

Auburn Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group

Minutes: 11 29 22 Approved: 12 27 22

Location: Auburn Hall

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Staff attending: None

Attending: Dave Griswold, Bill Sylvester, Kathy Shaw, Chris Carson, Pam Rousseau, Ed Michaud, Joe Gray, David Bell

Excused: Katie Boss

Absent: None

Guests: Jane Costlow, Conservation WG; Sam Boss, Conservation WG; Camille Parrish, Sustainability WG; Ralph Harder, Sustainability WG

Call to Order: 6:07 pm

Public Participation: None

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 10 25 22 minutes were approved. 8 30 22 and 9 27 minutes still need approval due to an oversight.
2. Kathy provided information on USDA Urban Ag grant program. Funding is available to anyone registering as a farm, and located within 2 miles of a city center. Grants are available to homeowners for a wide variety of small scale activities. Grants are available for 2022 and 2023. For more information contact Jim Johnson at the NCRS office, 207-753-9400. He is encouraging Auburn residents to apply. (see below)
3. **Discussion:** Council resolution re income requirement in the AGRP Zone and strip zoning. SNRB draft position was reviewed and discussed by the Working Group members present (see guest list above). At the close of discussion, all members present representing the Community Forest WG, the Conservation WG, the Natural Products and Agriculture Working Group and the Sustainability Working Group voted unanimously to support the draft, and the SNRB ad hoc committee's efforts to finalize it and bring it to the full SNBR. The final position will be reviewed at a special SNRB meeting on 12 8, and as approved will be presented to the Planning Board. The final position will be included in the SNRB special meeting agenda packet.

New Business: None

Action Items: None

Next meetings: Dec 27, 6:00 pm, Community Room, Auburn City Hall.

Pending agenda items:

- 1. Approve 8 30 22 and 9 27 22 minutes.**
2. 2023 Work Plan development
3. Royal River Land Trust designation of key areas in Auburn
4. Producer survey- Farmed acres and value of product
5. Food Sovereignty Law
6. Good Food Council of L-A to discuss urban agriculture opportunities.

See below for Urban Ag Grant information

EXHIBIT K – URBAN AGRICULTURE (UrbanAg)

Maine NRCS will use the following definition for UrbanAg: *Used when land managed for food and/or fiber production is influenced by its proximity to, or within a landscape predominated by residential, commercial, and industrial, institutional, and transportation uses.*

1. Program(s): EQIP
2. Ranking Pool(s): FY23 Maine EQIP Urban Agriculture
3. Geographic Extent: Two-mile buffer around urban areas as defined and digitized by the 2010 United States Census ([2010 Census Urban and Rural Classification and Urban Area Criteria](#)). Each planned land unit (PLU) must be partially located within the defined areas to be eligible. Located in CD layer group Program Ranking > ME Urban Agriculture, and in this interactive map - [Maine Urban Agriculture FY2023](#). Additional areas will be considered by the State Conservationist for future batching periods.

Eligible Practices: All practices are eligible.

Note: there are specific scenarios for UrbanAg that have higher payment rates and/or smaller units (e.g., per 1000 square feet rather than acres). These scenarios are listed below. Consult the Practice Scenario Report for descriptions of the scenarios to determine eligibility.

Any scenario listed below may be used in other ranking pools ONLY if one of the following conditions applies:

- > Application is competing in the EQIP Tribal Projects subaccount, or
- > A State Conservationist waiver has been obtained prior to ranking

- Access Control (472): *Trail/Road access control with hand tools*
- Composting Facility (317): *Urban/Peri-Urban Composter
Small Farm Pad + Bins*
- Conservation Cover (327): *Pollinator Mix-Small Footprint*
- Conservation Crop Rotation (328): *Specialty Crop Rotations-Small Scale*
- Cover Crop (340): *Mechanical Termination of Cover Crop per 1000 square feet
Multi-species Cover Crop per 1000 square feet*
- Critical Area Planting (342): *Permanent Cover*
- Field Border (386): *Small Scale Field Border*
- Heavy Use Area Protection (561): *Confined Poultry outdoor access*
- High Tunnel System (325): *Small High Tunnel, Snow and Wind*
- Irrigation Pipeline (430): *PVC (Iron Pipe Size), less than or equal to 4-inch, Small Scale System*
- Irrigation Reservoir (436): *Plastic Tank, less than or equal to 1,000 gallons*
- Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441): *Small Microirrigation System*
- Irrigation Water Management (449): *Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced, less than 1 acre*
- Low Tunnels (821) all scenarios
- Nutrient Management (590): *Small Scale Basic Nutrient Management*
- Raised Beds (812) all scenarios
- Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (329): *Small-Scale No Till*
- Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345): *Reduced Tillage less than 0.5 acres*
- Roof Runoff Structure (558): *High tunnel roof runoff trench drain and storage*

7. Maine Farmland Trust Easement presentation

Adjourned: 7:40 PM

