

Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Advisory Committee



Dates: October 15 and 16, 2024

Location: The Park Event Center

500 Division St

Waite Park, MN 56387

<https://theparkeventcenter.com/>

New Location

Tuesday October 15, 2024

Time	Topic and Discussions	Topic Leader
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome and Introductions	Troy Daniell, NRCS State Conservationist
10:15 – 10:30	State Technical Advisory Committee Purpose: A quick overview of the committee purpose and where to find additional information	Ryan Galbreath, NRCS
10:30 – 11:00	NRCS notice Of Funding Opportunities: Each year MN NRCS provides opportunities for conservation grants. Learn about successful awards and provide input for next year's grant subjects.	Moly Mehl, NRCS
11:00 – 11:30	Prescribed Fire Efforts: Learn about efforts to put more fire on the landscape. Also get a virtual tour of a prescribed fire trailer and learn about the new payment rates for prescribed burning.	Jason Andersen, Pheasants Forever
11:30 – 12:45 Lunch		
12:45 – 1:45	Conservation Programs Updates: In this session you will see numbers on MN NRCS's historic year for conservation programs. You will also see local workgroup results and hear about program opportunities. See where Team MN landed in 2024 and where we are going in 2025. We will also introduce you to the MN NRCS Program Staff.	Keith Kloubec, NRCS and Friends
1:45 – 2:45	Conservation Easement Management and Lessons Learned: The NRCS Easements team will present on the ongoing efforts to manage Wetland Reserve Easements. Also hear from the team on the lessons learn over time and how we have changed the way we restore and repair wetlands for long term viability	Kaitlyn Miller, NRCS and Easements Team.
2:45 – 3:00 Break		
3:00 – 3:30	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): Farm Service Agency will provide a status of CRP in MN to include facts and figures for the fiscal year 2024.	Angela Hanson, Farm Service Agency
3:30 – 4:00	Economic Analysis of Conservation: Hear from an economist about how MN conservation programs impact the local economy and job creation. This includes the combined efforts of several federal and state programs.	Sam Porter, NRCS

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4:00 – 4:15	Conservation Videos: A look into the MN NRCS YouTube videos featuring farmer led conservation. Thumbs up, like and subscribe to this session featuring an awareness of what is out there. You will be able to provide input for the creation of new videos and farms.	Melissa McCann, NRCS
4:15 – 4:30	Partner Updates and Announcements: This is a chance to make an announcement and provide updates to the partners. What is happening in your neighborhood?	Ryan Galbreath, NRCS
Adjourn		

Wednesday October 16, 2024

Time	Topic and Discussions	Topic Leader
9:00 – 9:45	Farm Economics: Keith Olander from Central Lakes College and the Farm Business Management Program will present on the status of farm economics and what it takes to be profitable.	Keith Olander, Central Lakes College.
9:45 – 10:15	Wetland Minimal Effect Exemptions: Learn about minimal effect exemptions as it relates to USDA wetland determinations.	Paige Guetter, NRCS John Tix, NRCS
10:15 – 10:45	Soil Climate Monitoring Network: NRCS is looking for sampling sites for soil carbon data on cropland and pastureland in MN. We are looking for feedback and partners to assist in finding farms open to taking samples.	Joe Brennan, NRCS
10:45 – 11:00 Break		
11:00 – 12:00	Environmental Markets: NRCS uses technical tools such as COMET that can help estimate the benefits of conservation efforts, providing the infrastructure to help make markets and new financial vehicles work. Dr. Adam Chambers will present on USDA's role in environmental markets and the tools used.	Dr. Adam Chambers, NRCS National Environmental Market Leader
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch		
1:00 – 2:00	State Technical Advisory Subcommittee Reports: The Wildlife, Grazing and Forestry Subcommittees will present on what was covered in 2024 and a plan for 2025.	Subcommittee Leaders
Adjourn		