



Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services and Soil Health Working Group

March 16, 2021



CBI

CATALYZING COLLABORATION

Today's Agenda



- 1:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 1:10 Brief Review of Agenda, Rules of the Road, and Legislative Charge
- 1:15 Conservation Innovation Grant PES Effort
- 1:40 National Conservation Innovation Grant with Vermont Land Trust and UVM Extension
- 2:05 Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets Updates
 - Vermont Pay for Phosphorus Program Grant & Vermont Environmental Stewardship Program Lake Champlain Basin Program Research Grant
- 2:30 Soil Health Network Update
- 2:45 Process Next Steps
- 3:00 Brief Public Comment in Chat
- 3:15 Next Steps and Adjourn

Proposed Ground Rules



Active, open, and mutually respectful participation

Efficient and effective use of time

Videos on; use hand-raise function

Others?

Working Group Charge



1. a recommended payment for ecosystem services approach the State should pursue that benefits water quality, flood resilience, and climate stability, including ecosystem services to prioritize and capital or funding sources available for payments;
2. a recommended definition of healthy soils, a recommended method or systems for measuring soil health and other indicators of ecosystem health, and a recommended tool for modeling and monitoring soil health;
3. a recommended price, supported by evidence or other justification, for a unit of soil health or other unit of ecosystem service or benefit provided;
4. proposed eligibility criteria for persons participating in the program;
5. proposed methods for incorporating the recommended payment for ecosystem services approach into existing research and funding programs;
6. an estimate of the potential future benefits of the recommended payment for ecosystem services approach, including the projected duration of the program;
7. an estimate of the cost to the State to administer the recommended payment for ecosystem services approach; and
8. proposed funding or sources of funds to implement and operate the recommended payment for ecosystem services approach.

Work Planning



Work calendar:

- 2 more meetings this spring
- Mid-summer update meeting on progress on research topics
- 3 meetings in fall, culminating in report to Legislature

Given the charge outlined by the Legislature, share your feedback on priorities to lean into, issues or research questions to be addressed to accomplish this goal, or other considerations to ensure we meet this charge

... we will use your feedback to inform a workplan that we will share with you at next meeting