

Nebraska State Technical CSP Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
Denny Federal Building, 100 Centennial Mall N., RM 397B, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Attendees:

Brad Soncksen, NRCS, ASTC Programs
John Mayberger, NRCS, Nebraska State CSP Program Manager
Brach Johnson, NRCS, Schuyler
Burdett Piening
Wally Valasek
Craig Romary
Buffalo Bruce

Attending by phone:

Rick Rasby
Doug Schmale
Mike McDonald

The Nebraska State Technical CSP Sub-Committee Meeting was convened at 9:30 AM

Brad gave introductions and welcome.

Brach handed out a detailed document of items to be covered in the meeting.

Purpose of the Nebraska State Technical CSP Sub-Committee were reviewed.

Brad explained roles and expectations of the meeting purpose, goals, and priorities within the state. The explanation of statewide funding pools and ranking procedures were covered in detail.

Proposed CSP Ranking Pools

A map outlining the proposed ranking pool boundaries for the upcoming CSP signup were handed out. Brad provided an explanation of how the proposed ranking pool boundaries were developed with a primary influence from the Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA). The ranking pools are not delineated this time by NRCS administrative areas.

John explained that contract acres would be allocated based to a certain extent on the relative percentage of application acres in each ranking pool. He also explained that the contract renewals would come from a different pool of funds. Newly acquired acres in contract renewals would count against our total CSP acre allocation. The physical location of the majority of an applicant's application will determine which ranking pool the application will be ranked in.

The committee spoke in length about the potential of adding a separate ranking pool in Area 5 making a stand-alone area for the Platte River irrigation area. Area 5 was said to have a great deal of diversity within its boundaries. Splitting the Area into a Platte River cropland area would cause an additional two areas to be added to the state ranking pools for a total of eight ranking pools. Discussion around this idea also brought some concern as if the areas should really be broken down by primary land use only. This idea may make too many ranking pools to be able to administer the program in an equitable fashion and may place undue work onto the NRCS field office in trying to correctly rank and fund an application. In the end it was mentioned that the existing six ranking pool area looked like a good start to the new CSP program.

Proposed Targeted Ranking Pool by Ranking Pools

John gave an explanation about targeted resource concerns for the new signup. A table of proposed targeted resource concerns by ranking pools was provided to meeting participants. It was explained that currently, the soil erosion, water quality degradation and fish and wildlife ranking pools were targeted resource concerns in all six ranking pools. Additionally, it was discussed that ranking pool 5 could have the targeted resource concern of Insufficient Water changed to Livestock Production Limitation as that more reflected the bigger resource concern of the area.

It was stressed by John and Brad that we need to continue to solicit input from all sources to complete the ranking pools and targeted resource concerns by ranking pool processes soon.

Local Ranking Questions

John explained the CSP ranking process outlining how National, State and Local questions are used and the relative point break down of each. The explanation of how the local questions are being developed was discussed and the importance of allowing all the ranking pool areas to have a say in the local questions. Input is currently being received from local workgroups from across Nebraska as well as input from the NRCS field office to develop the best possible local ranking questions.

Program Timeline Explanation

John outlined the proposed CSP program implementation timeline. Establishing state ranking pool boundaries, developing ranking pool templates for the field office to use and test and identifying targeted resource concerns by ranking pools are the current high priorities for the program.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:39 AM

Brach Johnson