

Minnesota State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

May 4, 2022

Kelly Inn Hotel
100 4th Ave S
St Cloud, MN 56301

Welcome and Introductions – Ryan Galbreath

Ryan expressed his appreciation to all who were in attendance for their ongoing support. He mentioned it has been a while since an in-person meeting has occurred and it is great to see everyone face to face instead of virtually. Ryan asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves and to state what they want to get out of this meeting. After everyone's introductions Ryan mentioned the next meeting is tentatively planned for August and they are planning to do a two-day event. He requested attendees to bring a farmer or rancher with to attend.

State Technical Advisory Committee Purpose – Ryan Galbreath

Ryan explained the purpose of the MSTAC is to provide and receive information, for feedback, and for identifying conservation concerns and program needs. NRCS strongly considers the recommendations. You do not need to wait until the next meeting, that is what subcommittees are for or you can reach out to him or Joel anytime. Meetings are for open discussion and are transparent. We post all information on our NRCS website.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) – Leslie E. Cole

Leslie briefly described what HPAI is and showed a map of confirmed positive cases. She explained the concerns of exposure, spreading, and that biosecurity is the key to keep HPAI out. It is a pretty hot virus. Lateral spread of HPAI is not happening, it is direct spread. It is wildlife into commercial or backyard. Biosecurity works. There was discussion and Q&A with attendees for the next 15 minutes on HPAI.

Ecosystem Markets. Carbon, Soil Health, Water Quality – Leif Fixen

Leif presented on Ecosystems. He discussed roles in the eco markets, explained why ESMC, mentioned MN Pilot Farmer enrollment process and the progress to date on program, and how to get involved with ESMC. There was discussion and Q&A with meeting attendees for 10 minutes.

NRCS Conservation Program Updates – Keith Kloubec

Keith presented on Program updates. Interest in the 2022 programs remain high. There are an abundance of applications allowing only so many to be funded with the funds available. Conservation Innovation Grants are coming soon. RCPP sign up is May 5th to mid-June. There was discussion and Q&A with meeting attendees for 10 minutes.

Ag Practice Effectiveness in the Red Basin. Controlling Runoff from Agriculture Land – Lindsay Pease

Lindsay shared pictures of the flooding of the Red River Basin. She expressed the concern of flood water on people's homes. She presented on the agricultural practice effectiveness for reducing nutrients in the Red River Basin of the North and the best management practices for controlling runoff from agricultural land. There was discussion and Q&A with the meeting attendees for the next 10 minutes.

National Resources Inventory – John Beck

John explained what NRI is, how the NRI is done, who uses the NRI, and how to access the NRI from the NRCS website. He showed graphs of increases and decreases of different land coverages over a period of times. These graphs included ones for Minnesota as well as National. He also showed graphs for wind erosion over a period for both Minnesota and National. There was discussion and Q&A with meeting attendees for 15 minutes on NRI.

State Technical Advisory Subcommittee Updates – Callie Bertsch, Jeff Kalin, Jeff Duchene, Shannon Carpenter

Callie provided updates from the forestry subcommittee. Jeff K provided updates from the wildlife subcommittee. Jeff D provided updates from the grazing subcommittee. Shannon provided updates from the watershed committee.