The Kitchen Conversation

Finding Common Ground Between the Agricultural Industry and Wetland Policy

April 18-19, 2018

PHJV Policy Committee
Purpose

- Start a conversation between agricultural landowners/managers and wetland policy practitioners regarding the development and implementation of wetland policies throughout the PHJV region
- Understand the range of socio-economic factors that influence land management decisions
- Introduce ideas that encourage wetland stewardship
- Provide information and tools to engage in effective decision-making processes
How do we do this?
Ground Rules
Survey Responses

- Greatest Challenges
  - Enforcement
  - Social license required to make changes and implement them
  - Assigning value to public goods (EG&S)
  - Resource constraints and transaction costs
  - Balancing needs and rights of Ag with conservation of wetlands
  - Developing and delivering wetland conservation measures that are deemed fair by society and landowners
  - Wetland knowledge (lack thereof)
  - Reconciling private and public costs and benefits of wetlands
Survey Responses

• **Opportunities**
  • Landowner creativity for delivery of wetland conservation
  • Rehabilitation of wetlands altered by Ag practices
  • Identification of motivations for drainage and conservation
  • Wetland assessment platform to evaluate wetland benefits at a site-specific level
  • Partnerships with neighbours working together
  • Research and extension focused on soil and moisture management
  • Improved communications between government, non-profits and producers
  • BMPs
  • Payments for EG&S
Survey Responses

- What do you want to leave with the other participants
  - Introduce a hydrologic modelling tool
  - Conservation is important and less expensive than restoration
  - We need win-wins
  - We need to penetrate the sustainable agriculture market
  - Human dimensions research can help inform decision-making (landowner attitudes and motivation)
  - Farmers need to be engaged in the process
  - Farms are economic businesses
  - We need clear and open communication
  - Collaboration, mutual trust and respect built on communication
  - Long-term funding for successful stewardship programs
Logistics