

## Connecticut State Technical Advisory Committee Minutes, October 30, 2024

Welcome – Tom Morgart State Conservationist, called the meeting to order and conducted a roll call (in-person and virtually).

The following people were in attendance, either in-person or virtually; Abbie Cadman (NRCS), Adam Maikshilo (NRCS), Amelia Magistrali (UConn Extension), Audrey Mayer (USFWS), Brian Andrews (NRCS), Cadie Pruss (NRCS), Cameron Weimar (CT DoAg), Carol Grasis (NRCS), Chris Bellucci (CT DEEP), Claire Vaterlaus-Staby (FSA), Dan Mullins (Eastern CT Conservation District), Dustin Riordan (CT DEEP), Ella Kennen (CT Farmer Alliance), Emily Cole (FSA), Erica Anderson, Erik Bedan (CT DEEP), Frank Cevro (CT DEEP), James Lyons (NRCS), Jess Reid (Interlace Commons), Joan Nichols (CT Farm Bureau), Joanna Shapiro (North Central Conservation District), Jocelyn Lahey (CT RC&D), John Randall (NRCS), Karl Honkonen, Kim Stoner (CT NOFA), Kip Kolesinskas, Nancy Ferlow (NRCS), Rebecca Palmer (FSA), Richard Meinert (NEIWPCC), Ricky Bentley (CLCC), Robert Hathorne (NRCS), Sherlene Rodriguez (CT NOFA), Steve Winnett (EPA), Tessa Clark (CT DEEP), Todd Bobowick (NRCS), Tom Worthley (UConn), Vivian Felten (NRCS), Wayne Woodward (Sunny Valley Preserve).

Welcome and Updates, Tom Morgart

- Historically Underserved Contracts

- Drought Monitoring

- 2024 and 2025 Allocations

FSA Program Update, Emily Cole

- Farm Loan Rule Changes

- Emergency Forest Restoration Program

- Emergency Conservation Program

NRCS Programs, Carol Grasis

- 2024 EQIP Summary

- Comparison of FA Programs 2023-2024

- FY 24 Year End Programs Summary – EQIP

- FY 2024 Planned Practices – Top 25 (IRA by # of instances)

- Top 25 Non-IRA Practices by # instances

- FY 2024 Year End Programs Summary (CSP/CSP IRA)

- FY 2024 Implementation

- CT NRCS Contracting Timeline

Payment Limitations affecting EQIP and CSP

Programmatic Changes in 2025

FY 2025 Application Sign-up Dates

FY 2025 Allocations

FY 2025 EQIP Proposed Subaccount Allocation

IRA Guidelines FY 2025

2025 ACEP-WRE Easement Compensation and GARC

Rationale for GARC

EWP Update, Jim Lyons

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program Update

New and Updated Standards, Abbie Cadman

NRCS Conservation Practice Standards

Interim Conservation Practices

Recently Added Interim Conservation Practices in CT

825 Cultural Planting for Soil Health

828 Wildlife Habitat Site Preparation

Updated Practice Specification

372 Combustion System Improvement

NRCS Payment Schedule Update, Nancy Ferlow

Multiple Payment Schedule Regions

Councils of Government (COG) Boundaries

Urban and Small-Scale Agriculture, Vivian Felten

FY 25 Urban Initiative

Areas with High Risk of Soil Contamination

Batching Date Deadlines

Open Discussion

Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests & Water Forum and link provided

<https://northeastmidatlanticpartnershipforforestsandwater.com/2024/09/20/northeast-mid-atlantic-partnership-for-forests-amp-water-november-forum/>

Known Contamination

6PPD, VBOS, H1N1

Use of Biochar in Soils

Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forest and Water Meeting November the 20th and the 21st,  
in Hamden Connecticut.

EPA Environmental Justice Coordinators

EPA Farm Rancher Rural Communities Committee

Food Systems Infrastructure Grant Awards in Connecticut

New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission Annual Conference

RC&D Mini-Documentary on Veteran Farmers in Connecticut

Meeting Adjourned