# Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services and Soil Health Working Group

DRAFT Summary of Meeting #8: April 28, 2021

More detailed information, including presentation slides, can be found at <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/pes>

## Introduction

The Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Soil Health Working Group held its eighth meeting on April 28, 2021. The purpose of the meeting was for the group to review and update its groundrules and operating protocols and for the task groups to initiate their work.

## Summary of discussion

The group reviewed the operating protocols that had been adopted in 2019 and suggested clarifications and improvements:

* Given that the WG is now advancing work in Task Groups, we need to be clear at what point decisions need to come back to the full group for consideration. The group will not only be deciding on recommendations – there are other decisions about scope and direction that may require input from the full group.
	+ The type of impasse described in which the co-chairs will make a decision on how to proceed would not be regarding substantive decisions, but rather process issues. Substantive recommendations or outcomes will be a result of consensus outputs of the group, or in cases where consensus is not reached, differences of opinion or caveats expressed by group members will be captured in the product.
* Public comment may be submitted in writing to the Task Force, and any comments received by the facilitators or cochairs will be circulated to the group.

## Task Groups

The three Task Groups (Programs, Economics/Allocation, and Soil Health) worked in parallel breakout groups to begin to advance their workplans. Each group facilitator had developed a draft workplan for their group, which the Task Groups discussed and refined. The Task discussants then reported back to the plenary group very briefly at the end of the meeting.

## Close

A time for public comment was provided. The group adjourned at 2 PM.