

7/21/22 State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Attendees:

Bartlett, Vanessa - NRCS, Madison, WI
Gerlich, Ryan - NRCS, Madison, WI
Dick Hauser (Guest)
Kevin A Erb
Hurley, Eric - NRCS, Madison, WI
Jeff Mears
Vander Wilt, Jeffrey - NRCS, Huron, SD
Gundlach, David - NRCS, Madison, WI
Jeff Hastings
Heagle, Erik - NRCS, Lancaster, WI
Michael F. Troge
Cynthia Jetzer
Fallat, Coreen R - DATCP
Allness, Eric - NRCS, Madison, WI
Schriefer, Eugene - FPAC-FSA, Madison, WI
Raeder, Tyler - NRCS, Madison, WI
Bartz, Melissa - NRCS, Madison, WI
Krauss, Ian - FSA, Madison, WI
Williams, Meridith - NRCS, Madison, WI
Linnea Rowse (Guest)
Weber, Patrick - NRCS, Rhinelander, WI
Johnson, Abigale (CTR) - FPAC-NRCS, MADISON, WI
Schultheis, Kristin
Brown, Sadie A - DNR
Braun, Allan J - NRCS, Madison, WI
Brian Glenzinski
Marty Moses
White, John - NRCS, Madison, WI
Tyler Wenzlaff
Steve Richter
Loeffelholz, Brian C - DATCP
Craig Ficenec (Guest)
Francisco Arriaga
Bertjens, Steve - NRCS, Madison, WI
Tom Lochner
Paolucci, Andrew - NRCS - Madison, WI

Intro & welcome: Jeff Vander Wilt. Acting State Conservationist
Introduction to Sarah Straussman by Jeff Hastings

Eric Allness: Grants and Agreements – Overview of proposed funding opportunities.

Melissa Bartz: Program Updates, LWG Results & CIG Awards. See slides. **Conservation Innovation Grants**

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Wisconsin set aside \$500,000 of our state EQIP allocation to hold a state CIG sign-up. Purpose of CIG is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. CIG projects are expected to lead to the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches to agricultural producers, into government technical manuals and guides, or to the private sector.

The State CIG NFO was posted in February and the deadline to submit was April 5th.

Wisconsin made 2 awards for the 2022 cycle and are working on the agreements with the awardees -

Sand County Foundation, Heidi Peterson and Tricia Verville \$257,930

Summary: Sand County Foundation will incentivize conservation practice adoption based on environmental responses to a conservation-system practice implementation model instead of a flat-rate payment based on activity and amount implemented. This approach requires more planning up-front to understand each farmer's goals. The farmers are provided with options supported by modeling data, so they can shift their management with more assurance knowing that the practice adopted is resulting in the greatest environmental improvement. Scenarios will be modeled using SnapPlus, STEPL, and COMET-Planner to quantify environmental benefits. At least 20 farmers, prioritizing HU and late adopters, will be targeted with a goal of 20,000 acres receiving individualized nutrient management and practice implementation options that fit their production goals. Deliverables will include at least 3 field days reaching 225 farmers, 3 case study publications including 1 video, and climate smart management adopted across more than 2,000 row crop acres. Location is the mid-upper WI River and Great Lakes watersheds.

Michael Fields Ag Institute & Racine County Producer Group, Dr. Jim Stude \$155,052.89

Summary: This project targets farmers not yet implementing soil health conservation practices by determining economic and environmental benefits of climate smart management system (CSMS). What makes this unique is it specifically studies farmers who lease land and cannot manage based on long-term rental expectations. By studying what happens during early Soil Health adoption to soil health matrixes, crop yield and looking at production costs on leased land, the applicant will look for positive soil health and economic results that will help conservationists sell conservation to late adopters. The site will be the Racine County farm and use paired trials to gather data.

National CIG - we are expecting a national CIG announcement for both Classic and on-Farm Trials yet this fiscal year.

RCPP

RCPP - expecting to hear announcement of funded awards in late summer.

RCPP Renewals - 4 eligible projects have been notified of the opportunity to renew.

American Bird Conservancy: Linnea Rowse/Pat Weber. See slides.

Subcommittees:

Forestry: Efforts to regenerate forests. Allan Braun

Soil Health: Andy Paolucci

Wildlife: Steve Bertjens

Source Water Protection: Eric Hurley. See slides.
Urban & Community Agriculture: Eric Allness

Partner Reports:

FSA-Ian Krauss

DATCP-Coreen Fallat

Glacierland-Mike Troge

Grant County Sanitation & Zoning: Eric Heagle