CAPE ATLANTIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Local Work Group

FINDINGS FROM ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES OF NEW JERSEY



CAPEATLANTIC.ORG

Local Work Group Meetings

What is the Local Working Group (LWG):

- The LWG may include Soil Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), State and Federal agencies, non-government organizations, and landowners.
- NRCS recognizes LWG as a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee and is a necessary component of the Locally Led Conservation process, that identifies key issues, concerns, and opportunities.

Who is responsible for the organizing, facilitating, and recording the LWG:

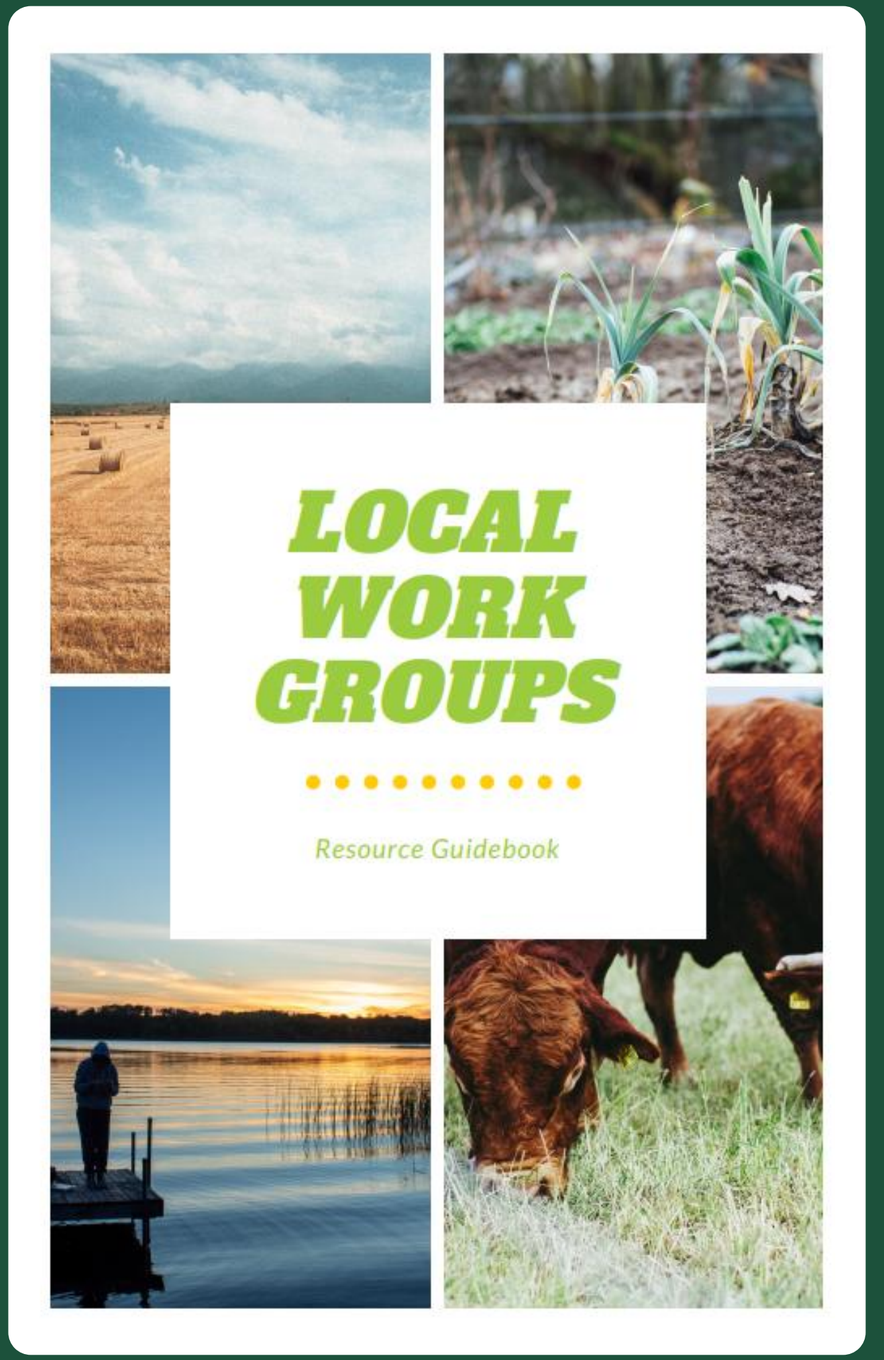
- Conservation Districts and NRCS work jointly on the LWG meeting.
- Conservation Districts are encouraged to convene the meeting.
- When a Conservation District is unable to participate, NRCS should convene the meeting.
- There is not a set format for the LWG, allowing for creativity and flexibility in the process to meet local needs.

LWG meetings are an essential part of the local conservation planning process and are used to identify key issues, concerns, and opportunities.

- Conservation Districts can use this information for strategic planning, developing new programs or services, education, and grant writing.
- NRCS leadership and the State Technical Committee use this information to discuss the needs of an area or state and provide recommendations to the State Conservationist related to policy, programs, funding, and outreach.
- Information from the LWG may be used with other partners to collaborate on programming, funding, services, and building new relationships.

Resource Guidebook for Local Work Groups

The Guidebook was developed by the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) to reengage, enhance and improve the Local Work Group process in July 2021. A project team explored ways to facilitate conservation planning on the local level. The toolbox includes sample agendas, notes documents, a bulletin, training resources, and frequently asked question.



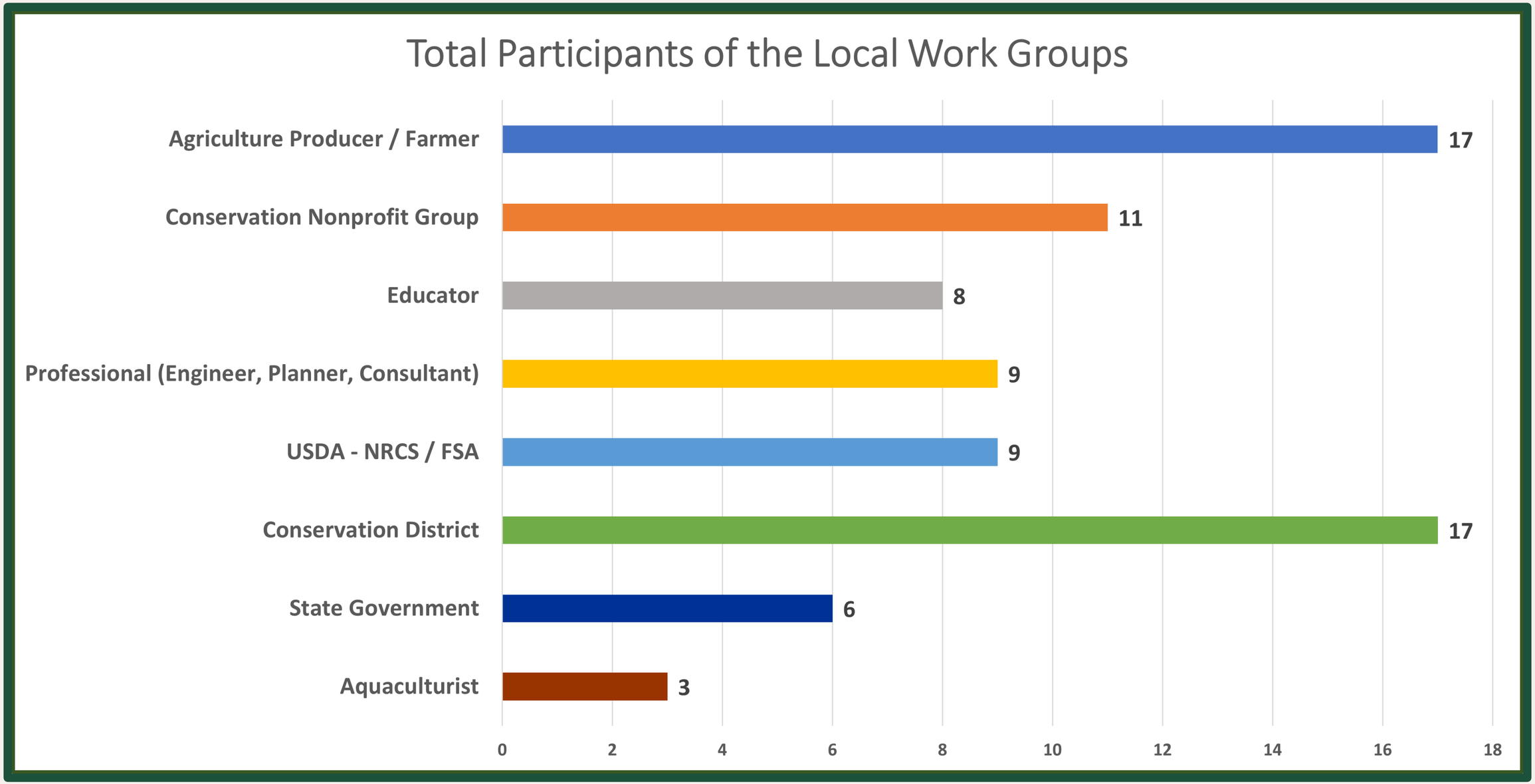
The Cape Atlantic Conservation District Local Work Groups

The Cape Atlantic Conservation District held three Local Work Group Meetings in Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland Counties, New Jersey during January and February 2023.

Objective: Identify natural resource conservation issues in the Local Work Group area, identify high priority projects, needs and practices.

Cumberland County	Cape May County	Atlantic County
26 Participants	17 Participants	34 Participants

Local Work Group Participants



The Cape Atlantic Conservation District Local Work Groups



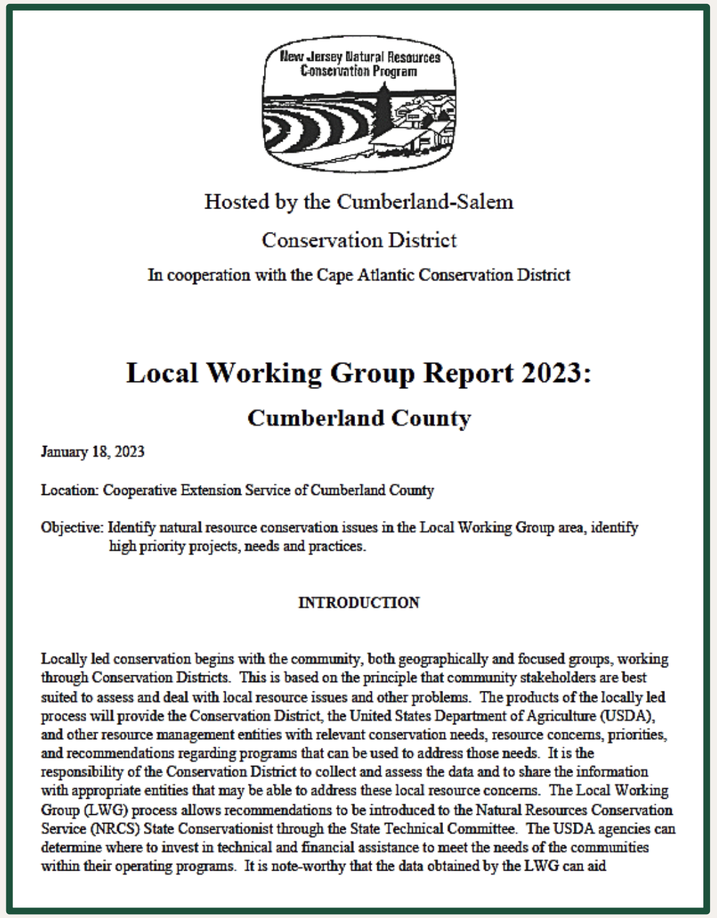




Report of Findings from the Local Work Group Meetings

Reports included participants affiliation, summary of conservation concerns and future actions.

NRCS received copies of the reports along with all participants.



New Jersey Natural Resources Conservation Program

Hosted by the Cumberland-Salem

Conservation District

In cooperation with the Cape Atlantic Conservation District

Local Working Group Report 2023:

Cumberland County

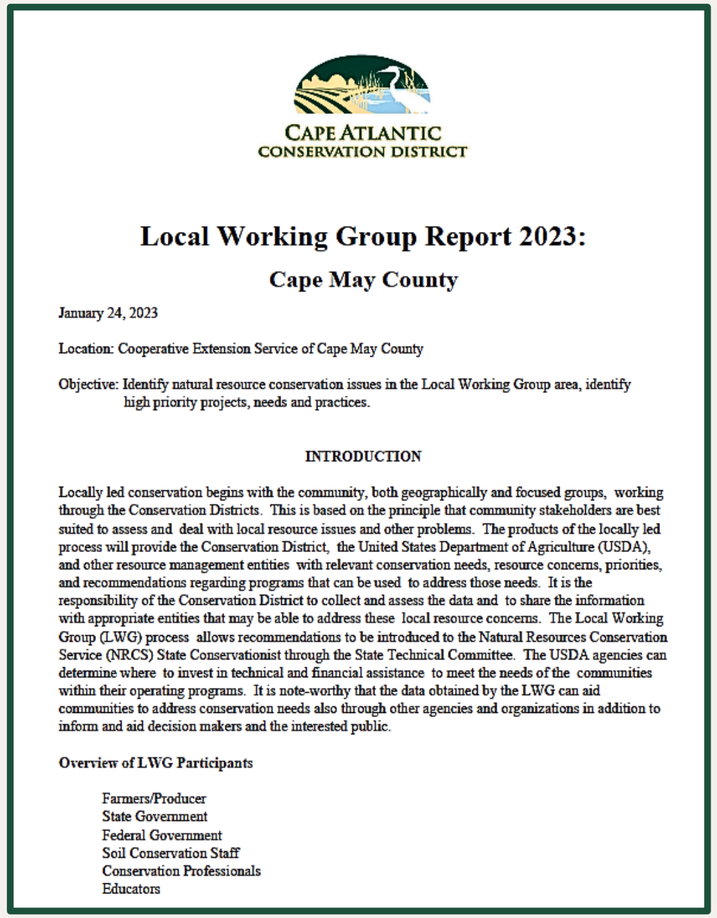
January 18, 2023

Location: Cooperative Extension Service of Cumberland County

Objective: Identify natural resource conservation issues in the Local Working Group area, identify high priority projects, needs and practices.

INTRODUCTION

Locally led conservation begins with the community, both geographically and focused groups, working through Conservation Districts. This is based on the principle that community stakeholders are best suited to assess and deal with local resource issues and other problems. The products of the locally led process will provide the Conservation District, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other resource management entities with relevant conservation needs, resource concerns, priorities, and recommendations regarding programs that can be used to address those needs. It is the responsibility of the Conservation District to collect and assess the data and to share the information with appropriate entities that may be able to address these local resource concerns. The Local Working Group (LWG) process allows recommendations to be introduced to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist through the State Technical Committee. The USDA agencies can determine where to invest in technical and financial assistance to meet the needs of the communities within their operating programs. It is note-worthy that the data obtained by the LWG can aid



CAPE ATLANTIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Local Working Group Report 2023:

Cape May County

January 24, 2023

Location: Cooperative Extension Service of Cape May County

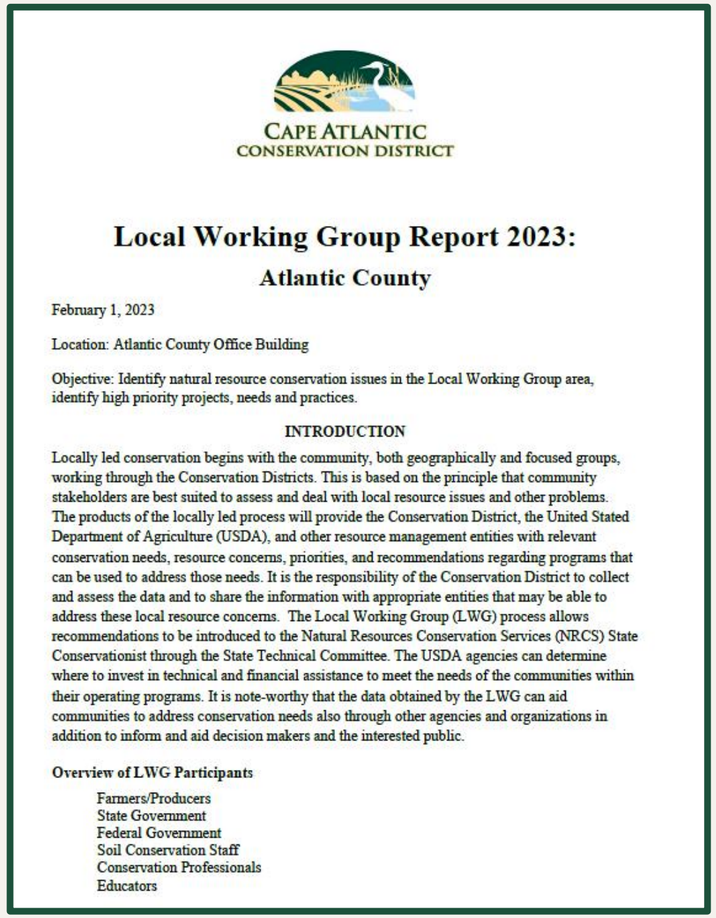
Objective: Identify natural resource conservation issues in the Local Working Group area, identify high priority projects, needs and practices.

INTRODUCTION

Locally led conservation begins with the community, both geographically and focused groups, working through the Conservation Districts. This is based on the principle that community stakeholders are best suited to assess and deal with local resource issues and other problems. The products of the locally led process will provide the Conservation District, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other resource management entities with relevant conservation needs, resource concerns, priorities, and recommendations regarding programs that can be used to address those needs. It is the responsibility of the Conservation District to collect and assess the data and to share the information with appropriate entities that may be able to address these local resource concerns. The Local Working Group (LWG) process allows recommendations to be introduced to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist through the State Technical Committee. The USDA agencies can determine where to invest in technical and financial assistance to meet the needs of the communities within their operating programs. It is note-worthy that the data obtained by the LWG can aid communities to address conservation needs also through other agencies and organizations in addition to inform and aid decision makers and the interested public.

Overview of LWG Participants

Farmers/Producer
State Government
Federal Government
Soil Conservation Staff
Conservation Professionals
Educators



CAPE ATLANTIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Local Working Group Report 2023:

Atlantic County

February 1, 2023

Location: Atlantic County Office Building

Objective: Identify natural resource conservation issues in the Local Working Group area, identify high priority projects, needs and practices.

INTRODUCTION

Locally led conservation begins with the community, both geographically and focused groups, working through the Conservation Districts. This is based on the principle that community stakeholders are best suited to assess and deal with local resource issues and other problems. The products of the locally led process will provide the Conservation District, the United Stated Department of Agriculture (USDA), and other resource management entities with relevant conservation needs, resource concerns, priorities, and recommendations regarding programs that can be used to address those needs. It is the responsibility of the Conservation District to collect and assess the data and to share the information with appropriate entities that may be able to address these local resource concerns. The Local Working Group (LWG) process allows recommendations to be introduced to the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) State Conservationist through the State Technical Committee. The USDA agencies can determine where to invest in technical and financial assistance to meet the needs of the communities within their operating programs. It is note-worthy that the data obtained by the LWG can aid communities to address conservation needs also through other agencies and organizations in addition to inform and aid decision makers and the interested public.

Overview of LWG Participants

Farmers/Producers
State Government
Federal Government
Soil Conservation Staff
Conservation Professionals
Educators

Conclusions from the Local Work Group Meetings

Districts are in a unique position to support and facilitate the Local Work Group process.

Local Work Groups provided a venue for our constituents to voice their conservation needs and resource priorities.

Locally led meetings inform Federal, State, and local conservation programs for the allocation of their respective resources.

Data obtained during the Local Work Group can focus Districts' and diverse partners' efforts in addressing resource concerns and opportunities.

Local Work Group Resources

Local Work Group Guidebook

Cape Atlantic Conservation District Local Work Group Reports:

- Cumberland County
- Cape May County
- Atlantic County

NCPP Local Work Group Resources

Thank You

For more information on
the Local Work Group process
and the material presented,
please contact:

Joseph Lomax
Cape Atlantic Conservation District
Vice-Chairman
jlomax@lomaxconsulting.com

or

Michael Kent
Cape Atlantic Conservation District
District Manager
capeatlanticscd@capeatlantic.org

Cape Atlantic Conservation District

6260 Old Harding Hwy.
Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

www.capeatlantic.org

(609) 625-3144

"Committed to the conservation of our natural resources."