



Agenda

State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

April 28, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
NRCS Alaska State Office Conference Room
800 E Palmer Wasilla Hwy, Palmer, AK 99645
And Virtual on Microsoft Teams

9:00 – 9:05	(5 min)	Welcome from the State Conservationist	Alan McBee
9:05 – 10:30	(85 min)	Committee Member Introductions Facilitated by Josh Schrecengost	All Members
10:30 – 10:45	(15 min)	Break	
10:45 – 11:30	(45 min)	Continue Introductions as Needed Time permitting: NRCS Programs Summary Resource Concerns Discussion	Josh Schrecengost
11:30 – 12:30	(60 min)	Lunch on your own	
12:30 – 1:00	(30 min)	Review Meeting Agenda and Purpose Review Fall 2025 STAC Meeting Minutes	Josh Schrecengost
1:00 – 2:00	(60 min)	Local Working Group Reports	LWG Representatives
2:00 – 2:30	(30 min)	Snow Survey Presentation	Daniel Fisher
2:30 – 2:45	(15 min)	Break	
2:45 – 3:00	(15 min)	Organic Presentation	Kristina Peterson
3:00 – 3:30	(30 min)	Discussion of Program Ranking Criteria	Elizabeth Bezinque
3:30 – 4:00	(30 min)	Regenerative Pilot Program Overview	Elizabeth Bezinque Austin Shero
4:00 – 4:15	(15 min)	Parking Lot Items	Josh Schrecengost
4:15 – 4:30	(15 min)	Open Q&A and Closeout	Alan McBee

Meeting Information

***Morning Session**

Member Introductions

Introductions are very important. They are the first step to establishing familiarity and relationships among human beings. As a member of the STAC, you represent yourself, your region of Alaska, your profession, and your organization to NRCS and your fellow Committee members.

Please take a few minutes to tell us who you are and why you care about the conservation of natural resources. You may go into as much or as little detail as you are comfortable sharing. We ask that you dedicate a bit of time prior to the meeting to think about how you want to introduce yourself. You may also submit a written biography prior to the meeting if you are more comfortable sharing details in writing. These may be submitted to Tracy.Robillard@usda.gov for distribution to the committee. We will take as much time as necessary for all attendees to introduce themselves.

Program Summary and Resource Discussion

Time permitting, we will conclude the morning session with a discussion of resource concerns and a summary of NRCS programs prior to breaking for lunch at 11:30am.

***Lunch**

We will allocate 1 hour for lunch during our meeting. This is likely not enough time to drive to a restaurant to dine and return for a prompt start at 12:30pm. Quicker options include the Peking Garden, Taco Bell, and McDonalds all within walking distance from the NRCS office. Carrs is located next door, and the hot food counter and deli are also good options. You are also welcome to bring your lunch and remain in the conference room.

***Afternoon Session**

The afternoon session will begin with a review of the meeting purpose and summary of the Fall 2025 minutes.

Local Work Group Reports

Representatives from Conservation Districts that hosted Local Working Group meetings will present their top natural resource concern priorities and share input received in their communities.

Snow Survey

Daniel Fisher, NRCS Snow Survey Program Manager, will give an overview of the snow survey program and share updates about Alaska's mountain snowpack.

Organic Presentation

Kristina Peterson, NRCS Organic Conservation Specialist, will share programs and opportunities available to organic producers and producers interested in transitioning to organic.

Discussion of 2027 Program Ranking Criteria

Elizabeth Bezinque, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs (acting) will inform the Committee of ranking criteria used for 2026 applications and solicit comments on potential changes for 2027.

Regenerative Pilot Program Overview

New for 2026 is the Regenerative Pilot Program. This national initiative focuses on whole farm assessments and assisting producers in meeting all soil and water resource concerns through regenerative practices and soil health testing. Elizabeth Bezinque and Austin Shero, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, will present on how this program works in Alaska.