage Facility
314	Brush Management
340	Cover Crop
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
367	Roofs and Covers
374	Energy Efficient Agricultural Operation
382	Fencing
400	Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control
442	Sprinkler System
666	Forest Stand Improvement

Meeting Process

As a lead-up to the meeting, two surveys were distributed – one survey went to Conservation District personnel & partner organizations, and the other was sent out to agricultural producers.

The Statewide LWG meeting was hosted virtually and opened with remarks from Michael Leff, Executive Director of MACD, and Mariana Lachiusa, Statewide Local Working Group Coordinator. Rachael Phillips Barnes, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations at NRCS, and Rita Thibodeau, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, then discussed NRCS Programs and the goals of the LWG, followed by the breakout room portion and open meeting discussions.

Based on recommendations from last year’s meeting format, participants chose one of six breakout rooms organized by natural resource sector. The two breakout sessions were framed around an overarching guiding question which was used as a jumping off point for more in-depth, specific conversation. The two breakout sessions spanned 25 minutes each, and were followed by two discussion sessions held with the full meeting during which the notetakers from each breakout shared the main takeaways of the session.

The breakout rooms were:

- Ag production I
- Ag Production II
- Aquaculture
- Forestry I
- Forestry II
- Urban Ag & Soil Health

The two breakout room questions were:

Breakout Session 1: What are the most important natural resource issues in your region?

Breakout Session 2: What strategies and/or conservation practices could address these natural resource issues?

Summary

In the following table, the major natural resource issues per breakout group/resource topic are arranged according to the NRCS technical specifications. Following this table is the summary of the discussions in the second breakout session as a list of actionable recommendations for NRCS and any other relevant parties in Massachusetts.

TABLE I: What are the most important natural resource issues in your region?

Breakout Group	Natural Resource Concern Category
Ag Production I	Water: Source water depletion Water: Naturally available moisture use Water: Nutrients transported to surface water Water: Wind and water erosion Soil: Soil quality limitations Soil: Concentration of salts or other chemicals Animal: Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates Plant: Plant pest pressure Plant: Plant productivity and health Human Considerations: Land Access
Ag Production II	Water: Surface water depletion Water: Nutrients transported to surface water Water: Storage and handling of pollutants Water: Naturally available moisture use Plant: Plant pest pressure Plant: Plant structure and composition Soil: Wind and water erosion
Aquaculture	Water: Nutrients transported to surface water Water: Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to surface water Water: Storage and handling of pollutants Soil: Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels Animals: Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms Animals: Aquatic habitat
Forestry I	Plant: Plant pest pressure Plant: Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation Water: Naturally available moisture Animal: Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates Air: Wind erosion
Forestry II	Plant: Plant pest pressure Plant: Plant productivity and health Fire Management: Wildlife hazard from Biomass accumulation Animals: Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates

Urban Ag/Soil Health	Water: Naturally available moisture use Water: Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to groundwater Water: Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to surface water Water: Groundwater depletion Soil: Organic matter depletion Soil: Aggregate instability Human Considerations: Land Access, Labor
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Summary of Breakout Room Discussions

Ag production I

- Increase water storage capacity on farms. Water quality and quantity are big concerns for cranberry growers.
- Provide a cost share program for purchasing cordless, remote soil moisture and temperature monitors for irrigation monitoring. Tensiometers are complicated to set up and maintain; these smaller monitors would get a lot more monitoring out there.
- Provide assistance for dredging old ponds and reservoirs and applying the nutrient-rich soils to upland areas to support other types of production. This would also provide more water storage capacity in ponds.
- Pruning for cranberries. Ice-sanding that was historically funded by the NRCS is no longer practical due to costs and warmer winters.
- Request for more exemptions for archeological review requirements. The backlog causes reduced access to NRCS funds and prevents projects from happening due to timeline issues.
- Continuation of the multi-species program for cover cropping and soil biology training to address issues of nutrient overloading and nutrients being tied up in the soil.
- Increase native pollinator habitat and provide training for beekeepers to prevent colony die-offs in the winter. Increasing wildlife habitat is funded but more priority is needed to maintain native populations.
- Assist with deer fencing and other practices for large animal pest control.
- Developing jumping worm pest management practice plans.

Ag Production II

- Request for fitting deer fencing into a pest management practice.
- Request for more communication/targeted outreach about specifics of programming- i.e., grazing is a great practice, but timeline and aspects of the program are not clear enough, particularly for new farmers.
- Increased access to well and irrigation practices for under-resourced farmers.
- Better communication around the timeline of the application process. With so much staff turnover, it's been hard to know who is the point person to call.
- Animal Mortality Facility program modification for infected animals that have died from bird flu and other infectious diseases.

Aquaculture

- Adding a practice program for bird spikes/other gear to keep birds away from off-shore production areas, causing contamination.
- Highlight importance of programming for shellfish water restoration.
- Involving commercial fishing in NRCS programs- particularly for water management.
- More focus on stormwater remediation programs.

Forestry I

- Request to re-define lot size to include a watershed or other grouping of land instead of individual parcels. If contracts and plans were able to be 'bundled' together it would help address cross-contamination from neighboring lots with issues such as invasive species management.
- Inquiry into funding for root-injected insecticide and other biocontrols for invasives in a forest setting- maybe a CIG (conservation innovation grant) or CSP (conservation stewardship program) opportunity?

Forestry II

- Some refinement needed in the brush management programs—look at the cost structure and at the methods. Seems to take a few times to clear brush using non-chemical means and get it to regenerate (took three tries on a single 4-acre parcel but NRCS only pays for 1 acre.)
- Request for Wood Chipping as a covered practice.
- Request for Oak regeneration plan.
- Need for prescribed burn programs- too expensive to do without financial assistance.

Urban Ag & Soil Health

- Assistance navigating programs. FSA has barriers that prevent urban farmers from applying for an FSA farm number, and that means fewer farmers have access to NRCS.
- Assistance with filtration systems for over-chlorinated water from the city system.
- Request for more Urban area specific programs including: Brush Management, more affordable tests for soil health, and low-till programs for urban farmers.
- Request for additional ways to help access clean water in cities (wells).
- Overall more inclusion of Urban Ag in NRCS practice scenarios.

Appendix A is a consolidation of the Breakout group discussions that are not formatted under NRCS technical definitions and include topics mentioned that do not fall under the NRCS purview. Nonetheless, they show the more generalized concerns of the participants and should be part of the considerations of all interested parties.

APPENDIX A– Breakout Room Discussions

- **Ag production I**

- **Water**

- The water supply, the care, quality and quantity of it, and the ability to store water are all of big concern. Need to have ability to increase water storage capacity on farms (there are a lot of historic cranberry farms, and there is limited ability to create new reservoirs).
- Water quality affects invasive growth, especially on cranberry farms, poor water quality reduces production capacity and also affects water availability.

- **Invasive Species**

- Dodder and Japanese knotweed are a big issue on cranberry farms. Jumping worms are also a big problem, with no management technique currently available.

- **Land Access**

- Availability to land is a major concern, particularly in coastal areas.
- Keeping coastal land designated as farming land has been a struggle.

- **Ag Production II**

- **Water**

- Nitrogen and agricultural overflow along with septic runoff causing nutrient loading and other major concerns for water quality.
- Cranberry bogs in particular need access to an abundance of clean water and a way to store it for drought seasons.
- Better access to water/irrigation infrastructure.
- Consultation practice for buying oysters and implementing them for water quality.

- **Wildlife**

- Deer overpopulation and Canada Geese migration causing damage to crops and contributing to poor water quality and causing concerns over bird flu.

- **Soil**

- More land in cover crop needed.
- Soil is being lost to erosion.
- Sandy soils need constant amendments, but there have been issues shipping in biochar and lime to Nantucket/other Cape islands.

- **Livestock**
 - Bedded pack and waste management facilities are very important. Can we have increased access to these practices?
- **Human Concerns**
 - Access to land.
 - There is a need to bridge the gap between planners and farmers to better understand the practices/process/timeline of applying for NRCS grants.
- **Aquaculture**
 - **Water**
 - Harmful algal blooms from wastewater discharge where treatment plants or sewage overflows.
 - Getting fishermen on board with doing water quality management programs– involve commercial fishing in USDA programs.
 - Reclassification of the shellfish harvest area in Buzzards Bay.
 - Farms closed due to wastewater discharge associated with rainfall (closures ranging from 7- 220 days greatly affecting harvesting abilities).
 - Stormwater runoff.
 - Are there plans to expand watershed programs to other areas?
 - **Wildlife**
 - Bird spikes and other deterrents needed to keep birds off gear and causing contamination. Can NRCS help with purchasing?
 - **Other**
 - Hard to get aquaculture started in some towns, need more assistance from CDs.
 - Need for expanding efforts in shellfish restoration work.
- **Forestry I**
 - **Water**
 - Beavers are changing wetlands, there is a need for appropriate culvert updates by town, but maybe there's something NRCS can do as well?
 - Precipitation extremes pose a risk to specific tree species and specific forestland.
 - **Pest Management**
 - Invasive species spread is bad and seems to be worse with the changing climate. Particularly beech leaf disease, Emerald ash borer, and hemlock woolly-adelgid.
 - **Soil**
 - Warm conditions over winter mean less opportunity for logging, and more potential damage to soils when logging occurs.
 - **Wind**
 - More frequent extreme wind events topple otherwise healthy trees.

- **Human Considerations**
 - Conservation Commissions and Conservation Districts could help if contracts and plans were known to assist private foresters to 'sell'/bundling properties together. Awareness of existing forestry plans and contracts may incentivize other geographically connected parcels to participate in a larger collaborative contract. Invasive species do not stop at the property line, it can be ineffective to treat a small area surrounded by the same species you are trying to manage.
 - Climate Smart Forestry plans do not take into account inability to sell some material from the parcel. Could there be an incentive for local products to remain local as a counter-balance to the non-availability of markets?
- **Forestry II**
 - **Plant**
 - Would like to see more oak regeneration. Deer tend to destroy what is trying to regrow and there aren't enough hunters to help keep them down.
 - If there is a legacy Ash tree they make note of it and try to keep on the landscape. Ash monitoring is important.
 - An emerging issue seems to be wildfire. Can there be more controlled/prescribed fire to help with regeneration? It has gotten very expensive to burn.
 - Sometimes you have a parcel that is being actively managed but if there is a neighboring parcel causing continual challenge, can there be ways to extend the management plan to the neighbors to help maintain the property? We do it with Ag, but should be able to extend to neighbors.
 - NE Forestry Foundation: 1. Main resource concerns are invasive species. 2. Managing regeneration of forestry and non-commercial "weeding" in areas that have been harvested. Other invasive species have come in, we would like to encourage the local species to regenerate instead. 3. It requires money for tools like chainsaws to help with the management plan of the properties which is not factored into NRCS program grants.
 - **Pest management**
 - Southern Pine beetle emergence caused issues to forest two summers ago and the beech leaf disease. We don't have a good method on how to mitigate beech leaf disease.
 - Looking for guidance on how to handle the issues from deer since fencing isn't covered by NRCS.
 - **Other**
 - Request for assistance from NRCS on help building a forest management project, including the way you conduct a harvest plan and management of it.
 -

- **Urban Ag & Soil Health**
 - **Water**
 - Access to clean, unchlorinated water is a major concern and one that isn't being addressed enough on a municipal level.
 - Access to programs that help with well access/drilling in and around city spaces.
 - Need for better stormwater management systems.
 - **Soil**
 - Access to uncontaminated soil and compost. There is a constant need to do soil tests and the costs can add up quickly.
 - Availability of low-till programs for urban farmers specifically.
 - **Human concerns**
 - FSA has barriers that prevent urban farmers from having an FSA farm number, and that means less farmers will have access to NRCS. This is a policy issue that affects access.
 - Immigrant farmers/laborers are afraid and are not showing up to farm out of fear of deportation. Deep concerns over protecting this population, along with the need for labor.

APPENDIX B- COUNTY-LEVEL SURVEY RESULTS

Leading up to the SLWG meeting, a survey was sent out to a broad audience within the conservation community. There were two versions of the survey- one for Conservation District personnel and another for partner organizations, with the second designed for agricultural producers and those working directly with natural resources. There were 59 total responses to the surveys, down from 161 responses to last year's survey. This could be due to insufficient outreach or confusion about which survey to take, but the recent upheaval in federal programs and funding is likely also a factor.

Summary of Open-ended questions:

Question 1: Please describe any social, economic, legal or other human considerations that you think may affect natural resource conservation in your area.

Responses from Ag Producers:

- Immigration/deportation, lack of affordable housing (including for seasonal farmworkers), inability to access farmland due to land costs, food insecurity and food deserts.
- Reconnecting floodplains, restoring wetlands, building water storage capacity across the landscape.
- Municipalities not having the resources (staff) to dedicate to these problems/enforce regulations. Lack of support for environmental concerns by our city government.
- Fewer people wanting to farm, lack of ag high schools. More youth need to take part in the running of town departments and volunteer steering committees.
- Availability of land and resources to underserved farmers: women, immigrants, and farmers of color.

Responses from Conservation District personnel and Partner Organizations:

- Increased development pressure, development sprawl, human density competing for agricultural land.
- Lack of affordable housing leading to development of our open spaces and further decreases of available habitat to wildlife and further fragmentation of habitat.
- Increased pollution from development.
- Handling of sewage, particularly associated with discharges into the marine environment.
- Commercial/industrial operations- Ashby has seen an increase in commercial and industrial operations, some of which do not comply with local zoning and environmental regulations.
- Federal termination of funding for conservation programs.
- Environmental justice is always tied to social justice - I am concerned that a lot of our underserved communities suffer more for the lack of healthier environments - including things such as food deserts, heat islands, and no access to green spaces.

Question 2: What are major obstacles, if any, for participation in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs, and what strategies could be done to remove or lessen these obstacles?

Responses from Ag Producers:

- I don't feel like I am getting enough information from NRCS to adequately assess my participation in the programs. More complete explanations of programs and processes for inclusion in those programs would be helpful, particularly as it relates to non-conventional farming (i.e. aquaculture).
- Isolation of being on an island and fact our Conservation District is inactive
- Better outreach or information about tax considerations for landowners and professionals could be helpful.
- Lack of communication and collaboration on urban forestry.
- Cultural resource clearance takes too long.
- I don't own land or have secure housing, so I can't farm/steward land in the way I desire.
- Low reimbursement rates for environmentally important projects.
- Lack of understanding of the programs and processes that I would qualify for as a farmer in the marine environment.

Responses from Conservation District personnel and Partner Organizations:

- Grant funding, lack of available staff/hiring freeze/ other federal policy change impacts. Streamline application process, reduce turnover in planning staff, focus on adequate training of planning staff, reduce burden of project planning.
- Lack of time (we are an all-volunteer organization) and expertise in order to enroll in these programs. Paperwork is complicated and there's a lack of knowledge about what NRCS offers.
- Lack of confidence in NRCS programs continuing. NRCS prioritize number of contracts rather than number of producers. There is a small number of producers being served the majority of contracts.
- Upfront costs are a burden on the landowner for large projects; large projects that need engineering, larger construction oversight, or multi-level project management are out of the capacity of most landowners/far too intimidating.
- NRCS-funded projects require a Technical Service Provider, have short timelines to complete the work that might not work for a timber harvester, and can be confusing for landowners who might not realize they're not getting full funding for the project.
- Lack of direct fiscal support to conservation districts.

Question 3: If there was no financial assistance available, what other form of conservation assistance do you think would be helpful to landowners and land managers in your area?

Responses from Ag Producers:

- Education to both farmers and the public about the importance of conservation practices and agriculture to our community and ecosystems. Conservation plans; outreach and education programs, educating town boards about best ag practices.
- Cheaper land access for potential future farmers + education, training, info regarding resources, peer to peer networking opportunities, webinar trainings, community work groups to increase buying power and work parties.
- Voluntary assessment to discuss practices the landowner could do on their own: conservation plans, rotation and planting plans/recommendations.
- Tax abatement for carbon farming.

Responses from Conservation District personnel and Partner Organizations:

- Volunteers. Increased communication between organizations. Organizations working together. Improving relationships between municipalities, DCR, land trusts and other stakeholders to find how they can collaborate. Interagency cooperation.
- Information transfer to educate landowners on conservation practices: Funding establishment of demonstration sites of different practices and field tours for landowners and professionals to attend. Free hybrid classes on techniques.
- Free technical assistance (i.e. assistance with invasive species management and habitat management, project management). Continued technical assistance for sponsors with available financial resources.
- Local Working Groups to deliver peer-to-peer support, shared infrastructure and equipment, planning activities, talks on current trends and methods.
- Ways to connect farmers together to help coordinate efforts for mutual aid so they could help one another instead of relying on funding from NRCS or other sources.

Question 4: If there are any specific localized areas in your county/region that need priority attention, please describe.

Responses from Ag Producers:

- Manhan River
- The Japanese knotweed along the Westfield River along Rte. 20 North
- Sheffield use of glyphosates and bio-sludge by dairy farms causing contamination of Housatonic river
- New Bedford area into Buzzards Bay
- Combined sewer overflows in New Bedford

Responses from Conservation District personnel and Partner Organizations:

- Lynn Woods reservation post 440-acre fire. We want to write a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) and could use partners.

- Historic wetlands on abandoned cranberry farms in SE Mass and Cape Cod
- Federally recognized Tribal and town owned land
- Barnstable county fish passage and habitat restoration

Question 5: If there is anything else about conservation efforts in Massachusetts or NRCS conservation delivery and assistance that you would like us to know, please describe here.

Responses from Ag Producers:

- The folks we have worked with at NRCS have been wonderful, caring, and capable. It often seems that their hands are tied in their attempts to assist farmers due to burdensome reviews of proposed projects by supervisors/ decision makers who don't know the farmers and projects. It is also clear that they are understaffed and stressed by ever increasing workloads.
- Need more equipment available for rent from Conservation Districts to help with compaction.
- I think that there is a major disconnect with some aspects of the Governor's EEA efforts to promote green energy and their siting recommendations.

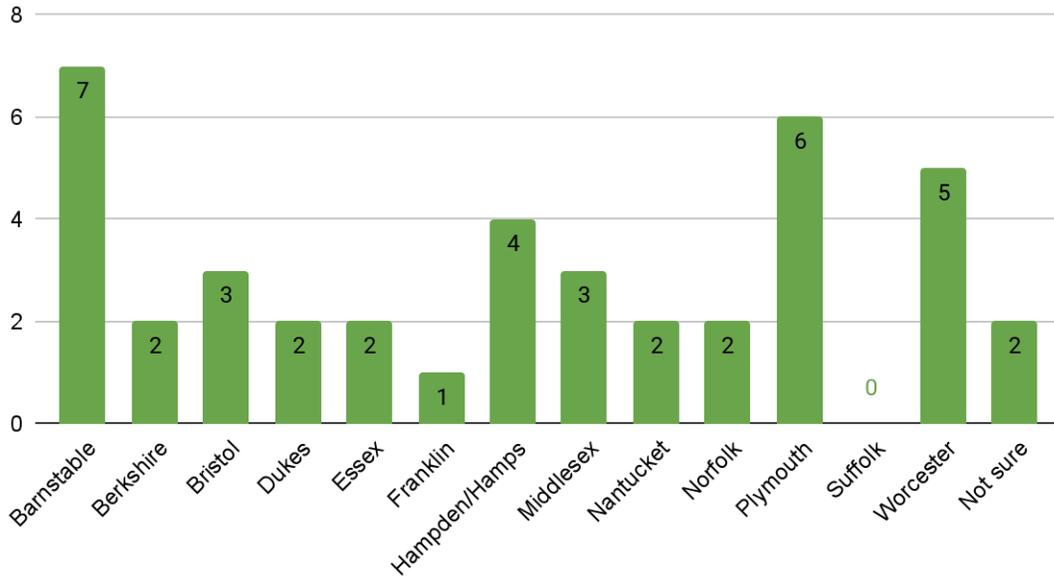
Responses from Conservation District personnel and Partner Organizations:

- Worried about grant funding for the Conservation Districts continued existence.
- Can sometimes be a struggle to jointly promote something due to government bureaucracy moving slowly.

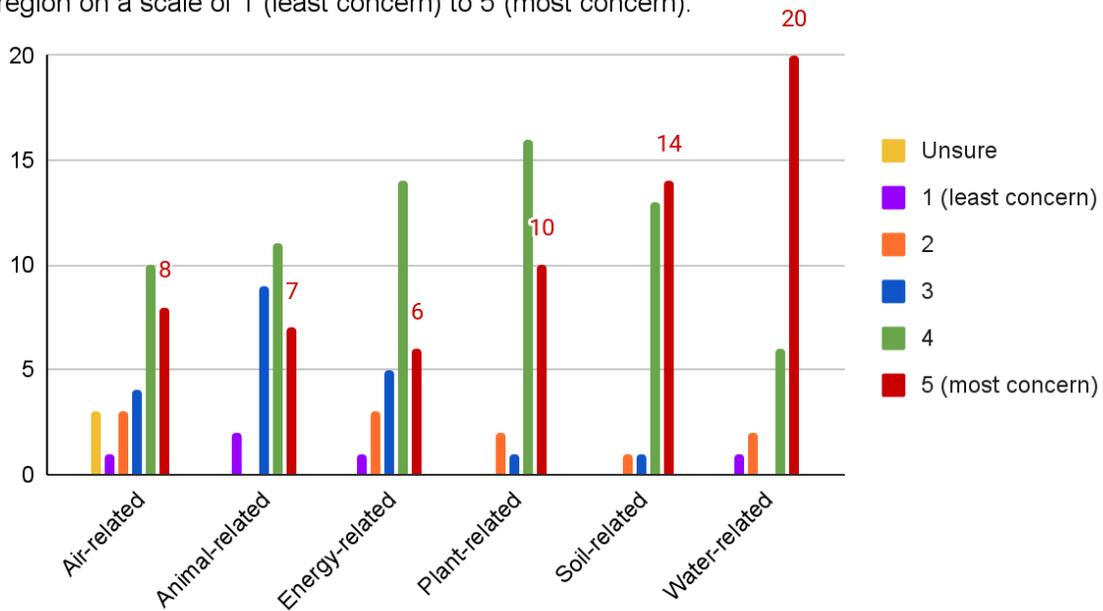
Summary Results for Multiple Choice Questions

Personnel & Partners Survey:

Question 1.) What Conservation District are you affiliated with?

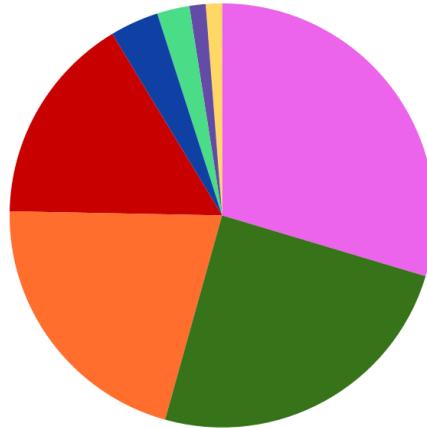


Question 2.) Assess the importance of each natural resource concern category for your region on a scale of 1 (least concern) to 5 (most concern).



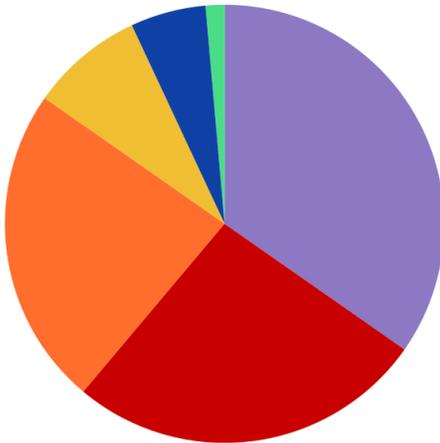
Question 3.) Please select the animal-related resource concerns that you believe are most important to address in your area.

- Impaired aquatic habitat (24)
- Human-related disturbances (20)
- Impaired forest habitat (17)
- Impaired terrestrial habitat (13)
- Unsure (3)
- Inadequate conditions for livestock (2)
- Lack of suitable/available land (1)
- Poisons (1)

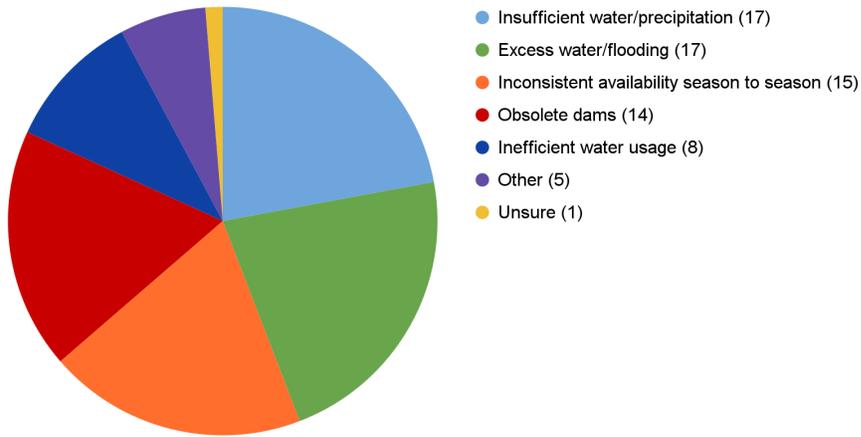


Question 4.) Select the plant-related resource concerns that you believe are most important to address in your area.

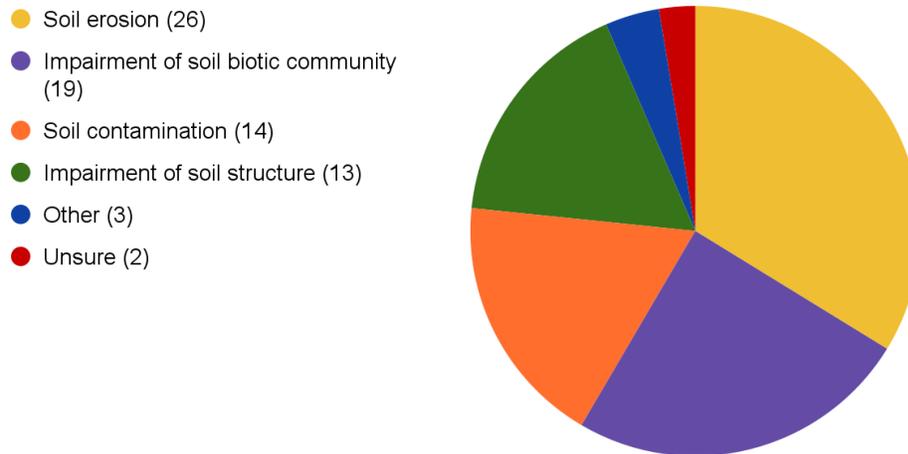
- Plant Pests (e.g. pathogens, invasive species, animals) (25)
- Impaired habitat (19)
- Impaired plant species community/diversity (17)
- Impaired plant productivity (6)
- Unsure (4)
- Urban ecology and urban forestry (1)



Question 5.) Select the water-related resource concerns that you believe are most important to address in your area.

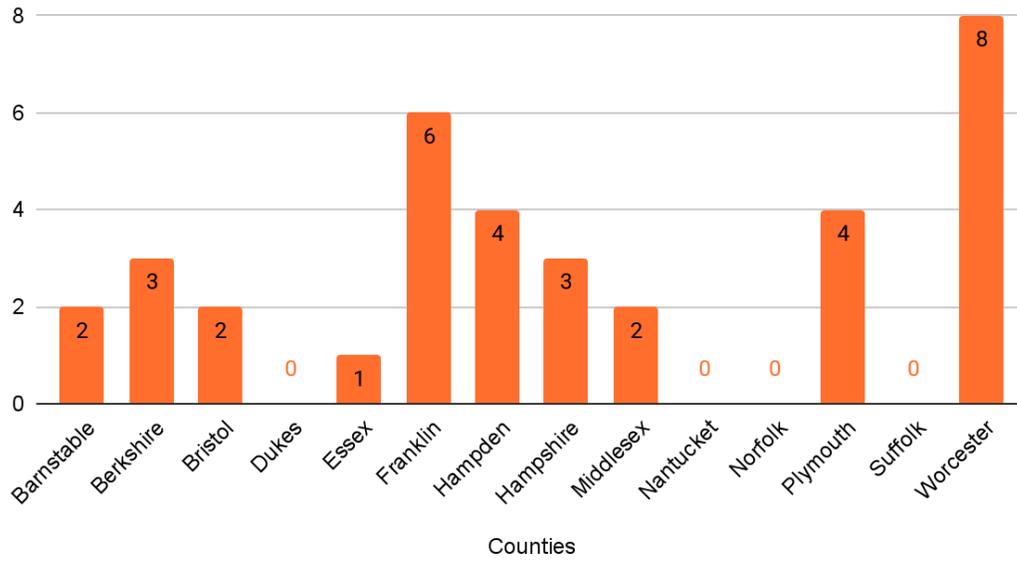


Question 6.) Select the soil-related resource concerns that you believe are most important to address in your area.

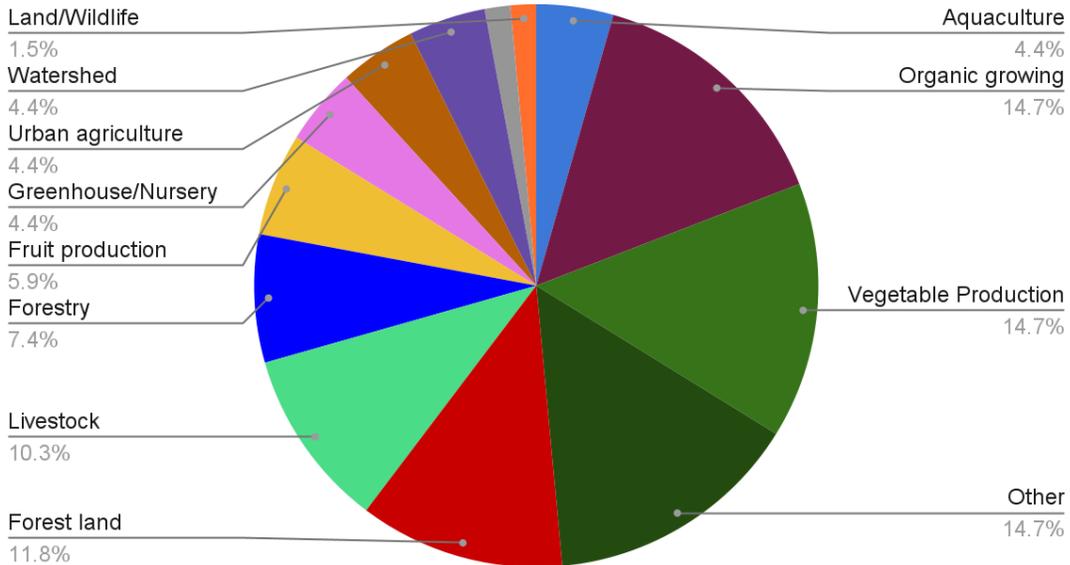


Ag Producers Survey Results:

Question 1.) What county/counties do you work and reside in?

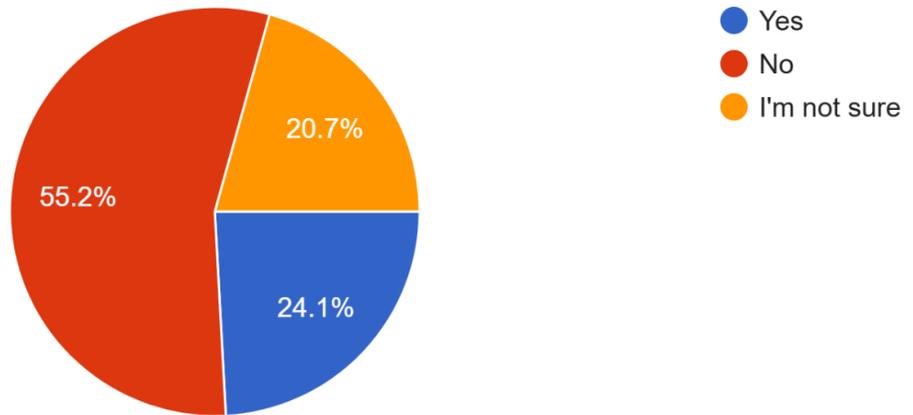


Question 2.) Select the option that best characterizes your work.



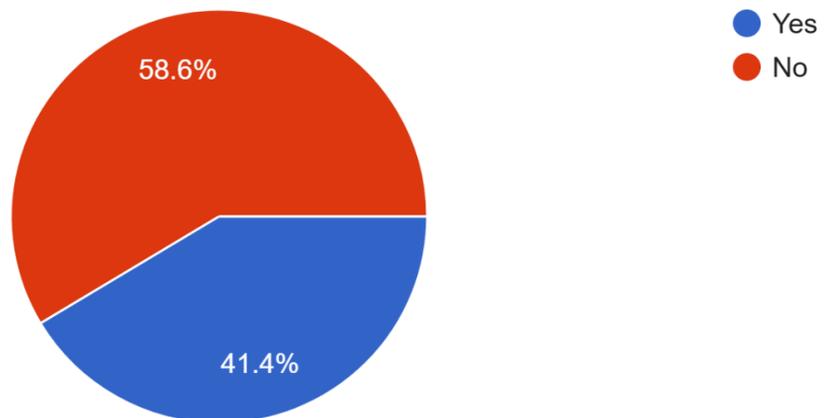
3.) Are you involved in your local conservation district?

29 responses

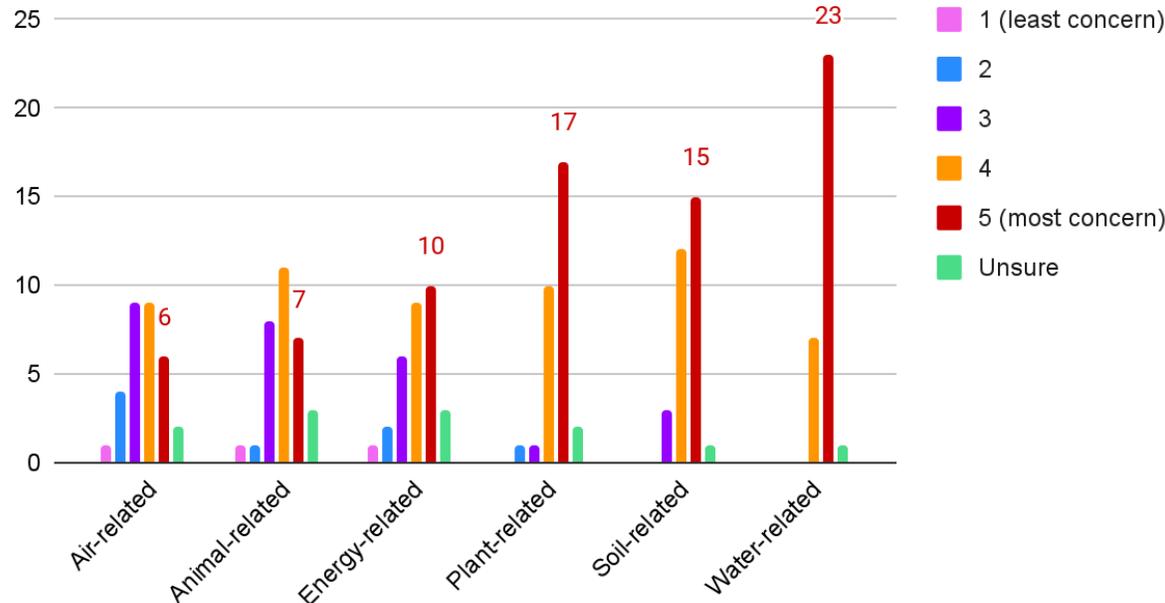


4.) Have you attended a past Statewide Local Working Group Meeting?

29 responses

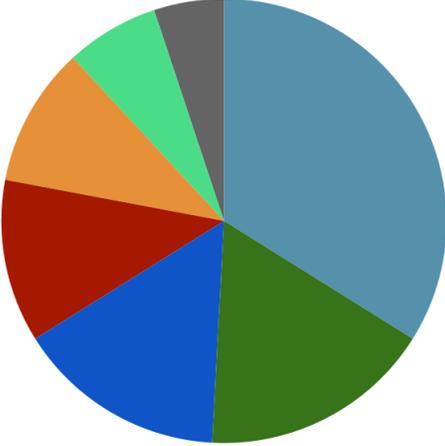


Question 5.) Assess the importance of each natural resource concern category for your region on a scale of 1 (least concern) to 5 (most concern).

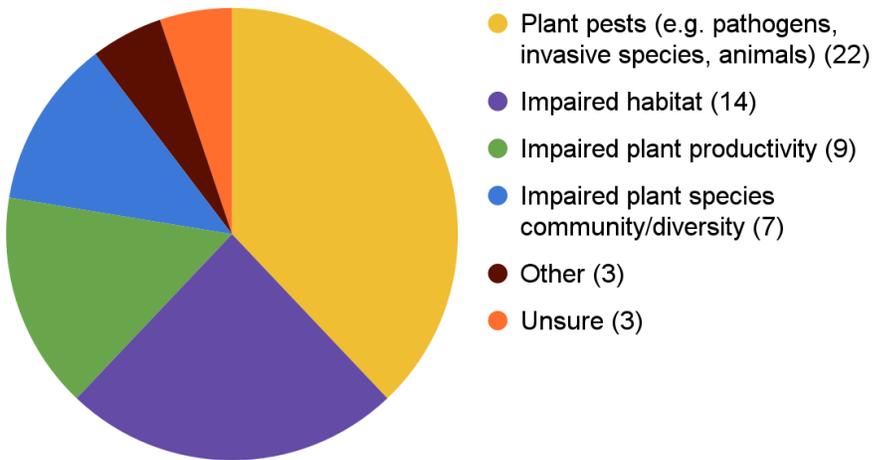


Question 6.) Select the animal-related resource concerns that you believe are most important to address in your area.

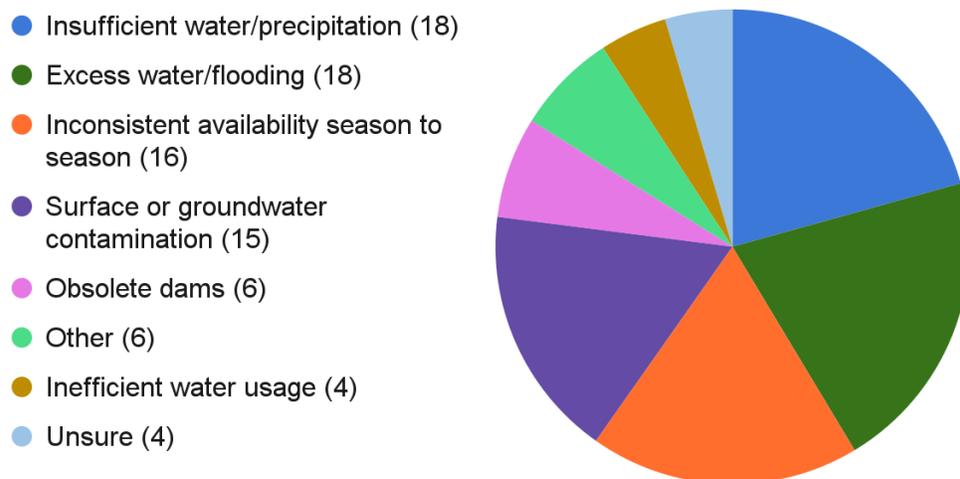
- Human-related disturbances (20)
- Impaired aquatic habitat (10)
- Impaired forest habitat (9)
- Impaired terrestrial habitat (7)
- Inadequate conditions for livestock (6)
- Unsure (4)
- Other (3)



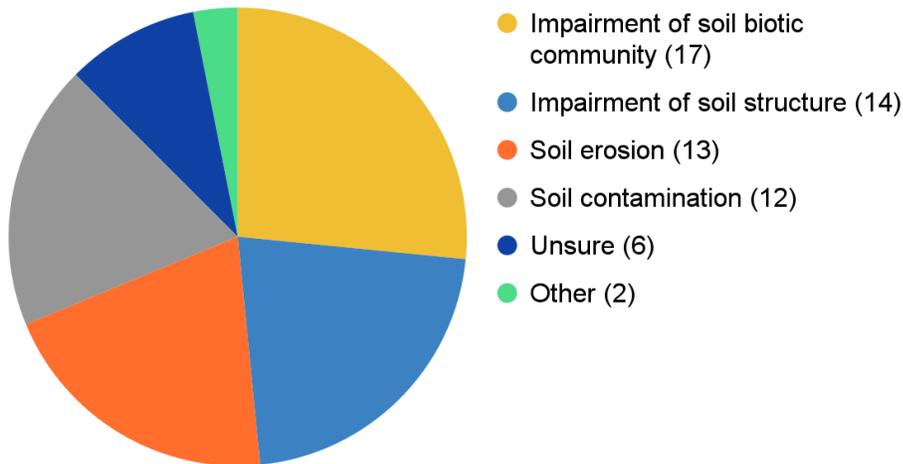
Question 7.) Select the plant-related resource concerns that you believe are most important to address in your area.



Question 8.) Select the water-related resource concerns that you believe are most important to address in your area.



Question 9.) Select the soil-related resource concerns that you believe are most important to address in your area.



Next Steps

This summary report will be posted on MACD's website for public viewing and distribution in addition to being sent to NRCS officials, Massachusetts state government officials, the Conservation Districts, and all meeting participants. NRCS will take this report into consideration when it re-evaluates the funding allocations of programs for future fiscal years. This report will also be discussed by the Conservation Districts as they evaluate how they can better serve local stakeholders' needs in the year to come. MACD welcomes questions or concerns raised by this report; you can find MACD contact info in APPENDIX D.

In light of recent changes on the federal level, there was some conversation during the meeting about the future of NRCS programming. In an effort to avoid speculation, conversation was limited to what information the NRCS has at this moment while acknowledging that changes are still underway.

APPENDIX C – BREAKOUT ROOM PARTICIPANTS

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Ag Production I	
Jamie Pottern (Facilitator)	AFT (American Farmland Trust)
Karen Pettinelli (Notetaker)	SRPEDD (Southeast Regional Planning & Economic Development District)
Emma Wick	Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association
Catherine Magee	NRCS
Michael Pineo	Pineo Family Farm
Megan Gagnon	PCCD (Plymouth County Conservation District)
Brian Wick	Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association
Margaret Hayes	NRCS
Maggie Herlihy	City of Holyoke- Admin Assistant
Brad Fesmire	SEMAP (Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership)
John Chester	Buzzards Bay Coalition
Christina Madonia	N/A
Linda Rinta	N/A
Heather Meehan	SEMAP
Alyssa Vandurme	Berkshire Grown
Trish Settles	Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
Ag Production II	
Meghan Siudzinski (Facilitator)	HHCD (Hampden-Hampshire Conservation District) /MACD
Miryam Becker (Notetaker)	MCD (Middlesex Conservation District)
Curtis Orvis	CCCD (Cape Cod Conservation District)
Bill Wilcox	DCD (Dukes Conservation District)
Viet Nguyen	N/A
Susan Murray	SEMAP
Leila Rezvani	AFT
Meghan Riley	N/A
Robert Purcell	NRCS
Rita Thibodeau	NRCS
Tess Goldman	Wildlands trust
Honey Puder	SEMAP

John Cowley	N/A
Isaac Basibe	Nantucket Land Bank
Amelia Tutmalria	Northeast Intertribal Ag Council
Forestry I	
Joe Smith (Facilitator)	WCCD (Worcester County Conservation District)
Kelly Fitzroy (Notetaker)	N/A
Michael Redante	New England Forestry
Aljani Stanley	N/A
Michele Grzenda	Town of Lincoln- Conservation Director
Josh Rapp	Mass Audubon
John Doyle	MACD
Stacy Kontrabecki	N/A
Amy Janovsky	N/A
Kaleigh Walther	NRCS
Charlotte Pechtl	Cohasset Conservation Commission
Seth Engelbourg	Linda Loring Nature Foundation
Rachael Phillips	NRCS
Forestry II	
Matthew Karas (Facilitator)	HHCD
Ambrose Clausen (Notetaker)	BCD (Berkshire Conservation District)
Carolyn Ness	FCCD (Franklin County Conservation District)
Chris Egan	Mass. Forest Alliance
Dan Ewald	Ashby Land Trust
Jacek Orzol	N/A
Emily Merlino	North County Lands Trust
Robert Hatch	N/A
Steph Frend	N/A
Dan Lenthall	NRCS
Chris Capone	Mass. Department of Conservation & Recreation
Urban Ag/Soil Health	
Charline Xu (Facilitator)	AFT
Zoraia De Jesus Barros (Notetaker)	NRCS
Liz O'Gilvie	Springfield Food Policy Council

Susan Phinney	WCCD
Rob Kilduff	N/A
Simone Wright	CCCD
Heather Baylis	World Farmers
Dago Driggs	NOFA Mass
Cynthia Grippaldi	BCD
Alexandra Compere	N/A
Nataka Crayton	Gardening the Community
Aquaculture	
Martha Craig (Facilitator)	CCCD
Andrea Grossman (Notetaker)	MCD
Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli	Umass Extension- Fisheries
Dale Leavitt	SARE/Blue Stream Shellfish LLC
Sean Bowen	MDAR (Mass. Department of Agricultural Resources)
Mia Halter	NRCS
Karissa Collins	CCCD
John Reitsma	Cape Cod Coop. Extension
Floaters	
Michael Leff	MACD
Mariana Lachiusa	MACD/NRCS

APPENDIX D- RESOURCE LIST

NRCS Resources

[NRCS Service Center Locator Tool](#)- The NRCS and FSA (Farm Service Agency) have Field Offices that cover several counties. To get started with the grant application process, contact your local office for guidance on getting started.

[NRCS Guide for Conservation Programs](#)- Guide to all the NRCS financial assistance programs.

[NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and Specification Library](#)- List of all the NRCS conservation programs with practice code numbers and supporting documents.

[NRCS Natural Resource Definitions](#)- Spells out the specifics of NRCS definitions for varying natural resource concern categories.

Other Organization Resources

[MACD Website](#)- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts website

[MDAR \(Mass. Dept. of Ag Resources\) Grants and Financial Assistance](#)- Link to MDAR grants and financial assistance resources.

[MDAR Ag Events Calendar](#)- Conferences, workshops, board meetings, etc.

[MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program](#)- Provides financial assistance to private and municipal owners of protected lands to enhance wildlife habitat.

[SNEP Watershed Implementation Grant](#)- Apply to help restore clean water and healthy ecosystems to southeast New England, with financial support from the EPA.

[New England Producer Resource Guide](#)- Folder containing a variety of resources for New England Farmers compiled by the American Farmland Trust (AFT).

[State Technical Committee home page](#) - The State Technical Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the NRCS and other agencies of the USDA on the implementation of the natural resources conservation provisions of Farm Bill legislation.

[Umass Extension info page for Jumping Worms](#)

Regional Community Ag Resource Lists

[Southeastern MA Agricultural Partnership \(SEMAP\) Resource Library](#)- Resource links and newsletters for farmers and consumers

[Western Mass Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture \(CISA\) Resource Page](#)- Farmer resources and tipsheets

Conservation District Websites

Berkshire County: <https://berkshireconservation.org/>
Cape Cod: <https://www.capecodcd.org/>
Dukes County: <https://www.dukescounty.org/dukes-conservation-district>
Franklin County: <https://franklinconservationdistrict.org/>
Hampden-Hampshire Counties: <https://hampdenhampshireconservation.org/>
Middlesex County: <https://middlesexconservationdistrict.org/>
Plymouth County: <https://www.plymouthconservation.org/>
Worcester County: <https://worcesterconservation.org/>

APPENDIX E- Contact Info for NRCS/MACD/other partner organizations

NRCS Employees

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