



" Take care of the land and the land will take care of you." -HUGH HAMMOND BENNETT

2022 Locally Led Conservation Planning

Agenda – 9:30-2:30 Masks are suggested but not required

Purpose: Provide a venue for Orleans County landowners, farmers and foresters and conservation partners to give feedback on natural resource concerns, strategies, and conservation practice priorities.

Goals:

- Inform participants on recent conservation accomplishments in the Basin Planning and through NRCS programs.
- Inform participants on conditions of the Memphremagog Basin and NRCS process addressing local resource concerns explaining the ranking and the local funding pool.
- Review Locally Led Conservation Survey Results
- Participants weight in on Basin Planning hurdles strategies and action items to address water quality
- Participants weight in on NRCS funding, process, resource concerns and practices.

Outcomes:

- Summary of Basin Plan strategies for addressing water quality
- Information and framework for a NRCS local funding proposal
- Summary the local natural resource priorities, practices, and feedback on NRCS systems that will be shared with NRCS state office for consideration.
- Participants have a better understanding of how agency's planning and programs work.

9:30 Participant Arrival & Mingling

Sign in, name tags, coffee, and snacks

Check out survey results poster and Complete surveys for folks that haven't taken the survey yet

Check Out Orleans County Watershed Map - Are there areas on the map of most concern for you?

Check Out Our Questions

What do you appreciate most about Orleans County landscape and natural resources?

What do you see as the greatest opportunity to make a positive change on the landscape?

Where would you like to see more resources like technical assistance, financial assistance, education etc be put to work?

What are your biggest worries related to natural resources for future generations?

9:45 Welcome – OCNRCD Board Chair, Tim Buzzell

9:50 Brief Round of Introductions – OCNRCD Board Member Joanna Lidback

9:55 Overview of the Agenda

10:00 Description of the Local Workgroup & Conservation District Role

10:05 Results of the last Workgroup and trends of 2022 the survey results

10:20 Presentation Overview of Basin Planning

10:45 Small group discussion on water quality

Focus groups on developing strategies for sectors.

Two goals: getting people engaged in understanding the process and identifying strategies

6 groups – Agriculture, wetlands, riparian and floodplain, forestry, community engagement, lakeshores

Explain directions: Write ideas down individually for a few minutes; facilitate individual report outs; collect index cards from individual reflection time; share and reflect on themes, write themes on big pad and discuss points of interest recording/capturing ideas on the big pad.

- What do you think will advance WQ reductions in your sector of interest?
- What are the hurdles?
- Ideas for strategies to address the hurdles
- What strategies are people excited about.
 - How can this strategy be more active?
 - Are these the right priorities?
 - What partners do we involvement from for this to be successful?

11:15 report outs from facilitators for give us the four favorites

11:45 LUNCH

12:15 Presentation on NRCS activity in Orleans County & Ranking

12:45 Small group discussion on NRCS processes

Directions same basic format as morning session.

4 groups - Organized by organization / representative with NRCS and VACD staff spread among the groups to serve as facilitators and to answer NRCS program & process questions.

Discuss Resource Priorities Based on top resource concerns from the survey

1. Does the group feel that the survey results represent professional experience?

What do these RC mean to people

What are some ideas for your solutions to these RC

2. What are the most important practices to solve the concerns?

Discuss NRCS systems

1. Barriers to the process of
 - a. setting payment rates, in your experience what has been the challenges related to payment rates. Also not that there are time of the year that the public and partners are asked to provide feedback on this.
 - b. setting statewide priorities, what issues have you seen related to NRCS statewide priorities (funding allocations, practice priorities etc) have you attend the state technical committee meetings?
 - c. practices that are available Vermont, are there practices that you would like to see that are not offered in Vermont?
 - d. Application and contracting, what hurdles and challenges have you experienced? What do you see as far as needs and ideas and ideas for effective outreach, capacity building and or expanding knowledge?
2. What do you see as far as needs and ideas for effective outreach, capacity building and or expanding knowledge

1:30 Report out

2:00 NRCS Local Funding Pools

- What is the local fund pool?
- Provide stats on what applications are not getting funded in Orleans County.
- Next steps

2:15 Take Away Sharing and next steps Adjourn