

Belknap CCD Local Work Group 2025 Results

Demographics

Age

- <35- 4
- 36-45-1
- 46-55- 1
- 56-65-3
- 66-75- 7
- 75+ 5

Gender

- Male 10
- Female 11

Historically Underserved

- Beginning-6
- Socially Disadvantaged- 0
- Limited Resource-1
- Veteran-1

Other Groups

- CD Board-2
- Conservation Commission -9
- Other Government-2
- Land trust staff/volunteer-2
- Forestry NPO-3
- Water NPO-4
- Air NPO-0
- Agr NPO-5
- Wildlife NPO-5
- Climate NPO-1
- Regional Planning Commission-1

Towns Represented- 5 (Laconia, Gilford), 4 (Belmont), 2 (Tilton), 1 (Meredith, Center Harbor, Franklin, New Hampton)

Primary & Secondary Priorities

Primary

- Water-Water Quality (21)
- Agr-Land Conservation (20)
- Invasive Species (19)

Secondary

- Soils-Soil health (13)
- Agr-Farm Viability (12)
- Wildlife-Biological Diversity (11)

Detailed Feedback

Category	Subcategory	Belknap
Wildlife	Game species abundance	
	Non-game species abundance	
	Biological diversity	1. Need to protect habitat, more widespread understanding of its importance.
	Wildlife travel corridors	1. Need to maintain habitat for corridors. 2. More O/E about opportunities for homeowners/land managers to support wildlife/insect/pollinator habitat.
	Wildlife exclusion	1. Fencing often blocks wildlife movement. 2. Prohibit barbed wire usage.
	Other human-wildlife conflict	1. Development is leading to more pet conflicts with wildlife.
Forestry	Forest management impacts	
	Local forest products availability	
	Forestry services/equipment/supplies availability	
	Forestry education availability	
	Upland invasive species	1. Need for more education, funding, communication between organizations working on invasives. 2. Hard for homeowners to do anything, start seeing difference. 3. Hard to find education that exists (education for landscapers/seasonal residents).
	Current use	1. Change minimum parcel size to 5+ acres.
Soils	Soil erosion	1. Connected to flooding, nutrient leaching, farm viability. 2. There is a need to restore requirements for tree/shrub planting on shorelines. 3. Need for state enforcement on shoreline requirements.

	Soil health	1. Ag focus on soil health needed. 2. More resources for farmers needed.
	Regenerative soil equipment/supplies availability	1. Need for O/E for shift to soil health practices (ex. no till, reduced till).
	Regenerative soil practice availability	
Water	Flooding	1. More E/O needed on importance of wetlands to reduce downstream flooding. 2. Recognize the need plan for large rainfall events in the future.
	Stormwater	1. Recognize increasing frequency of large rainfall events. 2. Need for hazard mitigation planning. 3. There's a need for assessing ability of infrastructure to handling large rainfall events. 4. Planning board education needed for plan reviews. 5. Lack of funding for making infrastructure upgrades.
	Aquatic invasive species	
	On-site water retention	
	Water availability	1. There should be a list of wells pulling out ground water.
	Water quality	1. Address invasive species. 2. Fund needed to address cost of removing invasives. 3. Invasives have impact on local tourism. 4. More resources for source water protections. 5. More resources for upstream remediation. 6. These issues should be addressed in master planning. 7. Address issues caused by gravel pits. 8. Need for funding for watershed planning/319 plans.
	Water treatment	1. Fund PFAS testing. 2. Address lack of ability to filter cyanobacteria. 3. Emergency response plan needed.

	Wetland conservation/management	1. Need for funding to protect wetlands from development.
Air	Air quality	More O/E from the state about what air quality testing is going on.
	Rising air temperatures	
Agriculture	Farm viability	1. Lack of working farms & farmlands 2. Need to maintain number of farm supply and equipment companies to make sure farms can sustain. 3. Lack of upcoming farmers due to barriers to entry 4. Cost of supplies is high. 5. Farm income alone is not enough. 6. What is the state doing to promote NH farms?
	Local food availability	1. No farms equals no food
	Local food quality	
	Local food price	
	Food processing availability	1. Lack of USDA slaughterhouses 2. More local options needed. 3. Could relaxing homestead regulations help? 4. Need to expand local allowances for farming.
	Land conservation/preservation	1. Conservation is racing development. 2. There needs to be more planning into what development occurs. 3. There is a need to protect green spaces. 4. Farmland cost is too high. 5. Need to make putting land into conservation easier. 6. More access to wetland species conservation programs.
	Farm equipment and supplies availability	
	Farm succession planning	More E/O on what it means to put an easement on your farm.
	Farm waste	
	Natural disaster relief	
	Pastureland management	

		1. Support needed for upfront costs of implementation and refurbishment. 2. Education needed about efficient BMPs. 3. Can we have multiple uses for land (ex. solar and grazing)? 4. More education and resources for off grid housing.
Energy	Energy efficiency	
	Energy conservation	
	Solar energy production	
	Wind energy production	
	Hydro energy production	

Addition Questions

Geographic Areas of Concern

- Rt. 140 Belmont-Protect wetlands from development. Need to create barriers around water bodies. Conservation commissions should work to match zoning with neighboring towns to make conservation strategies contiguous.

Feedback about NRCS

- Need to address duplicate practices. Is there a way to continue to fund projects over time?
- Need to reduce barriers to entry, intake paperwork.