


State Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources
Regular Meeting
Via Zoom
January 8, 2026 – 10:00 am

AGENDA

- Introductions
 - New voting members
- Mass Envirothon -
 - Update on EEA actions regarding Envirothon program and structure
 - Commission Action Item – Affirming that the Massachusetts Envirothon program is now fully owned and operated by the EEA Secretary’s Office.
 - Repeal or amend the Supervisor Handbook policy 3.11 – 2, Envirothon Committee (see text of that section in this agenda’s attachment A) **Voting Item**
 - Repeal Supervisor Handbook Appendix A – Envirothon Committee Policy (This policy is attached to the meeting announcement email) **Voting Item**
- Healthy Soils Action Plan for Massachusetts – updates
 - New Logo
 - The logo for the Healthy Soils Initiative in Massachusetts. It features a circular emblem with a landscape scene including a tree, a field, and a sun. The text "HEALTHY SOILS INITIATIVE" is written around the top inner edge of the circle, and "MASSACHUSETTS" is written around the bottom inner edge. There are small orange dots on either side of the bottom text.
 - HSAP Challenge Grants
 - Soil Health Coordinator RFQ, Posted on December 12, 2025. See excerpts of RFQ in (attachment B)
- State Commission
 - District Grants
 - Conservation District Grant Program update (FY26 Innovation grant RFR posted on December 10, 2025)
 - Impacts of the shutdown on Massachusetts Conservation Districts, discussion item
- General Business Items
 - Supervisor Appointments if needed **Voting Item**
 - Request by the Worcester County CD to consider allowing Supervisor compensation. (Please see and review email from them in Attachment D)
- Partner Updates
 - Future Commission meeting dates – April 9, 2026
 - (Please note that the State Commission generally meets on the second Thursday in January, April, July and October)

Adjourn

*If you wish to attend this virtual meeting, please email Tom Anderson, Executive Secretary at Thomas.anderson@mass.gov and he will email you the link.

Attachment A

Supervisor Handbook policy regarding Envirothon

3.11 2 ENVIROTHON COMMITTEE A standing subcommittee of the State Commission is the Envirothon. The Envirothon Policy document provided in Appendix A outlines the additional policies and operational procedures to be followed by this committee

Attachment B

Request for Quote (RFQ)
SWC #PRF76

Category 2: Program Development, Organizational and Strategic Planning Services

Document Title: Planning and Implementation Support for the Healthy Soils Action Plan
and Implementation Initiative

COMMBUYS Bid Number:

Project Number: FY26LAND0121

(Excerpts from the full RFQ)

1. Expected Duration of Contract (Initial Duration and any Options to Renew):

Contract Duration	Number of Options	Number of Years/Months
Initial Duration		<u>1.5 fiscal years</u>
Renewal Options	<u>Two</u>	<u>One year</u>
Total Maximum Contract Duration		<u>Four years</u>

2. Anticipated Expenditures, Funding, or Compensation:

Estimated Value of Procurement: \$225,000.00

Estimated Cost:

\$75,000 for FY26

\$150,000 for FY27

3. Contract Performance and Business Specifications:

Scope of Services: Healthy Soils Initiative coordination vendor

A. Contract Monitoring and Support

- a. Assist with maintaining and managing EEA Challenge Grant contracts (23 projects as of 12/01/25), including:
 - i. Regular contact with vendors to answer questions and track progress.
 - ii. Work with each of these vendors to fine-tune their plan for maximizing the reporting, outreach, and implementation components of their contracts.
 - iii. Review and recommend for payment the request for reimbursement.
 - iv. Work with each vendor to ensure delivery goals are met and optimized; manage revisions to project scopes as needed.
 - v. Collect and post quarterly reports and other deliverables on the EEA website.
- b. Plan at least two online general coordination sessions per year between contracted vendors to build connections, share learnings, and foster collaboration.

B. Cross-Agency Coordination & Policy Integration

Survey relevant agencies and organizations to identify existing programs and opportunities for integration. An important and known integration focus would be with the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plans (MCECP) for 2025, 2030, 2050 and its goals.

- a. Support EEA/Soil Commission in laying the groundwork for interagency coordination around soil health.
 - i. Conduct a scan of state agency programs and regulatory frameworks relevant to the Healthy Soils Action Plan (HSAP), including the MCECP Team, to identify potential synergies, barriers, and opportunities for alignment.
 - ii. Develop briefing materials, relationship maps, and internal recommendations to support EEA staff in convening interagency dialogue.
 - iii. Coordinate logistics and communication support for at least one annual interagency meeting led by EEA staff/State Commission to explore implementation of HSAP goals across agencies such as DEP, DCR, DOER, and MDAR.

C. Website & Public Communications

- a. Monitor and update the Massachusetts Healthy Soils Initiative website.
 - i. Although the website itself is maintained by the Commonwealth, the vendor will provide suggestions for the design and content that will make the site more user-friendly and efficient in presenting the many topics and initiatives being undertaken for soil health.
 - ii. Incorporate and post grant deliverables, reports, and helpful resources as they become available.
 - iii. Post announcements for upcoming workshops and relevant soil health events or tools.
- b. Develop a Healthy Soils Initiative newsletter and maintain an email contact list of stakeholders, partners, and interested parties.

D. Education & Outreach

- a. Lead public education efforts to increase awareness of soil health across diverse communities, its benefits and promote the Healthy Soils Initiative.

- i. Work with conservation districts, MACD, MACC, municipal officials, schools, and non-profits to co-host events, trainings, and informational campaigns.
- ii. Develop and disseminate accessible materials on soil health science, practices, and co-benefits (climate resilience, water retention, biodiversity, etc.).

E. Reporting to State Commission

- a. Provide regular briefings and updates to the State Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources at its quarterly meetings.
- b. Arrange for presentations from grant contractors and initiative partners to inform the Commission's understanding and oversight.

F. Evaluation & Continuous Improvement

- a. Establish metrics to assess initiative impact in alignment with HSAP goals.
- b. Recommend initiative improvements based on evaluation findings, stakeholder input, and emerging science.

G. Equity & Inclusion

Ensure initiative strategies and outreach are accessible, inclusive and supportive of underserved communities, diverse land managers, and urban/rural equity considerations.

H. Administration Overall administration and maintenance of this contract, including the following.

- Detailed monthly invoices for costs incurred by the vendor.
- Submission of quarterly reports on overall progress in a timely manner. Reports should include:
 - Progress on deliverables and objectives;
 - Any delays or changes to the overall implementation schedule with rationale and potential impacts to timeline for completion;
 - Financial updates including funds spent to date, total invoicing; reimbursement amounts and utilization of any matching funds.

4. Estimated Procurement Calendar

Procurement Activity	Date	Time
Bid Release Date		
Bidder's Conference via Zoom Send email to thomas.anderson@mass.gov to register and receive the link.	<u>January 14, 2026,</u>	<u>10:00am EDT</u>
Deadline for Submission of Questions through COMMBUYS "Bid Q&A"	January 16, 2026	12:00pm (noon) EDT
Official Answers for Bid Q&A published (Estimated)	January 23, 2026	
Deadline for Quotes/Bid Responses ("Bid Opening Date/Time" in COMMBUYS)	February 12, 2026	12:00pm (noon) EDT
Oral Presentations for Selected Bidder(s) (Estimated)		
Notification of Apparent Successful Bidder(s) (Estimated)	TBD	
Estimated Contract Start Date	TBD	

Bidders are required to monitor COMMBUYS for changes to the procurement calendar for this Bid.

Attachment C

From: Massachusetts Envirothon <massenvirothon@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, January 2, 2026 6:29 AM

To: Anderson, Thomas (EEA) <thomas.anderson@mass.gov>

Subject: Save the Date: 2026 Massachusetts Envirothon

Hello there,

I am Crystal Johnson, Assistant Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Office of Environmental Justice & Equity and I am thrilled to serve as the newly appointed Chair of the **2026 Massachusetts Envirothon**, happening on **Thursday, May 21, 2026 at Hopkinton State Park**.

New **Massachusetts Envirothon** offerings for 2026 include:

- Inclusive participation for students receiving Special Education services
- A creative expression component featuring spoken word/slam poetry on environmental themes
- Registration and Transportation Scholarships

- Launching a dynamic updated day-of-event program to empower students and make this year's experience more engaging, inclusive, and inspiring

Workshops are Coming Soon! In early 2026, we will be offering two free, hands-on workshops to help high schools dive into this year's Massachusetts Envirothon theme—*“Living Sponge Communities: Strategies for Mitigating Environmental Impacts from Stormwater.”* These workshops will also feature interactive Eco-Station activities and explore real-world environmental challenges facing Massachusetts communities today. [Learn more.](#) We are excited to now share the 2026 Massachusetts Envirothon **Registration Form** [link](#)! Teams are strongly encouraged to **complete the form by February 13, 2026.**

If you have any questions, please email the Massachusetts Envirothon Coordination Team at massenvirothon@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Crystal Johnson
Chair
Massachusetts Envirothon

Attachment D

From: joesmith@woodsmaninc.com <joesmith@woodsmaninc.com>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 1:48 PM
To: Anderson, Thomas (EEA) <thomas.anderson@mass.gov>
Cc: Lundgren, Tristan (DCR) <tristan.lundgren@mass.gov>; 'Meghan Siudzinski' <meghansiudzinski.macd@gmail.com>; 'Jennifer Mason' <jennifer.mason@worchesterconservation.org>
Subject: State Commission Agenda

Dear Tom,

It was good to see you at the WCCD Annual Meeting. I hope you are well.

I would like to request that the following item be brought before the State Commission for their consideration.

Due in a large part to the EEA Conservation District grants, WCCD has experienced several years of positive growth. We now have 4 employees and our operating budget has grown. Our operations have become more complicated, and, in order to keep on top of it all, we are requiring more from our board of supervisors. We are currently in the process of forming sub-committees to oversee planning, budgeting and human resources. This will require extra time and commitment from our supervisors. We would like to be able to offer something in return for their participation.

The Supervisors' Handbook contains the following in regards to Supervisor compensation:

6.11 COMPENSATION

Supervisors shall be paid at a rate determined by the Director, with the concurrence of the State Commission, for each day of actual service rendered and their necessary traveling and other expenses, subject to appropriations. (MGL Ch. 21, Section 22)

It appears that we would need the support of the Director and the State Commission before we could offer compensation. We would appreciate it if the State Commission could take this matter under consideration, and support our efforts to maintain the success of WCCD.

Best,

Joe Smith
Vice Chair
Worcester County Conservation District