**MFCC Policy Platform (updated 7.14.2014)**

**Goal 1**

*Statement:* We support access and education to programs that encourage local ag through diversified production, improved marketing strategies, and enhanced value-added opportunities. Labor/ inputs.

*Priorities:*

*Call to Action:*

* Promote activities of local farm service agencies – Cheshire County Conservation District, Farm Service Agency, NH New and Beginning Farmers, UNH Cooperative Extension, Hannah Grimes, etc.
* Circulate information on NRCS grants, NH New & Beginning Farmers, Farm Bill education

**Goal 2**

*Statement:* We advocate for the market, infrastructure, and distribution needs of local farms to increase the volume of local food sales.

*Priorities:*

*Call to Action*:

* Advocate for policy supportive of the Keene Farmers Market, Monadnock Food Coop
* Support local Farm to School legislation
* Support Monadnock Menus

**Goal 3**

*Statement*: We support local, state, and federal policies, which encourage sustainable agriculture, are equitable to all citizens, and conserves natural resources.

*Priorities:*

* Reach out to Beth Hodge in guidance in developing policy platform.
* Review the legislative priorities and political platforms of local, state and regional advocacy organizations
* Identify and recruit local experts at each of the advocacy levels who would serve on the committee.
* Review letter from State of NH Environmental Services regarding supporting agriculture and implement agreed upon guidelines.
* Identify and engage a PWG liaison from each of the regional ag commissions
* Bring ag commissions together regularly for networking or resource sharing.
* Monitor and share how legislators are voting on policies supportive of local ag.

*Call to Action:*

* Provide regional Ag Commission updates to coalition
* Eblast, RSS feed on local policy updates; state legislative updates – what’s covered, what is not.
* Host a yearly Monadnock Region ag commission forum
* Promote NH Food Strategy

**Goal 4**

*Statement*: We believe that access for all Monadnock citizens to affordable, fresh, locally produced food is vital to the health of future generations and to our local agricultural economy. We support educational programming that works to remove barriers, makes food more affordable, and encourages the support of locally produced foods.

*Priorities:*

* Create a Policy 101 training of the food and agriculture policy cycle for MFCC membership and the general public.
* Research ag stats that are relevant to the work of the MFCC and the PWG.
* Ensure local legislators are aware of the advocacy activities of the workshop.

*Call to Action:*

* Provide an online repository for Monadnock agricultural statistics on our website
* Update and broaden communications with legislators, ag commissioners – become communication “hub” for policy impacting Monadnock agriculture

**Goal 5**

*Statement*: As stewards of our local lands, farmers are important managers of natural resources.  We support working land management practices that protect and rebuild soil, maintain water quality, and reverse habitat loss while maintaining productive farms.

*Priorities:*

*Call to Action:*

* Support the work of NRCS, CCCD, Monadnock Conservancy