

# The Kitchen Conversation

Finding Common Ground Between the Agricultural  
Industry and Wetland Policy

April 18-19, 2018

PHJV Policy Committee

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# 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

