



MN State Technical Advisory Committee

United States Department of Agriculture



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State Resource Conservationist

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Who We Are

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps farmers, ranchers and forest landowners make critical investments in their operations and local communities by providing the financial and technical assistance needed to harness America's wealth of natural resources to feed and clothe a growing world.



NRCS PROGRAMS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND EASEMENT PROGRAMS

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
Assists farmers, ranchers and forest landowners integrate conservation into working lands.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
Helps producers and landowners build on existing conservation efforts while strengthening operations.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**
Supports landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands or protect working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**
Brings a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land. By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation.
- **Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) Program**
Supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.

WATERSHED PROGRAMS

- **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program**
Federal emergency recovery program that helps communities rebuild after natural disasters.
- **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program**
Helps federal, state, local and federally recognized tribal governments protect and restore watersheds.
- **Watershed Rehabilitation (REHAB) Program**
Helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams reaching end of design life and/or no longer meeting safety criteria or performance standards.



HOW WE HELP FARMERS AND RANCHERS

- 1 One-on-One Technical Assistance**
Offers free conservation planning advice to farmers wanting to implement conservation practices.
- 2 Financial Assistance**
Provides financial resources to share the cost of implementing conservation practices with farmers.
- 3 Science-Based Conservation**
Provides farmers and ranchers with conservation assistance backed by sound science and research, including expertise in soil health and classification, conservation engineering, plants and water supply.
- 4 Locally Driven**
Empowers local communities and partners to leverage federal resources and drive local results.
- 5 Voluntary Participation**
Administers voluntary programs that farmers can choose to participate in based on their goals.
- 6 Putting American Dollars to Work**
Equips our rural communities to prosper today and in the future by increasing operational productivity.

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

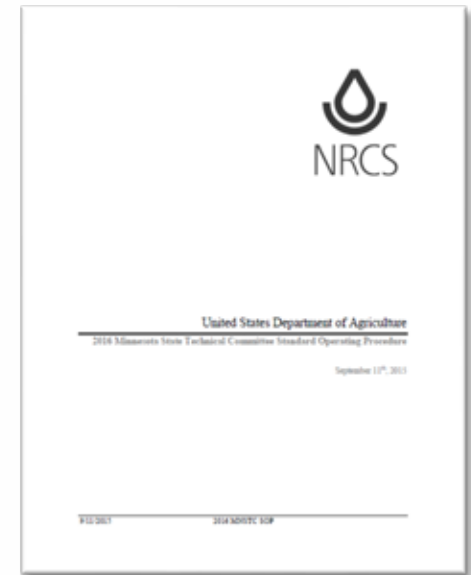
- Provide information, analysis, and recommendations to NRCS on conservation priorities for natural resources conservation activities and programs.
- Identify emerging conservation concerns and program needs.
- Provide feedback and recommendations for conservation practice standards and specifications.
- 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.



MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Conducting Business

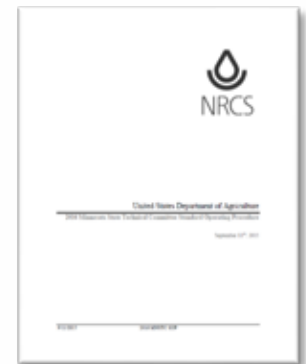
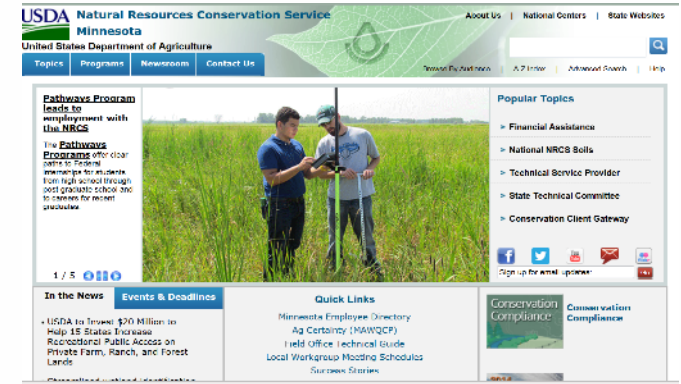
- The State Conservationist or designee will lead the discussion.
- Only one person may speak at a time in an open forum.
- The State Conservationist or designee is responsible for recognizing speakers.
- State Technical Committees are advisory in nature and all reasonable recommendations are considered.
- 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

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





MN NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee

Minnesota NRCS Website

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/state-offices/minnesota/minnesota-state-technical-advisory-committee>



- MN STAC Notes FY25 10-2024 Presentations Summary.pdf (204.38 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Agronomy Update.pdf (162.41 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Compliance Update.pdf (325.11 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Conservation Videos Public Affairs.pdf (326.13 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Economic Analysis of Conservation.pdf (851.77 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Environmental Markets.pdf (2.32 MB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Farm Economics Profitability in Production Ag.pdf (1.77 MB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Forest Resources Council Partner Update.pdf (53.88 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Forestry Subcommittee.pdf (665.8 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 FSA CRP Update.pdf (152.26 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Grazing Subcommittee Update.pdf (1021.66 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Partnerships & Operations Update.pdf (1.44 MB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Prescribed Fire Efforts in Minnesota.pdf (2.48 MB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Programs Update.pdf (1.08 MB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Soil Climate Monitoring Network.pdf (1.46 MB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Wildlife Subcommittee Update.pdf (143.06 KB)
- MN STAC Notes FY25 Conservation Easements & Lessons Learned.pdf (7.45 MB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS FY25(2) Minnesota Corn Sustainability Journey.pdf (1.35 MB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Biochar Project Summary.pdf (449.73 KB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Committee Purposes.pdf (823.45 KB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Ecosystems Marketing.pdf (2.2 MB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) LICS Updates.pdf (802.24 KB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Grazing Subcommittee Updates.pdf (1007.53 KB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Minnesota Ag in the Classroom.pdf (12.55 MB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Minnesota Forest Resources Council.pdf (2.29 MB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Minnesota Milk Update.pdf (221.39 KB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Minnesota Turkey Growers Industry Update.pdf (1.7 MB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) NutriDino SDI.pdf (2.62 MB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Programs Update.pdf (2.47 MB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Watershed Subcommittee Updates.pdf (80.05 KB)
- Minnesota STAC Agenda 5-2025.pdf (141.11 KB)
- 5-2025 MN NRCS STAC FY25(2) Wines Over Working Lands.pdf (2.65 MB)

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Comments and Questions

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