

USC Retreat Notes – Day 2

2/1/23

Ag Opportunities

- Nutrient Management – Need more information – need a format plan – confusion on what is required (shuts down when hearing NM) Look for an extension to continue on NM planning acres with NFWF Funding. More counties interested just confusion on definition of NM and eligibility.
- Urban NM – SWCD would like to be involved as they can be – need to discuss how to pay districts for that work.
 - Keep SWCD up to date regarding outreach meeting this spring.
- RCPP – Setup a meeting with the State Office regarding moving forward on this.

Buffer Opportunities

- Send MEB GIS layer to all counties so they know if their projects are in a priority area
- Fruit Trees – Will landowners then manage their buffers?
 - Farmers/Landowners ask all the time if they can plant fruit trees – Apple/Pears, etc.

Wetland Opportunities

- Availability of SRBC funding for wetland/flood attenuation/buffers/stream restoration. Beginning in 2022 has been available annually (January timeframe)- partners and members with projects sites that incorporate these practices and flood mitigation/attenuation let USC know and we can evaluate for possible grant application.
- Prioritizing wetland restoration on municipal lands in the watershed.
- Using wetland as a bargaining tool similar to buffers - (we will support your farm practices, if you restore your wetland)
 - How do you ensure the commitment to the wetland if it is used as a trade off?
- Discussion of rental payments or incentive payments for wetlands.

Confusion around what the opportunity on a farm is – Wetland/Buffer

Do counties prioritize buffers/wetlands in their counties for State Funding sources?

Opportunity for additional points if buffer and or wetland is planned.

Wetland and buffer teams can assist with evaluations of wetland opportunities.

Jamboard-based Breakout Sessions and discussion of question results.

Outreach Committee Opportunities

- USC Watershed Forum 2023- What is our purpose, audience,
 - CCWC has funding to support (\$3,500?)
 - Goals/Themes?
 - People with political influence?
 - Climate Resiliency?
 - State Leg.?
 - Getting local people there? Certifications
 - Planning Boards
 - Code Enforcers
 - Floodplain Managers
 - etc
- Separate Legislative Session focused on the Watershed

- NYS Buffer Summit - 2024
 - Promoting buffer adoption across the state
 - Collaborating between all the different buffer groups across the entire state
- Watershed Wednesdays?
 - Alternate each year between forum and WW
- USC Meetings -
 - How to hold them moving forward? Looking for feedback...
 - In person vs virtual (alternate?)
 - Potentially switching to Quarterly meetings instead of every other month? As we have regular team and committee meetings now
 - Managers specific meetings for strategic planning?

Additional Thoughts:

- \$20k random funding sounds great! What would your District do if you had \$20K/year of USC funding, what would you support/complete?