



United States Department of Agriculture



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# NM Programs State Technical Committee

November 14, 2019

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# State Technical Committee



## Purpose

NRCS has established a technical committee in each State to assist in making recommendations relating to the implementation and technical aspects of natural resource conservation activities and programs.



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# Responsibilities of State Technical Committees

1. Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to USDA on conservation priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs, including application and funding criteria, recommended practices, and program payment percentages.
2. Identify emerging natural resource concerns and program needs.
3. Recommend conservation practice standards and specifications.
4. Recommend State and national program policy based on resource data.
5. Review activities of the local working groups to ensure State priorities are being addressed locally.
6. Make recommendations to the State Conservationist on requests and recommendations from local working groups.
7. Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs.



# Responsibilities of the State Conservationist

1. Chair the committee.
2. Ensure representation of all interests, to the extent practicable.
3. Give strong consideration to the committee's advice on NRCS programs, initiatives, and activities.
4. Call and provide notice of public meetings.
5. Follow the standard operating procedures.
6. Provide other USDA agencies with recommendations from the State Technical Committee for programs under their purview.
7. Ensure that recommendations, when adopted, address natural resource concerns.
8. Extend membership to any agency or persons knowledgeable about economic and environmental impacts of conservation techniques and programs.
9. Respond to requests for membership as outlined in Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 501, Subpart C, Section 501.22D.



# Local Work Groups



Need to be established and hold -- at a minimum -- one official LWG meeting to prepare for EQIP.

Will be convened by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and will establish its own working procedures, including:

- Organization
- Decision-making procedure
- Meeting dates, including timely notification of members
- Recording and distributing Local Work Group considerations, actions and decisions
- Others as deemed necessary

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# Local Work Groups



United States Department of Agriculture

August 8, 2019

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 440-19-04

SUBJECT: PGM – FARM BILL PROGRAMS – FY 2020 GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL WORKING GROUPS

TO: All Employees

ACTION DUE BY October 11 and October 18, 2019

**Purpose.** To provide guidelines for collecting input from the local working groups for fiscal year 2020 implementation of EQIP, CSP, CIG and ACEP

**Expiration Date.** December 31, 2019.

New Mexico NRCS considers input from local working groups (LWG) for implementation of conservation programs. District conservationists and area conservationists in New Mexico are to use this bulletin to assist local working groups make recommendations on NRCS program implementation in FY 2020. Please keep in mind that LWGs are advisory, not decision-making groups.

LWG meetings should be scheduled no later than **October 11, 2019**. A fourteen-day public notification period is required. As soon as meeting dates, times and locations have been established for LWG meetings, please convey that information to Kristin Graham Chavez using Attachment #4. The LWG meeting information will be posted to the state website. District Conservationists must work with the conservation districts to announce the meetings locally.

**The local working group recommendations are due to the ASTC-Programs and State Program Managers by October 18, 2019.** To maintain consistency, the attached documents are to be used.

- ❖ Attachment #1, “Locally Led Conservation 2020 Program Delivery,” describes the recommendations that the local working groups can provide for FY2020 program delivery.
- ❖ Attachment #2, “Local Working Group Recommendations,” documents the LWG recommendations that the district conservationist concurs with.
- ❖ Attachment #3, “Watershed Initiative Requests,” provides instructions for completing Attachment #3a which is to be used to request new watershed, additional funds or cancel an existing watershed initiative that has not completed three years of funding.
- ❖ Attachment #4, Schedule for LWG Meetings,” please complete as soon as the meeting is scheduled.

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
100 SUN AVENUE, SUITE 802





# Local Work Groups



- Screening Criteria
- Technical Criteria to address tiebreakers
- Cost Caps
- State and National Initiatives
- Conservation Innovation Grants
- Watershed and Acequia Initiatives
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Agriculture Conservation Easement Program



# 2019 RCPP



Announcement for Programs Funding was announced September 3, 2019

Deadline to submit a proposal is December 3, 2019.



## 2018 RCPP



- Pecos Watershed – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- North Central – Claunch-Pinto SWCD



# 2017 RCPP



- Chama
- Soil Health
- North Central
- Acequia
- Canadian River



# 2016 RCPP



- North Central Canadian River
- Acequia

## 2015 RCPP



- Canadian River – Closing out
- Acequia – Closing Out
- North Central - Renewal
- Soil Health - Renewal







# Questions?

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