

MA Farmland Action Plan – Drop-In Session for Potential Partners

Notes from online discussion on 10/23/2025

Context

On Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 10am Katharine Otto hosted a drop-in session for potential partners (people who may help with implementation of the plan). The meeting had no presentation – instead the content was guided by questions and comments from attendees. While still open to general conversation, through the invitations Katharine encouraged discussion about edits to the matrix at the drop in sessions. The drop in sessions are organized as an easy way to connect in, anticipating that recent discussions and new resources may have sparked additional thoughts. The primary audience was potential partners.

Facilitator – Katharine Otto, Farmland Action Plan Coordinator, MDAR. Katharine.s.otto@mass.gov

The following is a brief summary of the conversation that occurred during the drop-in session.

Some notes regarding the comments and questions:

- Some have been edited or combined.
- Comments have been collated by topics, in no particular order
- These comments are from voluntary participants in open discussion. These comments may or may not align with positions of MDAR or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Discussion notes

The following is a brief summary of some of the conversation that occurred in the chat box during the meeting as well as some of the oral comments. It includes links and resources shared with participants.

Matrix tasks

- No questions

Building capacity for land trusts protect more farmlands and steward protected properties?

- Usefulness of the Ag Com Roundtables to connect land trust staff to municipalities
- What are the risks of holding a CR or private APR for a working farm? Particularly as relates to environmental impacts. How can land trusts mitigate risks, eg environmental due diligence, soil testing, etc? Are there certain crops that have higher risks? And what would the holding of a CR/PAPR be responsible for, versus a landowner?
- How do land trust stewardship staff know farmers are using best practices? And where are farmers pushing the envelope with non-agricultural uses? Suggestion for future discussion/ event – “What’s happening with that farmland?” for whether you lease or hold a restriction on farmland.
- Reference to upcoming Private APR webinar on 11/14 – Learn more on [Private APR webpage](#).

Farmland Partnership Program

- Who has received funding from this program and what will they be doing? Announcement has not yet been made. Look out for it in the MFAP newsletter and on the [Farmland Partnership webpage](#).