

**Minnesota State Technical Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 13, 2017**  
**Waite Park Field Office,**  
**110 2nd Street S, Suite 128**  
**Waite Park, MN**  
**9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Cathee Pullman, NRCS  
Ryan Galbreath, NRCS  
Sheldon Myerchin, USFWS  
Shannon Carpenter, NRCS  
Jennifer Sweeney, NRCS  
Lanette Dietrich, NRCS  
Angela Hanson, FSA  
Nick Vira, NRCS  
Jim Kukowski, MN Soybean Growers  
Rhonda Osterman, NRCS  
Steve Hockett, Great River Greening  
Jason Garms, DNR  
Warren Formo MAWRC

Daniel Block, NRCS  
Tim Hepola, Shakopee Duluth Sioux Tribe  
Aaron Meyer, Rural Development  
Tanner Bruse, Pheasants Forever  
Sabin Adams, MN Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Doug Thomas, BWSR  
Greg Johnson, MPCA  
Ginger Kopp, NRCS  
John Corrigan, NRCS  
Lea Holter, NRCS  
Kristin Brennan, NRCS  
Jessica Weis, NRCS  
Gary Watson, NRCS

**Opening Remarks: Cathee Pullman**

- Cathee welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**Soil Health State-wide training – Kristin Brennan, NRCS**

Kristin reviewed the Soil Health State-wide training recently conducted. She asked the committee to contact her with additional topics that could be covered by this training to make it beneficial to all, especially producers and partners.

Discussion followed.

**FSA Update – Angela Hanson, FSA**

Angela provided an update on the Conservation Reserve Program.

Discussion followed.

**Easement Programs - Lanette Dietrich, NRCS**

- Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) ranking  
Lanette reviewed the draft Healthy Forest Ranking form. This program is site-specific to the sentinel landscape consideration of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) ranking  
Lanette reviewed the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) ranking form. There was one addition that the MSTC would need to review is the

Camp Ripley sentinel landscape.

Lanette gave a brief definition of what the “sentinel landscape” term meaning which is “a unique designation that recognizes the partnership between the USFWS, USDA NRCS, and Department of Defense to assure our nation is mission ready”.

- ACEP WRE cost list

Lanette reviewed the map of Minnesota AWMA Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC) Areas. She also reviewed the FY 2018 Minnesota NRCS Wetland Reserve Easement GARCs.

Discussion followed.

### **Financial Assistance Programs – Nick Vira**

- Local Work Groups

In accordance with the Farm Bill, Local Working Groups are subcommittees of the NRCS State Technical Committee and provide recommendations to USDA on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. According to NRCS Program policy, it is recommended that SWCDs should convene the Local Working Group.

### **MSTC Watershed Subcommittee Report – Shannon Carpenter, NRCS and Greg Johnson, MPCA**

Shannon and Greg reviewed the MSTC Watershed Selection Criteria for Future Program Rounds.

Discussion followed.

### **NRCS Updates to Forestry Technical Materials – Ginger Kopp, NRCS**

Ginger discussed technical notes on forestry and woodlands.

### **NRCS Nutrient Management and Pest Management Standards and Specifications – Carissa Spencer, NRCS**

Carissa gave the committee on the updated NMPM standards that were based on the discussion at the May meeting.

**Decision Point:** 590 Payment Schedule - Re-evaluate the rate and see if the components are accurate to what is done in Minnesota. Request a longer period of time to write a plan.

Discussion followed.

### **FY 17 State Technical Committee Review – Ryan Galbreath**

Determine FY 18 Meeting timeframes. Provide comments and suggestions on improvements for next FY. Ryan reviewed accomplishments and successes the MSTC has had throughout the last FY.

Proposed FY 2018 Meeting Dates: November 16, 2017; February 15, 2018; May 17, 2018; August 16, 2018

Next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2017.

Adjourned