

State Technical Committee Meeting

NRCS Utah - April 14, 2026

A recording of the meeting [is available here on the NRCS Utah YouTube Channel](#).

Meeting Summary

NRCS Program Updates and Funding Changes: Garrett Fish provided an overview of NRCS program delivery in Utah, highlighting last year's accomplishments, current funding levels, and anticipated changes due to the upcoming farm bill.

Locally Led Conservation and District Involvement: Kristi Westwood presented updates on locally led conservation, emphasizing the role of conservation districts in developing needs assessments and action plans, and led a discussion with participants including Troy Forrest and Spencer Gibbons on reinvigorating district engagement and grassroots decision-making.

- NRCS is working on developing a standardized template for Conservation Action Plans to ensure continuity and ease of review across districts.
- Discussion to coordinate with STC and other stakeholders to develop strategies for empowering conservation districts and increasing their role in project review and prioritization.
- Kit Quay offered idea to form subcommittees to bolster conservation district involvement and reinvigorate the State Technical Committee process, including determining meeting frequency and structure. Clear consensus on the need for more actionable and participatory processes.

Regenerative Pilot Program Implementation: Brian David provided a detailed overview of the new regenerative agriculture pilot program (RPP), including requirements for whole farm assessments, soil health testing, and contract structure, with input from participants on technical and logistical aspects.

- **Soil Health Testing Support:** Identify and communicate available resources or cost-share options to assist conservation districts and landowners with soil health testing under the Regenerative Pilot Program. (Brian David, NRCS team)

Resource Concerns and High Priority Practices Review: Brian David led a review of priority resource concerns and high priority practices for 2026, inviting input from the group on additions or substitutions and explaining the criteria for selecting practices that address water quality, drought, and aquifer decline.

Migratory Big Game Initiative Launch and Prioritization: Matt Philippi introduced the Migratory Big Game Initiative in Utah, detailing its objectives, priority areas, ranking criteria, and initial results, with collaboration from the Division of Wildlife Resources and feedback from Clint Wirick and other partners.

- Potential to request additional funding for MBGI for next year based on high interest and application volume.