

Minnesota State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
January 24, 2019
Waite Park Field Office,
110 2nd Street S, Suite 128
Waite Park, MN
9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Troy Daniell, NRCS	Erin Meier, GLBW
Ryan Galbreath, NRCS	Sabin Adams, MNTWS
Rhonda Osterman, NRCS	Michael Nelson, Anez Consulting
Fawad Shah, MCIA	Matt Weegman, National Wild Turkey Federation
Dave Jones, NRCS	Dan Block, NRCS
Jason Selvog, Stearns SWCD	Kristin Brennan, NRCS
Nathan Hylla, Stearns SWCD	Jessica Weis, NRCS
Jennifer Sweeney, NRCS	Lanette Dietrich, NRCS
Jessica Weis, NRCS	Jim Kukowski, MN Soybean Association
Aaron Meyer, MN RWA	Dan Money, Two Rivers Watershed District

Welcome and Introductions

Troy thanked the committee members participating today, knowing there are a lot of things going on around the state. He explained that the Farm Bill is about to go through the rule-making process, so there isn't a lot of information available at this time.

Soil Health Update – Kristin Brennan

Kristin gave an update on some projects that Minnesota NRCS is going to be involved in. She informed the committee of upcoming statewide soil health training and that it will be offered on annual basis. This includes training in June for NEDC Soil Health and Sustainability for Field Staff (NEDC equivalent), which is required for planning certification. A bulletin will be sent out as soon as we know the logistics of the training.

Kristin discussed a CIG Grant awarded to the new Minnesota Office of Soil Health. She shared the entities involved and that the grant is focusing what sort of set of standard indicators are we looking for, talking about quantifying the elements of soil health and which ones farmers care the most about.

Easement Programs – Lanette Dietrich

GARP – development of regions. Comments came from State agencies on this and the map has changed. Chippewa Renville Yellow Medicine regions are at the maximum value.

PROPOSED FY 2020 WRE GARC areas

Role of the State Technical Committee (STC): The STC provides recommendations on proposed geographic area rate caps for use in determining ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easement compensation values. Input sought for map configuration to be used in determining regional values of easement compensation.

Minnesota Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Announcement for Program Funding - Ryan Galbreath, Dave Jones, Jennifer Sweeney

Ryan reviewed the document and reviewed the areas of emphasis.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is announcing potential availability of grants and agreements for the purpose of leveraging NRCS resources, addressing local natural resource issues, encouraging collaboration and developing state- and community-level conservation leadership. Proposals will be accepted for projects located in the following states: Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Kansas.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and FY19 EQIP Ranking – Jessica Weis, Keith Kloubec

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners.

Jessica Weis reviewed the RCPP through a powerpoint presentation.

Keith reviewed some updates with the new Farm Bill.

ECS FOTG and Technical Notice Updates – Ryan Galbreath

Ryan gave a powerpoint on ECS FOTG and Technical Notice Updates. This ppt is posted on the MNSTAC web site listed below.

A Minnesota FOTG notice was sent in January, 2019, to transmit new and revised standards, and statements of work to Part II and Part IV of the Field Office Technical Guide.

Handouts and powerpoint presentations are available on the MN STAC Website:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mn/technical/stc/state+technical+committee/>

Next Meeting – April 18, 2019