

Natural and Working Lands Ad-Hoc Working Group

Meeting Summary

December 8, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM

KEY SUMMARY

A. Recruit 4 More Working Group Members

1. Small-Scale Irrigated Agriculture**
2. Large-Scale Irrigated Agriculture**
3. Ranchers**
4. Farmworker/Representative from organization working with Farm Workers (*ie. La Cooperativa Campesina, United Farm Workers, or RISE, Inc.*)⁺

* Priority for non-traditional perspectives (*some representative from female, LGBTQ, or BIPOC-owned farmers*) and/or farmers that representative multiple perspectives (*ie. small-scale AND new farmer*)

⁺ Priority for a new farmer to fill one of these roles

B. Outlined Initial Recommendations for Interviews (*likely ~20+ total*)/Presentations/ Roundtable Discussions

1. Young/Beginner Farmer/Rancher
 - a. *Ex. CLBL Incubator Program, California Alliance of Family Farms*
2. Water
 - a. *Ex. Flood Control District, Yolo Subbassin Groundwater Agency*
3. Conventional Farmer/Rancher (*ie. not the typical pro-conservation*)
 - a. *Ex. Mariani Nut, Rice Growers Association*
4. Land Conservation
 - a. *Ex. Yolo Habitat Conservancy, Yolo Land Trust*
5. Underserved Farmers/Ranchers
6. Farmworkers
7. Traditional Ecological Knowledge
8. Cannabis
9. Farm Bureau
10. Nut Growers Meeting
11. Small Farms Meeting

C. Staff to develop FAQ and Webpage on NWL Working Group

MEETING NOTES

1. Staff Updates

- Today's main goal is to come to a consensus on the priorities for working group goals and member recruitment.
- Starting March 1st, the working group will have to move to an in-person format.
 - This conversation can be held in greater detail in January. Some changes that could be made include longer bi-monthly meetings instead of shorter monthly meetings.
- Stipend distribution will likely be an opt-in format where those interested will fill out a form to be considered a vendor.
- Setting up an Interview with the CAAP Consultant Team
 - One of their first tasks will be deep dive conversations with each Working Group where they can assess priorities and goals.
- San Mateo County recently finished a similar process, K. Reza and H. Nichols are hoping to set up a meeting between Yolo County RCD and San Mateo RCD to learn takeaways from setting up a working lands portion of the CAAP.

2. Discuss Working Group Recruitment/Outreach

- Staff created a spreadsheet to try and capture recommended points of contact for potential working group members or one-on-one points of contacts for interviews.
 - **Action Item for Staff:** Create another column on the spreadsheet to specify whether contacts are for recruitment or general outreach, topic point roundtables, interviews etc.
- Having a Diverse Working Group is an important priority to the group.
 - The spreadsheet is a good resource to see the types of perspectives that can be involved in the Working Group.
 - At a minimum, perspectives from small scale farming communities, large scale farming communities, and ranchers should be considered for holding regular seats in working group meetings.
 - Farmworkers should also be included since they will most greatly feel the effects of climate change on farming practices.
 - Farmworkers could be represented in the working group through third-party representatives by bringing on farmers with expertise in migrant workers and farmworkers.
 - Farmworkers should be included and at a minimum their input should be included in working group meetings.
 - In-person meetings during work hours would make it difficult for farmworkers to participate regularly as part of the core group.

- First calls to be to real farmers. RCD brought up Fritz Durst, the Rominger brothers, Jim Ethers, Scott Stone, Good Humus Farms, etc.
 - Suggested bringing on people who must implement these strategies as core working group members. She also suggested those who have high stakes in their properties.
 - Farm Bureau doesn't often have the bandwidth to participate regularly but would like to keep in touch with the working group's developments regularly.
- Bringing on new farmers and conventional farms because they might be more willing to implement climate adaptation changes.
- RCD offered to give a presentation to the Farm Bureau to show them strategy plans and updates.
- Rice Growers Association, Mariani Nuts, West Valley Ag, etc. might have more capacity to participate and they have a wide reach in the farming community to hear concerns.
- Center for Land Based Learning has a program for new farmers entering the farm industry. Craig McNamara could also be a point of contact for this.
- Are there any gaps of expertise given the three main contacts and current?
 - Water use in Ag
 - Would be useful to reach out to Flood Control Water Conservation?
- How CAAP development will have influence on the discussions held in this forum?
 - Land conservation can be considered a climate change strategy and that land conversion should be considered as part of the CAAP.
 - With land development, land will usually be annexed to a nearby city. He said that mitigation policy might call for equal amounts of land being conserved as there are being developed.
- Staff summarized that there are five potential new members being considered:
 - Small scale farmers
 - Large scale farmers
 - Ranchers
 - Farmworkers
 - New/young farmers
- Young farmers may be best for interviews and not for being a core member.
- CAFF could bring in farmworker and young farmer perspectives.
 - RCD works closely with CAFF and could fulfil that role.
- The Working Group agreed that there would be four buckets of outreach for core member recruitment
 - Small scale irrigated agriculture,

- Large scale irrigated agriculture,
 - Ranchers,
 - A representative of the farmworker community.
- When finding members to fill those seats in the core group, to prioritize diverse and non-traditional perspectives such as a female-owned farm, LGBTQ+ owned farm, BIPOC owned farm, young farmers etc.
- RCD is dedicated to getting as many voices heard as possible. She said that she welcomes feedback if people feel like this goal is not being met.
- Member of the core group could fall into multiple of the desired buckets to broaden perspectives.

3. Discuss Next Steps

- First round of outreach:
 - H. Nichols said that she can report back on her initial points of contact between now and the January Working Group Meeting.
- The full working group is expected to meet in full in February.
- Dudek plans to meet with the core group before the full Working Group kicks off to understand goals and priorities.
- **Action Item:** Draft a FAQ Sheet.