

NV State Tech Committee Agenda & Minutes– 11/9/22 @9am TEAMS & Dept of Ag

Attendance: Chris Rose, Suzy Daubert, Maggie Sandeen, Dirk Netz, Justin Barrett, Melany Aten, Alicia Reban in Person; Online Jaime Jasmine, Erik Bray, Jasmine Wilson, Meghan Brown, Mark, Amber Pike, Jake Tibbitts, Kayla Jackson, Gary Keough, Chuck Schembre, Sierra Jiron, Agee Smith, Jacob DeDecker, Jim Gifford, Kory Kulinsky, Angela Mushrush, Reginald Premo, Mark Martini, Sarah Kidd, Doug Higbee, Ginny Hatch, Lakeisha Barber, Leana Carey, Ashley Jeppson, Mervin Wright, William Payne

9am – Introductions, Public Comment

9:17- Admin

- Background of Historical State Tech Committee Structure, New Vision of Partner led process and need for Subcommittees and possibility of meeting twice a year.
- Pest Management Policy – J Gifford, previously insect or rodent control was ineligible practices. Examples were removed in new manual and does not provide clear guidance. We were informed that examples were simply removed.
 - Suggestion to reach out to APHIS on if they have programs that could assist. Humboldt County was willing to have conversations locally, biggest issue was running out of funds; Could we use Farm Bill funds on private lands and allow APHIS to focus on the public lands?
- Local Working Group – J Jasmine, Presentation posted on the NV State Tech Committee website and emailed to members. About 50 resource concerns and were split into categories.
 - Wind and Water Erosion
 - Concentrated Erosion
 - Weather resilience
 - Source Water Depletion
 - Pest Pressure
 - Degraded Plant Condition
 - 1. (Source Water Depletion-
 - a. Water Quantity – Irrigation Water Efficiency
 - b. Water Quantity – Insufficient Irrigation Water dropping wells, Lack of water table
 - 2. Plant Condition
 - a. Degraded Plant Condition
 - b. Fire Management
 - 3. Fire Management/ Livestock Production Limitations/ Efficient Engineering Use/Pest Pressure
- Resource Concern Category
 - 1. Plant Degraded Plant Condition
 - 2. Livestock Production Limitation
 - 3. Source Water Depletion
 - 4. Soil Quality
 - Helpful to identify practices associated with each resource concern
 - Since different regions need different things can we adjust to the need geographically? Yes, with the new GIS specialist coming onboard we can geo reference the priorities.

- Lack of understanding of the language used by NRCS to translate to both customers and partners is problematic
- Hope that revamping the whole Local Working Group process and the State Tech Committee
- Needing a chance to reach out and do more non-traditional things like urban ag in Southern NV

9:50am – Breakout Rooms Brian Storming Problems or Concerns (See Whiteboard for details)

- Wildlife
- Forestland
- Pasture/Range
- Crop/Urban/ Small Ag
- Climate Smart Ag
- Outreach Partnerships

Forestland	Wildlife	Pasture/Range	Urban Ag/Crop/ Sm Acres/	Climate Smart	Outreach/Partnership
- only using short term solutions - NEPA-and permitting hurdles - NEPA-and permitting hurdles - ID best locations state-wide for forest thin / fuel reductions - More information on forest product interest - Need better info about NEPA limitations - Resources, particularly in Nev, are largely public owned and not conditions (and risks) can affect private lands too. Resources should be directed where the need is regardless of ownership - Need to talk about fire burns and use of fire	- Availability of Water - Wildlife Prevention Challenges - Wildlife agencies as customers for NRCS - only using short term solutions - Positive connection between grazing and wildlife - Water development and water rights wildlife pasture and range - Lack of representation at meetings - Need NCOV state plans and participation - Impacts by wildlife on producers - Need to ask producers about the wildlife they see on their lands - Producer concerns often are also conservation/limiting factors for fish/wildlife. Can NRCS resources more broadly address ecosystem health? - Considerations for how infrastructure can benefit wildlife or be problematic A.g. BGA's riparian / livestock fire risk / CCTI Power poles - subsidies / nest platforms for raptors	- Need Accurate grazing assessments - disconnected between public and private lands - Availability of Water - Integrated pest management for weed control (non-chemical) - Importance of soil health in pasture and rangelands - More flexibility in program contracts, issue across all topics - Working outside of state and Transition models - only using short term solutions - Positive connection between grazing and wildlife - NEPA-and permitting hurdles - Improving water quality through conservation practices on Ag land - reducing extreme bank erosion - Need to follow up all herb treatments/ weed restoration practices - pay MORE for restoration - Fire restoration tools - Data and monitoring tech for invasive grasses - soil health - soil moisture capacity - ID options available on public land - talk to BLM and FSA - IAQ is everyone's problem and should be a collectively addressed priority - Work with producers to grass-bank - Need to look at virtual fence funding - More efficient grazing water - Need to look at rangeland seeding options beyond the current practice guidelines - Need to include Cattlemen group more - Look at funding options outside of Sage Grouse on rangelands	- Includes smaller communities - Farmer's Markets - out reach and reporting to NRCS surveys - Food Deserts - Recognize more Urban Ag - Community Gardens - Orchard seasons - Crop conversion - Alternative Crops - Food Insecurity - Need more outreach about Small Acre opportunities - Train NRCS staff in urban areas in new NRCS urban options - Innovation - Conservation innovation grants - Need to work with CCRs to leverage funds in urban areas to reach where food comes from - Technical Assistance - Local zoning Regulations - Pollinator program specific to small storage - Pollinator health - Work with local community groups to ID issue not represented at commercial level - Work with local co-ops - Outreach through local participation at Farmers market and open house @ NRCS - Knowledge share needed for alternate crops in NV forests, etc - Need to allow funding for native seed at production level - Data needs - Emphasis for native materials as a crop - irrigation water issues - Value added production - Herbicide restoration needs to incorporate the use of native plant materials. However new research on getting/using native plants products - increase availability - reduce cost	- Fire mgmt tools to avoid large fire-mgmt fire return intervals - Backyard Gardening - Urban temperature hot spots - Soil health and regenerative ag - to improve the water cycle - Monitoring soil moisture and water use efficiency - Response time is slow for addressing emergencies - only using short term solutions - NEPA-and permitting hurdles - Inflation Reduction Act - How to get outcomes? - Selling producers on context of Climate Smart - Develop local specific "jobs sheets" for small growers - Monitoring / capturing data that will be used - Date needs - Find a way to use all the funding on it's way down to NV - Appropriate Restoration activities with more emphasis on changing climates - Watershed Program - Flood Prevention Program - Work with state to develop carbon sequestration options - Preserve Preserve Please invest in CCR program in NV - Need info on local applicants so CCR staff follow-up with un-funded apps - Need same message from state office as local office - Many shared resource concerns and would provide a better public service if we can do outreach and participation collectively - Business stories - Collaborative projects - funding opportunities - Need more producer representation on STAC	- Need after coordination between local private entities (SNV water district) - Disconnect between NRCS and producer requests for projects (Native seed) - disconnect between UNR and UNLV - CD's have limited staff/need for capacity for CD's - turnover is great - we don't know who to connect with in other agencies - General public outreach and education - More education for soil conservation - Local led process is diluted - Drainage Agreements BCU MOA - Better exposure for programs and partnerships that already exist - Need better representation from state office - State Agency Subcommittee - Need info on local applicants so CCR staff follow-up with un-funded apps - Need same message from state office as local office - Many shared resource concerns and would provide a better public service if we can do outreach and participation collectively - Business stories - Collaborative projects - funding opportunities - Need more producer representation on STAC

Themes	Relationships	Communication / Education	Follow-up / Guidance	Data / Science	Resources	Technical Resources

- General Themes
 - Relationships
 - Communication/Education
 - Follow Up/Guidance
 - Data/Science
 - Resources
 - Technical Resources

11:50pm LUNCH

1:12pm Breakout Solutions Brian Storming Sessions

Relationships			Technical Resources			Data / Science			Resources (people, funding)			Communication / Education		
This STAC meeting is a step in the right direction.	Improve communication of what NRCS can do and what other agencies can do to solve a problem together.	Improve communication of what NRCS can do for producers.	Finding ways to better provide technical assistance to producers—non-traditional ways?	Resource concern category index—what would the producer request? Speak the lingo of the producer.	Technical assistance themes to be provided at CDs	State Level demonstration Farm network - locally led, Climate Smart Ag and soil health	Better user reliance on the State and Transition Models and Disturbance Response	Increased research from the universities about ag. in Nevada. More focused ag research for NV (UNR, UNLV, DRI)	Grant writing and maintenance (follow-through) education for CDs	Recognize who partners are	More dedicated paid support staff that is educated in grant writing/follow-up requirements	Education on navigating websites and resources such as A&J.gov and grantsolutions.gov	Website ease of use for all	Necessity of broadband across NV—Infrastructure of computer access
Need to meet our partners so we know who to coordinate with.	Create a place through local working group where a producer could voice needs and concerns.	See NVACD Strategic Plan.	Monitoring equipment / programs	Project enhancement between NRCS and BLM programs	Lack of capacity (due to staffing) within CD and NRCS	Coordinated Climate Monitoring - viewing platform for all weather stations, EcN sites, SNOTEL, agriMET, etc	USDA needs to incorporate data into job monitor and other applications	More soil science research to identify improving soil health.	Assistance agreements with BLM			Need POC directories to be available to all producers—CD information, state information, etc...	What are the roles and responsibilities of the Conservation District	
Need additional outreach to partners to get more involvement in local work groups and STAC.	Need good facilitators for collaboration meetings.	Agency/Organization leaders need to communicate as a group.	Tech Assistance for all property managed by landowner	Landowner education needed on available programs	Timing of program applications doesn't match season of use	Identify common terminology when talking about improving soil health on range or pasture lands.	develop tools to measure success of conservation practices on rangelands. Outcomes vs outputs	Database of practice results—what has worked and what hasn't, capturing the long term effectiveness of large scale restoration projects				What is the overlap between private property and public lands	How do we discuss common goals?	
Improve relationships with regulatory/permitting agencies.			Recruitment and Retention Issues	What assistance is available outside the programs / program applications?	Need better connectivity between CDs and other agencies—don't need to be SMEs but have more knowledge of other agencies' programs	Weather, soil, and XXX data needs to be integrated better								

1:45pm – Next Steps

- Form a subcommittee for how the STAC interactions, SOP, purpose, etc
- Provided vision of a place that works for the state of NV not just NRCS, partners to be on subcommittees to complete work and report back on actions, get feedback and input.
- Chris Rose will be sending out email to solicit volunteers for the subcommittee, along with a Spring meeting date.

2:00pm - Adjourned