

Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Advisory Committee



Dates: March 31 and April 1, 2026

Location: [Holiday Inn in St. Cloud](#)

75 S 37th Avenue

St. Cloud, MN 56301

New Location

Tuesday March 31, 2026

Time	Topic and Discussions	Topic Leader
9:00 – 09:15	Welcome and Introductions (Day 1)	Troy Daniell, NRCS State Conservationist
9:15 – 9:30	State Technical Advisory Committee Purpose: A quick overview of the committee's purpose and resources	Ryan Galbreath, NRCS
9:30 – 10:15	Sugarbeets: Minnesota is a leading state in sugarbeet production in the U.S., cultivating high-quality beets that contribute significantly to the local economy and sugar industry. Tom Peters will present on growing sugargbeets in the Valleys.	Tom Peters, UMN/NDSU sugarbeet extension specialist.
10:15 – 11:00	NRCS and Conservation Programs: USDA NRCS will present on 2025 program accomplishments and share some insight into what is happening in 2026.	Molly Mehl, NRCS
11:00 – 11:30	Choose your own adventure: Regenerative Agriculture Program or NRCS Payment Schedules. Choose your topic and NRCS will walk you through this year's rollout.	Ryan Galbreath, NRCS
11:30 – 12:45 Lunch		
12:45 – 1:15	Audubon: Hear an update about the Audubon working lands programs and how bird-friendly land management practices are being used.	Dale Gentry, Audubon Director of Conservation
1:15 – 2:00	Growing Cultivated Wild Rice: Hear from Peter Imle, a producer near Gonvick, MN that grows wild rice, potatoes, soybeans, and occasionally small grains.	Peter Imle, Cultivated Wild Rice Farmer
2:00 – 2:15 Break		
2:15 – 3:00	MN NRCS Minimal Effects Procedures: The NRCS minimal effects procedures involve a systematic approach to determine whether the conversion of a wetland has a minimal effect on its functions and values. Learn about the updated procedure from NRCS.	John Tix, NRCS
3:00 – 3:30	Farm Service Agency (FSA) Updates: Introducing Kurt Blomgren, the FSA State Executive Director. Kurt will provide an update on CRP and other FSA program news. He will share his vision for MN FSA.	Kurt Blomgren, FSA State Executive Director
3:30 – 4:00	Partner Updates and Announcements: This is a chance to make an announcement and provide updates to the partners.	Ryan Galbreath, NRCS
Adjourn		

**Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service
State Technical Advisory Committee**

Wednesday April 1, 2026

Time	Topic and Discussions	Topic Leader
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and Introductions (Day 2)	Troy Daniell, NRCS State Conservationist
9:15 – 9:45	MPCA Nutrient Reduction Strategy: The Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy (NRS) compiles the latest science, research, and data to recommend strategies to reduce nutrients in our waters. Hear about the recent updates to the MN strategy.	Matt Drewitz, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, (St. Paul)
9:45 – 10:15	Renewing the Countryside Women in Agriculture: Renewing the Countryside leads a portfolio of projects that champion women committed to sustainable agriculture, vibrant rural areas and land stewardship. This work uniquely celebrates and roots in the importance of building connections and networks of women to enhance our communities and food system through a shared value of sustainability, conservation and collaboration and supporting each other.	Jan, Joannides, Executive Director and co-founder of Renewing the Countryside
10:15 – 10:30 Break		
10:30 – 11:00	Conservation as a Business Builder: Hear about how conservation programs helped a local grower build an agricultural enterprise. Outcomes based conservation in Pine County MN.	Hannah Bernhardt, Medicine Creek Farm in Finlayson MN
11:00 – 11:45	Sentinel Landscape Regional Conservation Partnership Program Success Story: The Perlebergs are one of the private landowners managing their property within Minnesota’s Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. Hear how they used the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to meet their forestry objectives.	Bob Perleberg, Private Forester and Landowner
11:45 – 12:45	State Technical Advisory Subcommittee Reports: The Easements, Wildlife, Grazing, and Watershed Subcommittees will provide an update. Hear about the NRCS wetland easements Geographic Area Rate Cap changes in MN and what that means for the wetlands program.	Subcommittee Leaders
Adjourn		