

Local Work Group Meeting

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025, 10:30 - 1:30 pm

Newport City Inn and Suites, 444 E Main St #5883, Newport, VT 05855

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of the Locally Led Conservation Delivery in Vermont and whats been done in Orleans
3. Top issues - working on problems
4. Lunch - and presentation from NRCS on what is and isn't getting funded.
5. NRCS process
6. Next steps for the Orleans County Local fund pool.

Goals:

- Learn about the Local Working Group process, whats been done, and moving forward.
- work on plans for addressing top issues identified for OCNRCD and NRCS to use to develop our conservation action plan to use for NRCS local fund pool proposal.
- Gather feedback on NRCS Processes.

Objective:

- Connect with partner stakeholders to guide strategies for addressing natural resources concerns in Orleans County.
- Increase partner's awareness of the NRCS locally led opportunities, nrsc practices and NRCS processes.

Hybrid Meeting - NEED a staff person to be the POC - Will

9:30 – 10:15: Setup - Board and Staff Arrive

- *Sign in table by the door: sign-in sheet, nametag stickers, pens, handouts*

10:30 – 10:40: Event starts; guests arrive and get settled (refreshments - coffee fruit etc)

- *Greet and welcome at sign-in table - direct folks to choose their table to sit at based on their issue of interest to work on.*

- Four tables - based on top conservation issues from our survey and community meeting, participants self select.
 1. Sustaining Local Farming While Protecting Natural Resources - [Jason & Joanna](#)
 2. Streams and Rivers Water Quality & Pollution - [Ted](#)
 3. Climate Instability & Weather Challenges - [Alyssa & Dave](#)
 4. Invasive Species - [Will](#)

10:40 – 10:45: Welcome and Introductions (guests, hosts) - **Joanna**

10:45– 11:00: [Presentation](#) **Sarah**

- Overview of agenda
- Presentation on Locally Led Conservation Process
- What we have done to date this year including review natural resource assessment, of the survey and community meeting work
- The responsibilities of LWG
- Instruction for small group work

11:05 – 12:00: - **Sarah**

- *Review the problems at each table, anything that is missing?*
 - *Give out: Working on Community Natural Resource Problem Priorities [Handouts](#)*

Instructions: We just want to hear what everyone has to say, not going to come to agreement. The goal is to generate your ideas and feedback, to get your best thinking, options and solutions for us to work with. DON'T OVER think it. I have given some examples on the sheets.

10min: write on your own to use your knowledge,
Really try to work individually for the whole.

45min: individual share with the group, brainstorm answers to 3 questions and NRCS practices related to identified problems.

12:00 –Lunch

12:15 – 12:30: Over Lunch NRCS data: What's getting funded and what's NOT - **Dave**

12:30 – 12:45 Based on the group discussion, facilitators finalize ONE “working on the issues” sheet to represent the group.

Group facilitators gather your groups best shot at feasible feedback. Don't worry too much about needing to exactly answer my question prompt to a T.

12:45– 1:25 Fill out the NRCS process feedback - **Sarah**

5min: write on your own

20min: share with the group and discuss

3 min x4: facilitator share out the result of the day

Instructions: If you don't know, that's ok, someone in your group might know. Just chat about the topics.

Beyond gathering your thoughts, this will help you know some of the topics and ways local workgroups can influence NRCS program delivery.

1:25 – 1:30: Final thoughts, next steps, keep this work in mind over the next year, door prize, raffle drawing (photo op) and goodbyes - **Joanna**

- *Collect all handouts*

Materials needed

- Nametags
- Markers
- Table cards
- Muffins and fruit
- Coffee/tea
- Lunch
- Associated cutlery for snacks and lunch
- Laptop
- Extension cords
- There is a screen and projector in the room but lets bring our too... Just in case
- Raffle for survey
- Door prize tickets
- Handouts
 - Facilitator agenda x 3
 - Participant agenda x 25
 - Print out the presentation for folks to have and make notes on. X 25
 - LWG Notes on NRCS Practices x 25
 - Working on issues sheets x25
 - NRCS process sheets x25
 - Subpart b - edirectives of a local workgroup