

Fact Sheet:

North Dakota State Technical Committee

January 2017

Overview

The State Technical Committee provides recommendations for establishing technical guidelines, program criteria, and priorities to carry out conservation provisions of the Farm Bill. All meetings are open to the public.

Role of the Committee

The State Technical Committee's role is to provide information, analysis, and recommendations to the NRCS State Conservationist on issues related to Farm Bill conservation legislation. It is purely an advisory committee that allows the State Conservationist to seek the advice, ideas and recommendations from those with an interest in natural resource management.

As various tasks occur, members may organize into subcommittees to provide NRCS more detailed information.

Other program issues that may be addressed include, but not limited to, are:

- State program management policies and procedures;
- Technical programmatic recommendations;
- Statewide public information and outreach campaigns;
- Identifying significant statewide natural resource concerns;
- Guidelines for developing ranking criteria for evaluating applications;
- Guidance on eligible conservation practices;
- Technical guidance on conservation practices, including new, innovative practices;
- Identifying, monitoring, and analyzing performance indicators;
- Evaluating and reporting program impacts on natural resources and the environment; and
- Coordinating with other Federal, State, tribal, and local public and private activities.

Who Are the Committee Members?

The State Conservationist is the chair of the State Technical Committee. There is a nucleus of organizations that are required to be invited to participate. In North Dakota, the State Conservationist welcomes the participation of any organization or agency desiring to participate.

State Technical Committees are composed of individuals who represent a variety of natural resource sciences and occupations. To participate on the Committee, individuals or groups may submit to the State Conservationist a request that explains their interest and outlines their natural resource credentials. Representatives on the committee may include:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts
- Farm Service Agency;
- FSA State Committee;
- Extension;
- Forest Service;
- Each of the Tribal Governments;
- North Dakota Game & Fish;
- North Dakota Forest Service;
- North Dakota Department of Agriculture;
- Other agency personnel with expertise in soil, water, wetland and wildlife management;
- Agricultural producers with demonstrable conservation expertise;
- Non profit organizations with demonstrable conservation expertise and expertise working with agricultural producers in the state
- Persons knowledgeable about conservation techniques; and
- Agribusiness.

How do I find out about meetings?

An email is sent to all committee members. Meetings are not usually scheduled in advance, but are rather at the call of the State Conservationist or other USDA agencies.

Is there a way for me to be involved locally?

Yes, you can express your natural resource concerns two ways. There is a “local working group” made up of various agencies, including NRCS, the Soil Conservation Districts and others. You can express your comments at these locally set meetings. Or, you can express your concerns to the local Soil Conservation District board of directors, who have responsibility for natural resources conservation within their district.

What are Local Working Groups?

Local working groups are organized on SCD boundaries (see below) and are comprised of similar representation as the State Technical Committee. The local working group provides advice/recommendation to the NRCS District Conservationist or SCD representative serving as chair. The meetings are an open discussion that focus on identifying local natural resource concerns that can be treated with Farm Bill programs and activities.

How Can I Get More Information?

Contact either the: State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 220 East Rosser Avenue., Bismarck ND., 58501-3869 or any local USDA service center, or visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nd/technical/stc/>.

