



Maryland Food System Resiliency Council

Environment and Production Subcommittee

Apr 28, 2022 1:00pm-2:00pm

1. **Welcome.**

2. **Group Discussion**

a. [Soil Health Advisory Committee Report](#)/Questions

1. Discussed potential crossover with the committee
 - Nutrient management plans- limited technical service provider support and nutrient management planning for diversified crops
 - Additional research on healthy food production including biological activity is needed (**examples:** (1) guidance needed on the minimum amount of fertilizer to prevent runoff to the bay, (2) limited information specified on how nutrients are applied or what form of the nutrients are applied)
2. Two initiative for cover cropping/soil healthy
 - Healthy Soils Competitive Fund/Grant
 - Cover Crops Plus Program
3. Opportunity cost and technician support may be required to navigate rotating cover crops with vegetable production (cost sharing may be helpful)
4. Creation of a market for vegetable production and providing economic data to farmers can assist farmers in determining what is grown and how they grow
 - 4P Food hubs <https://4pfoods.com/>
 - Promotion of food hubs like 4P foods can benefit Maryland's infrastructure and producers (private/public opportunity)



5. Shared information for regenerative agriculture practices (**added to the resource google doc**)
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/regenerative-agriculture-farm-policy-21st-century-report.pdf>
 6. Integrating soil health with regenerative agriculture practices- How can we support these efforts or combine these two items into recommendations?
 7. Steve McHenry Listening session (Maryland Farmers Market Association) 1 of 6 completed. To register to participate in one of these listening sessions please contact: Jill Kubatko at jkubatko@marbidco.org
- b. Follow up with sub-subcommittees
1. Mitigation - Chloe Waterman
 - For the “mitigating the climate impacts of our food system” parking lot item (4), a small subcommittee met and is proposing as next steps that:
 - A. For the next interim report, we include a few paragraphs on our planned work/direction on this, with the goal of having the recommendations ready for the November report.
 - B. In general, we are planning to follow IPCC’s guidance and include recommendations that would mitigate climate change by shifting the *types* of food we produce and purchase in Maryland and *how* those foods are produced. Some of these recommendations would overlap with other areas of focus for the committee, such as on reducing food waste and soil health so in those cases, we will cross-reference the other recommendations.
<https://www.ipcc.ch/>
 - C. Please send Chloe any background materials or policy recommendations that your organizations have on agricultural climate mitigation for Maryland, and she will incorporate them into draft policy recommendations to first be shared with select subcommittee members (let Chloe know if



you want to be an early reviewer) then the full E&P subcommittee.

2. Adaptation - Nancy Nunn, Niamh Shortt

- USDA Climate Smart Practices – how can Maryland use these policies and subsidies to incentivize producers, to use climate smart practices within current food production methods. Please see link <https://www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities>
 - A. Partnering with food hubs to collect data (using the enrollment survey) from farmers who sell to the hubs to share practices with buyers.
 - Future Harvest is involved with a Soil Health enrollment survey, which collects information on current practices from small and mid-scale diversified farms.
 - A. Million Acre Challenge (objective to have 1 million acres of Maryland farmland using regenerative practices by 2030) please see link <https://millionacrechallenge.org/>
 - Soil Health benchmark study data provides details related to management practices. Please see link <https://pasafarming.org/soil-institute/farm-based-research/soil-health-benchmark-study/>
- c. Remaining parking lot items
- d. Finalize which topics we will submit for inclusion in the mid-year report:
1. Gathering existing resources and identifying gaps
 2. Healthy soil and regenerative agriculture practices (supporting current initiatives)
 3. Listening session offered by Steve McHenry MDFMA
 4. Supporting regional food hubs
 5. Lunch and Learn proposal for Regional Food Hubs/Systems
 6. Supporting crops that are more food resilient
- e. Establish who will report out on these at next week's full Council meeting (5/5)

3. Next steps and adjourn



- Send any missing items not documented in the meeting minutes to be included in the interim report to Dr. Lansing by next week (May 1st-6th).