

State Commission for Conservation of Soil, Water & Related Resources

Regular Meeting

Via Zoom

July 9, 2026 – 10:00 am

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Healthy Soils Initiative (HSI)
 - Introduction to new Healthy Soils Initiative, coordination vendor
 - Borderland Partners, LLC (BP)
 - Discussion items
 - High Lights of Scope of Work provided to BP from the original RFQ (Please review Attachment A)
 - What are the Commission's priorities for the HSI (**Please review Attachment B to help us get started with the priorities**)
 - Establish Healthy Soil Initiative working sub-committee, charge will be to discuss Healthy Soils Initiative ideas, planning and progress. Provide feedback and guidance to BP
 - HSI Challenge Grants
- State Commission
 - District Basic and Innovation Grants
 - Contracting process for FY27 forward
 - Request to advance the Basic Grant funds- letter (Attachment C)
 - Conservation District Grant Program general update
 - Supervisor Appointments if needed **Voting Item**
 - Franklin Nominates - Jonathan Lagreze
 - Hampden Hampshire nominates - Julia Vieira and George Fenn
 - Norfolk Conservation District – Appointment of new Board of Supervisors (Attachment C) MACD has been leading this effort – thank you!
- Partner Updates
 - Future Commission meeting dates – October 8, 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 for the link

Attachment A

RFQ 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.
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Attachment B

Healthy Soils Initiative (HSI)



General Questions for State Commission, July 9, 2026

From the Scope of Services. Services C and D Website/Comms/Education

1. Who is the audience for the HSI
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
2. If you had to rank the priority audiences for HSI, who comes first? Second? Third?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. If someone in those audiences remembers only three things about HSI, what should they be?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. Is there a moment or milestone in FY27 information needs to be ready for? i.e. the release of an RFR, a Commission event, a legislative cycle?
5. What are the high lights of a Healthy Soils Initiative website that the SC would like to see

(Service B): Cross-Agency Coordination & Policy Integration

1. There are many different state plans listed in the *Healthy Soils Action Plan*. (HSAP)
 - a) Which ones are the most applicable to cross agency coordination for the HSI today?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - b) What kind of things come to your mind regarding this Scope of Work deliverable.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - c) What do you see as the strongest connections for the HSI to the Clean Energy and Climate Plan?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Do any interagency working groups already exist that might support HSI or from which we could learn?
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3. What is an appropriate timeline for this particular effort

What other items in the Scope of Services are a priority for the SC?

Attachment C

Norfolk County Conservation District

From: Stefanie Paventy <spaventymacd@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 29, 2026 1:59 PM

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

Cc: Meghan Siudzinski <meghansiudzinski.macd@gmail.com>; Don Badeau <jkbadeau@verizon.net>; Carolyn Ness <acornhillfarm1976@gmail.com>

Subject: Norfolk County CD Nominees and LOIs

Hi Tom,

Attached are the LOIs for the nominees of Norfolk County Conservation District. Their names are as follows:

- Nicole Chiaramonte
- Emidio DiVirgilio
- Sabrina Eichin
- Richard Johnson
- John Steadman
- Charlotte Pechtl
- Carol Hayes

I've also included meeting minutes for all Norfolk County CD reactivation meetings and any of the public notices that I could find online. Please let me or Meghan know if you need anything else. Tomorrow will be my last day with MACD as our NACD TA grant, which is funding this position, comes to a close.

Cheers,
Stef

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Stefanie Paventy, Special Outreach Coordinator
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts