

Minnesota State Technical Committee Meeting Notes
August 16, 2018
Waite Park Field Office,
110 2nd Street S, Suite 128
Waite Park, MN
9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Troy Daniell, NRCS	Bill Fitzgerald, MDA
Ryan Galbreath, NRCS	Ryan Carda, MDA
Angela Hanson, FSA	Sheldon Myerchin, US FWLS
Rhonda Osterman, NRCS	Paula Sunde, Office of Senator Tina Smith
Keith Kloubec, NRCS	Paul Sweeney, ESE
Tanner Bruse, Pheasants Forever	Lewis Brockette, NRCS
Lucas Sjostrom, MN Milk	Dave Jones, NRCS
Emily Pliscott, MN Milk	Shannon Carpenter, NRCS
Greg Johnson, MPCA	Kevin MN BWSR
Molly Voeller, NRCS	Kevin Paap,
Jason Garms, MN DNR	Lance Smith, NRCS
Kristine Kust, NRCS	

Opening Remarks and State Conservationist Report: Troy Daniell, State Conservationist

- Troy Daniell, the new Minnesota State Conservationist, introduced himself and gave a little of his background.

Partner Updates

Partners are given the opportunity to provide updates.

Conservation Compliance – Lewis Brockette, NRCS

Lewis gave an update on the wetland compliance streamlining effort to allow field staff to increase their focus on time spent on conservation and program delivery. This created teams that have taken on responsibility for wetland compliance implementation in the state which freed other staff up for other activities.

Lewis also reported on the development of MN Program Advisory Teams (PAT). These would consist of field and area office staff and one voluntary customer. These teams would be focused on processes, timelines, planning, funding, and other program issues. The team would make recommendations to the MN State Conservationist and leadership team.

Discussion followed.

Financial Assistance Programs – Keith Kloubec, NRCS

Keith gave a powerpoint presentation on the 2018 EQIP and CSP Obligation Update.

Would like to have the EQIP subcommittee meet in the fall to review payment schedule and comment period for three CAPs comment period.

Farm Service Update – Angela Hanson, FSA

1. CCRP – Currently CCRP SU51 offers can be submitted for re-enrollments, new land and one-year extensions until August 17, 2018. The August 17, 2018 deadline also applies to CREP offers. This year over 200,000 acres of CRP will expire in MN. After August 17, 2018, FSA and NRCS will be working closely to coordinate CPO development to ensure plans are completed by the September 7, 2018 timeframe. The final date for FSA to approve and have contracts loaded in the system is September 28, 2018.
2. Initiative Acres – The FSA National Office is monitoring all initiative acreage balances at the national level. Therefore, even though MN has exhausted our state allocation on CP23A acres, FSA County Offices are authorized to continue to approve CP23A offers for CCRP SU51.
3. Emergency Haying and Grazing. Last week Cottonwood, Jackson, Lyon, Murray, Nobles and Yellow Medicine were approved for excess moisture. This week Kittson, Roseau and Lake of the Woods were approved for drought. Handbook 2-CRP, paragraph 663, provides that CP1, 2, 4B, 4D, 10, 18B, 18C and 38 are eligible practices.

A question was asked if denitrifying bioreactors and saturated buffers are allowed in MN. Responded that both have been added to the 2-CRP handbook and are available on eligible practices.

Soils – Kristin Brennan, NRCS

Kristin gave a presentation on Minnesota NRCS Strategic Plan and Soil Health. A handout was provided to those present and is available to view on the web site.

Engineering – Dave Jones, NRCS

Waste Storage Facility (313) Standard

Dave reviewed the draft CPS-313 for Minnesota. NRCS is seeking comments prior to finalizing the practice standard for Minnesota. If you have comments/suggestions, you can submit them via email to dave.jones@mn.usda.gov. Comments can be referenced by line item number(s). If you feel a meeting is necessary to discuss items, NRCS is willing to schedule a date and time. Contact State Conservation Engineer, Dave Jones, at 651-602-7882 to schedule an appointment.

Ecological Science – Carissa Spencer & Shannon Carpenter, NRCS

Carissa gave a powerpoint presentation on the Conservation Stewardship Program.

- Integrated Pest Management Enhancements
- Conservation Stewardship Enhancement

Shannon gave an update on the Watershed Subcommittee Activities.

Minnesota State Technical Committee Agenda Items and FY18 Review – Ryan Galbreath, NRCS

Discussion on meeting location and considering going back to Waite Park FO.

There was also discussion on proposed meeting frequency. The consensus of the members present was to continue with the quarterly schedule.

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Presentation handouts and powerpoints for this meeting were provided by email and/or are posted on the [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov) web site.

Adjourned