

Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District

- Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District is a **quasi-state agency** that reaches residents of the state of Maine to provide education and technical assistance to promote natural resource conservation.
- Districts **are established by state law** to oversee all stormwater and soil resources in our counties.
- Districts are not federally funded. They are not NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services) or USDA. Districts are solely funded by the State of Maine- The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) and Piscataquis County Commissioners. Any other supplemental financial income is from grants and donations. We rely on this funding to help us provide the ever growing need for this service.
- Funding to PCSWCD needs to at least cover administrative staff. Currently, it is not. We have 2 full time staff whose positions are funded by a grant and one part-time education coordinator who should be full-time to meet the needs of our organization's mission.
- The last time Piscataquis County provided an increase was in 2016, 5 years ago and the cost of doing business is increasing.
- In 2021, PCSWCD served 627 participants in our region with workshops and programming alone. In 2020, we served 251. **This stimulates our economy by bringing tourism to our area- Piscataquis County. Maine's livelihood is based around tourism.**
 - This does **not** include the amount of visitors to our 400 acres that we manage **only** by volunteers and staff which has increased due to the usage of the trails and maintenance required for upkeep.
- In 2021, we had a total of 50 volunteers help maintain our public trails/land in Piscataquis County. Volunteer time is valued at \$28.5/hour for an estimate of 300 hours a year, totalling a cost of \$8,562 for quality unpaid help.

From Tom Gordon, MPA Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF)
State of Maine-

- Piscataquis SWCD is the second most effective District in fundraising, producing \$5.33 for each \$1 of State appropriation. On a per capita population basis, Piscataquis SWCD produces \$7.72 of funding for each person in Piscataquis County; this is the **best** ratio of any of the 16 Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Maine.
- Districts received county appropriations from \$6,800 to \$52,324, with the **average county contribution being \$23,730**. Statewide investment in Conservation Districts has produced a significant amount of services from USDA-NRCS, ME DEP, and numerous non-profit organizations.