

Minnesota State Technical Committee Meeting Minutes
November 16, 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
Joe Martin, FSA
Sheldon Myerchin, USFWS
Shannon Carpenter, NRCS
Jennifer Sweeney, NRCS
Lanette Dietrich, NRCS
Angela Hanson, FSA
Jim Kukowski, MN Soybean Growers
Rhonda Osterman, NRCS
Sabin Adams, The Wildlife Society
Greg Johnson, MPCA
Lea Holter, NRCS
Kristin Brennan, NRCS
Jessica Weis, NRCS
Gary Watson, NRCS
Lance Smith, NRCS
Lisa Buckner, NRCS
Mike Sams, Farm Bureau
Rob Sip, MDA

Nathan Hylla, Stearns SWCD
Carissa Spencer, NRCS
Fawad Shah, MCIA
Paula Sunde, Al Franken's Office
Jake Kitzmann, Dept. of Military Affairs
Steven Cole, NRCS
Brandon Defoe, NRCS
Andrea Horsman, NRCS
Les Everett, U of MN
Mark Oja, NRCS
Brenda Tonn, NRCS
Bob Koltes, NRCS
Kevin Dupuis, Sr., Chairman, Fond du Lac
Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe
Bruce Savage, District II Representative,
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa Tribe
Roger Smith, Sr., District III Representative, Fond
du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe

Opening Remarks and State Conservationist Report: Cathee Pullman

- Cathee welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Cathee introduced the new Minnesota Farm Service Agency Director, Joe Martin. Joe expressed the importance of the relationship with NRCS and other agencies and partners.
- Local Working Groups - Cathee discussed how the LWG are working and explained their role in conservation and natural resources.

FY 2018 State Technical Committee Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Carissa Spencer, NRCS

Carissa presented a powerpoint showing the SOP that was updated for FY 2018. This will be posted on the Minnesota NRCS web site.

Financial Assistance Programs – Lisa Buckner

Lisa Buckner gave an update on the FAP and members of the NRCS FAP staff review their individual areas of expertise. Lisa gave an update of the CIG program and each respective Program Specialist for

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) gave a brief update of each program.

Discussion followed.

Easement Programs - Lanette Dietrich, NRCS

Lanette reviewed easement programs and she gave an update on the state of the state of easements. Programs:

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), the umbrella program for easements that are worked on at the National level. Under ACEP are the following:

- Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) Program
- Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) Program

Lanette gave a powerpoint presentation showing a summary of each program. If further details are desired, please contact Lanette directly at (651) 602-7855 or lanette.dietrich@mn.usda.gov.

Lanette has been also working with Camp Ripley on Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Program to do forestry based easements in Minnesota.

NRCS Soil Health and Strategic Plan – Kristin Brennan, Carissa Spencer, NRCS

Kristin Brennan discussed soil health and the strategic plan.

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.

Decision Point: It was agreed to by the committee that the Watershed Selection Criteria be accepted as presented.

NWQI – Proposal was forwarded to NHQ by due date with the recommended two new watershed in Minnesota: Cottonwood Lake and Dobbins Creek Upper Cedar River.

The Big Twin Lake Elk Creek Watershed was withdrawn.

FSA Update – Angela Hanson, FSA

1. Reviewed FSA National Notice CRP-843. Explained that the notice provided authority for FSA to process FY2017 CCRP Sign Up (SU) 50 offers that were pending from May 4, 2017 to September 30, 2017, with the exception of offers for or containing CP42 acres. The notice also suspends FSA authority to accept new CCRP SU51 Offers (exceptions are CREP and CRP-Grasslands) until further notice. MN had over 2400 pending CCRP SU 50 offers received after May 4, 2017 and have been working with NRCS to work through CPO's by the December 15, 2017 deadline. FSA will be required to have those approved contracts loaded into FSA systems by January 12, 2018. Discussed the 1600 acre shortfall for state allocated CP23A acres and that the notice states no additional acreage allocations will be approved. A question was asked about why CP42 acres are not allowed to move forward? Explained it was our understanding there is a national CP42 acreage limit, which

has been met. Explained that clarification was provided by National Office that CCRP SU50 offers for CP42 or offers containing CP42 acreage would be rejected. Modifications cannot be made to switch the CP42 to another practice. FSA STO has not been provided a timeframe for when CCRP SU51 will be available to submit offers.

2. CREP Training Update. FSA, NRCS and BSWR will be providing a CREP follow up training on December 19, 2017 from 1:00-3:00.

Handouts for this meeting were provided by email and/or are posted on the www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov web site.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2018.

Adjourned