**Notes from: How do we meet the moment of an increase in farmland preservation funding?**

2023 Land Trust / State Agency Retreat

Friday, Oct. 6 session on Increasing the Pace of Conservation

•  Conservation is a neighborly act - Have materials and stories from local people, neighbors

•  The collaborative nature of conservation that I've experienced as is the hallmark of MA conservation is great not just for LTs but also landowners, so that they know we all support each other and if one org is a better fit that is fine and we help each other   
•  Using neighborhood gatherings under tents or at people's houses  
•  Mt Grace and. Mass Woods funding for neighborhood gatherings  
•  Land Cons Options workshops & books. and invite and provide rides to those who need them

* Create One pager LTs can mail/give to landowners
  + Include FMV and paying for value
* Messaging to include urgency language and "window of funding" opportunity
  + So landowners know that there is more opportunity now than usual
  + Include FMV and paying for
* How to do ag protection
  + What each program is and what fits for which landowner
  + Which (APR ALE Private APR CR) is most appropriate
* Ag Protection circuit rider (some are NRCS funded that. are outsourced to LT and some contractor at LT)
  + AFT will be bringing one on
* Lots of ACEP webinars as
* Lots of great templates APR CR to use
* Would be great for MDAR to hire more land agents but have other burning staffing needs
  + Feel like don't have the volume of projects coming in the door to justify
* Some ARPA funds will be used for full-time ARPA staff for each region of the state - RFR to be
* Do farms have to have prime ag soils or if they are established farms can they be protected based on history
  + Creating one page comparison eligibility tool
  + APR 5 acres or more and commercially active for last two years
    - Ranking by soils etc but there are locally important soils
    - Chapter 61A is "commercially active" - growing plant or animals and amount is just a couple of thousand dollars
* Training for those holding APRs for stewardship
* Greenbelt has worked with Al re locally important soils
* Difference between APR and Private APR
  + APR is held by MDAR
  + Private APR is held by LT and funded by LT
    - Just signed by Ag Commissioner not DCS
    - Can include OPAV
    - Can include houses and infrastructure
  + ARPA and IRA can go into Private APRs
* Succession planning for farmers and lack of young farmers is crucial to address links (provide resources to help
  + Buy protect sell. is possible
  + There are resources to help do planning
* Private APRs would satisfy CPA requirement
* Climate change is going to impact farming
  + allow for more impervious surface to allow for more greenhouses
  + Northeast is going to be more important
* Housing is important
* More financials to landowners - how to get them more money up front
* How do we take advantage of huge funding opportunity mow - doing things that might not otherwise do
  + what things from past that had higher rates of protection could apply again
  + rolling applications
  + rolling votes
  + ranking wasn't an issue
  + think big and creative and outside the box
* Farmers need funding to help them with succession and business planning
* Expand leadership team
* Ann
* Robin
* Colin
* Olivia
* Vanessa
* Tina Smith
* Rich Cavenaugh
* Lee
* Liam
* David
* Nick Patel
* Rita
* Ron Hall
* Mackenzie