



January 20, 2022

Invitation to the Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting:

The [USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\) in South Dakota](#) routinely invites and welcomes Tribal input on NRCS programs and activities. The next Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (TCAC) Meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on Thursday, February 17, 2022. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. CDT and those participating virtually can either join through Microsoft Teams Meeting video or by audio through a direct phone line.

These meetings are an opportunity to hear your Tribal natural resource needs and your conservation efforts. The NRCS in turn will share information on agency activities, assistance programs, training opportunities, and partnership efforts. You do not need to pre-register or be listed as a committee member to attend; however, if possible, please let us know prior to the meeting if you have a specific topic you would like to discuss so we can be better prepared to assist. Based on the attached tentative agenda, we anticipate the meeting may run approximately one to two hours.

In an effort to provide you the link to access the Microsoft Teams Meeting by video, **we need your assistance in providing us your updated e-mail address**. You can either provide this information to the appropriate Tribal Liaison (listed below) or send it to Kathy Irving, Secretary, at kathy.irving@usda.gov. We will provide you the link to access the Teams Meeting through video by February 15. If you are interested in joining by phone only, please use the following information below:

Audio only

Phone Conference #: (202) 650-0123

Phone Conference ID: 851-991-585#

Please contact your local NRCS Tribal Liaison (listed below) or my office if you would like to discuss a topic but are unable to participate in this next TCAC Meeting or for more information, call (605) 352-1200, or leave a message on our 24-hour voicemail messaging service by dialing 1-800-872-7502, Extension 1205.

Persons needing special accommodations should contact Kathy Irving, Secretary, at (605) 352-1205, or by e-mail at kathy.irving@usda.gov, at least one week in advance of the meeting date.

Sincerely,

ROBERT LAWSON
Acting State Conservationist

Attachments

cc: Jeff Vander Wilt, ASTC(P), NRCS, Huron SO
Jennifer Wurtz, EQIP Coordinator, NRCS, Huron SO
Joyce Trevithick, CSP Coordinator, NRCS, Huron SO
Brandon Kottke, Easement Coordinator, NRCS, Huron SO

Michelle Burke, ASTC(FO), NRCS, Brookings FSO
Jeanne Hamilton, ASTC(FO), NRCS, Pierre FSO
Tate Lantz, ASTC(FO), NRCS, Rapid City FSO
Dave Pesicka, TL, NRCS, Dupree FO david.pesicka@usda.gov
Caitlin Wilson, TL, NRCS, Martin FO caitlin.wilson@usda.gov
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Kelly Tschumper, Acting TL, NRCS, Lake Andes FO kelly.tschumper@usda.gov
Rhonda Nelson, DC, NRCS, Flandreau FO rhonda.nelson@usda.gov

Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meeting
Virtual Agenda
February 17, 2022

Meeting Purpose: To collaborate on the Tribal conservation concerns from across South Dakota and share NRCS activities and assistance.

- NRCS Welcome and Introduction – Robert Lawson, Acting State Conservationist
- Follow-Up from Our Last Meeting
- COVID Update (Our offices are open)
- Tribal Liaison Updates/NRCS High Tunnel – Caitlin Wilson, Tribal Liaison, NRCS
 - High Tunnel Practice Explanation (What it is and is not)
 - High Tunnel Effort with Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Conservation Opportunities
 - Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) – Colette Kessler, NRCS
 - Conservation Collaboration Cooperative Agreements (CCA) – Colette Kessler, NRCS
 - Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) – Jeff Vander Wilt, NRCS
 - Woody Species Encroachment DRAFT Strategic Plan – Jeff Vander Wilt, NRCS
- Program Updates
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Jennifer Wurtz, NRCS
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Jennifer Wurtz, NRCS
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Joyce Trevithick, NRCS
 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Brandon Kottke, NRCS
- Farm Service Agency (FSA) Updates - Gail Gullickson and Owen Fagerhaug
- Partner Topics - We have updated our agenda to include time for Partner Updates. If you want to share success stories, new programs or need feedback, please let Kathy Irving know and we will include your name in the agenda.
- Other
- Next Quarterly Tribal Conservation Advisory Council Meetings
 - Tentative Dates – May 19, 2022, and August 18, 2022
 - Suggested Agenda Items