



MN State Technical Advisory Committee

United States Department of Agriculture



Ryan Galbreath
State Resource Conservationist

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Our Mission: We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.



Our Vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.





What is the Purpose of the Natural Resources Conservation Service?



NRCS is USDA's technical agency for providing assistance to private land managers, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations in planning and carrying out conservation activities and programs



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Purpose

- Serves in an advisory capacity to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for conservation technical assistance and programs.
- Chaired by the State Conservationist
- Composed of representatives from Federal and State agencies, American Indian Tribes, agricultural and conservation groups, and agricultural and forestry producers.



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Purpose

- The role of the Committee is advisory in nature and has no implementation or enforcement authority.
- NRCS gives strong consideration to the recommendations of the STAC.



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Purpose

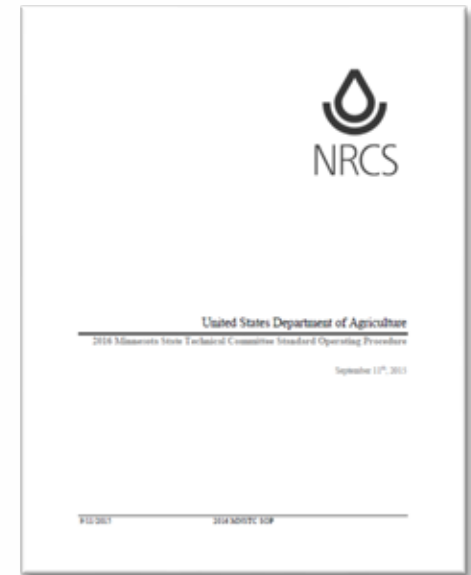
- Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to NRCS on conservation priorities for natural resources conservation activities and programs.
- Identify emerging conservation concerns and program needs.
- Provide feedback and recommendations for conservation practice standards and specifications.
- Consider recommendations from local working groups
- Assist NRCS with public outreach and information efforts.



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Conducting Business

- The meetings will be conducted as an open discussion among members.
- Discussion will focus on the programs and activities identified in 440-CPM, Part 501, Subpart A, Section 501.0C.



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Conducting Business

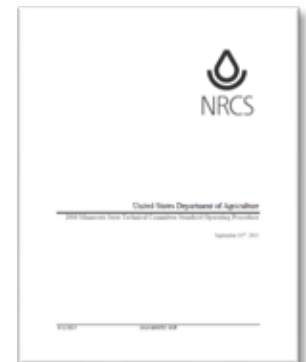
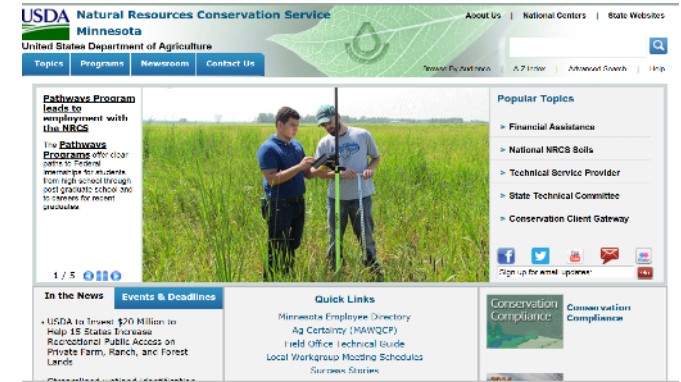
- The State Conservationist or designee will lead the discussion.
- Only one person may speak at a time in an open forum.
- The State Conservationist or designee is responsible for recognizing speakers.
- State Technical Committees are advisory in nature and all reasonable recommendations are considered.
- Members may be polled, voting on issues is not appropriate.
- The State Conservationist, may establish time limits for discussion on individual agenda items or defer agenda items.



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Transparency

- The STAC process is posted to the MN NRCS Website.
- MNSTAC meetings are set in advance
- Meeting notes are posted to the MN NRCS Website



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Subcommittees

Conservation Easements

Provide input and direction for Agricultural Conservation Easement Programs. Input and direction provided may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Application ranking criteria
- Geographic area rate caps
- Local and state priorities
- Compatible use agreements
- Restoration plans
- Management plans
- Management of easement acres



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Subcommittees

Financial Assistance Programs (EQIP and CSP)

Provide input and direction for Financial Assistance Programs to include EQIP and CSP. Input and direction provided may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Local work group recommendations
- State priorities application ranking criteria
- EQIP initiatives and efforts
- Funding pools
- Program evaluation



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Subcommittees

Forestry

Provide input and direction for conservation delivery for private forest land. Input and direction provided may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Identifying and prioritizing forestland resource concerns
- Providing feedback on forestry standards and technical materials
- Developing priorities for forest land programs



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Subcommittees

Grazing and Hayland

Provide input and direction for conservation delivery for Grazing and Hayland. Input and direction provided may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Identifying and prioritizing pasture and hayland resource concerns
- Providing feedback on related standards and technical materials
- Developing priorities for programs



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Subcommittees

Practice Standards and Technical Materials

The Practice Standards and Technical Materials Subcommittee is to provide input and direction for technical delivery of conservation. Input and direction provided may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Providing feedback and direction for state standards and technical material updates
- Developing state conservation planning priorities
- Identifying technical development needs



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Subcommittees

Watershed

Provide input and direction for technical delivery of watershed conservation planning. Input and direction provided may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Providing feedback and direction for watershed selection and prioritization
- Source Water Protection prioritization
- Updates to watershed studies
- Watershed monitoring activities



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Subcommittees

Wildlife and CRP

Provide input and direction for conservation delivery for Wildlife and CRP. Input and direction provided may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- identifying and prioritizing CRP priority areas
- providing feedback on related standards and technical materials
- developing priorities for wildlife programs

Explore Working Lands for Wildlife Opportunities



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Subcommittees

Others as Needed Meetings and Frequency

- The Minnesota STAC will meet two times each fiscal year.
- Other meetings may be held at the discretion of the State Conservationist in a format of his or her choosing.
- The State Conservationist will call a meeting whenever he or she believes that there is business that should be brought before the committee for action





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Minnesota NRCS Website

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mn/technical/stc>

The screenshot shows the Minnesota NRCS website. The header includes the USDA logo, "Natural Resources Conservation Service Minnesota", and "United States Department of Agriculture". Navigation links include "About Us", "National Centers", "State Websites", "Topics", "Programs", "Newsroom", and "Contact Us". A search bar and "Browse By Audience" link are also present. The breadcrumb trail reads: "You are Here: Home / Technical Resources / State Technical Committee". The "Stay Connected" section features social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and RSS. The "Technical Resources" sidebar lists: Conservation Planning, Data, Maps, & Analysis, Ecological Science, Engineering, Land Use, and State Technical Committee. Under "State Technical Committee", there are links for "STC Minutes" and "STC Agenda". The main content area is titled "State Technical Committee" and contains two paragraphs: "The Minnesota State Technical Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the implementation of the natural resources conservation provisions of Farm Bill legislation. The Committee is intended to include members from a wide variety of natural resource and agricultural interests. Chaired by the State Conservationist, Cathee Pullman, the MSTC is composed of representatives from Federal and State natural resource agencies, American Indian Tribes, agricultural and environmental organizations, and agricultural producers." and "The MSTC meets regularly to provide information, analysis and recommendations to the State Conservationist who strongly considers their advice. Individuals or groups wanting to participate as members on the MSTC may submit requests to the State Conservationist explaining their interest and relevant credentials."

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Comments and Questions

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