

# NEBRASKA STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2022  
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

[Recording LINK](#)

**ATTENDEES:** Brad Soncksen, Robert Lawson, Tami Nordman, Tammy Timms, Jenny Prenosil, Eric Zach, Bill Armbrust, Dan Ruterbories, Burdette Piening, Al Juhnke, Elbert Traylor, Brandon Beethe, Dan Ross, Kent Zimmerman, Nick Streff, Tim Kalkowski;

(VIA TEAMS) Jeff Nichols, Lavaine Moore, Neil Dominy, Jeff Abegglen, Brad Lubben, Buffalo Bruce, Dave Eigenberg, David Potter, George Cunningham, Nancy Finley, James Huntwork, Jana Ingwerson-Laws, Jacy Schafer, Kalee (center for Rural Affairs, Kelsi Wehrman, Kristin Bailey, Patrick Lechner, Ryan Lodge, Marcia Trompke, Karen Cooney, Sue Paula, Mary Reece, Rich Walters, Craig Romary, Royce Schaneman, Chandler Schmidt, Mike Murphey, Terry Julesgard, Conor Ward, Britt Weiser, Kyle Hauschild, Andy Bishop, Charles Bailey, Dustin Wilcox, Eleanor Nugent, Jennifer Swanson, Brach Johnson, Neil Moseman, Rachael Herpel, Rick (?), Roy (?), Scott Nelson, Carlos Villareal, Ritch Nelson. (2 via phone)

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## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** *Robert Lawson - NRCS State Conservationist*

- Reviewed upcoming deadlines.
- Exciting to let you know we had the first meeting of the Urban Ag Sub-Committee
- Going to rejuvenate the Water Quality/ Source Water Sub-Committee
- Final stretch of our Fiscal Year.
- Additional funds to address the Western area WILDFIRES.
- DEADLINES:
  - September 22, 2022 – Proposals submitted for Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)
  - September 22, 2022 – Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) On Farm Trial proposals due.
  - September 23, 2022 – Proposals/Applications due for Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP). Shawn McVey is the POC for this.
  - October 11, 2022 – Conservation Innovation Grants-Classic funding announcements have been released.

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## **CONSERVATION PROGRAMS UPDATE:** *Brad Soncksen - NRCS ASTC-Programs*

- **FY22 CSP REVIEW**
  - Active Contracts
  - Allocations
  - Applications & Contracts
  - Fund Pools
  - 6 Most Popular activities

- **FY22 ACEP REVIEW**
  - WRE, ALE, WREP, & FPE Applications
  - NOVEMBER 18, 2022, Application DEADLINE.
  - However, we do take applications all year round.
  
- **FY22 EQIP REVIEW**
  - Active Contracts
    - Acres
    - Obligated funds
  
  - **Planned & Applied Practices & Obligations from 2014-2028**
  - HU EQIP Contracts
    - HU eligible participants
  
  - Wildlife (WIN) Contracts
    - Most popular practices
  
  - Livestock Contracts
  
  - EQIP CIC
    - Most Popular practices in 2022
    - FY23 Goals
    - Incentive Practices – No changes from 22
    - Estimated Initial Allocations
  
  - Source Water Protection
    - The FY20-22 Source Water Protection Areas
      - Will carry those on into FY 2023
    - Source Water Protection & Water Quality Sub-Committee
      - Earlie October hope to have a meeting.
      - Look at the practices to
    - Reviewed FY22 Popular Practices
    - FY2023 Eligible Practices Review
  
  - FY22 Disaster – Wildfires
    - Wildfire Assistance
  
  - FY2023 **EQIP Fund Pools**
    - Mandatory Distribution
    - Statewide Fund Pools
    - FY23 Wildfire Funds
  
  - FY22 Local Work Group Meetings
    - Recommendations
      - Practice and Scenario Request & Response to those Request
  
  - **Prescribed Grazing (528)**



- Partners will still be able to view project and agreement records, including a PDF preview of agreements in negotiation.
  - Partners will continue to submit Proposals, Annual and Final Reports, and Payment Requests.
  - NRCS state and national users will be responsible for initiating agreements/amendments and completing all required fields, tables, and exhibits.
  - Partner input is still critical for RCPP agreements, so coordinators will be in touch throughout the negotiation process to ensure agreements meet NRCS requirements and our shared goals for these projects.
  - User guides and training material will be updated to reflect the new roles and responsibilities.
    - This change will not impact Farm Bill 2014 projects.
  - If you have questions, feel free to reach out to the national team at [RCPP@usda.gov](mailto:RCPP@usda.gov) or contact your lead state coordinator for agreement and project-specific questions.
- FY22 RCPP Classic & AFA NFO Results
    - EQIP WaterSMART Initiative
    - NWQI
  - Not sure what FY23 is going to look like for proposals, time will tell, but if anyone has a proposal that they are considering or wanting to look into for FY23 funding, please contact me.

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 **NE NRCS GREAT PLAINS GRASSLAND INITIATIVE (GPGI) UPDATE:** Jeff Nichols - NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist

- **FY22 Summary**
  - 4 focal areas established in NE
  - Awareness Field training in Oc. 21
  - FY22 EQIP-GPGI Allocation of 1.2M from WIN Fund pool
  - EQIP Planning workshops via TEAMS in January 2022
- The NRCS GPGI Cadre
  - To lead a more intentional effort on woody encroachment
  - Foster collaboration with partners
  - Inform, promote, motivate, guide, and facilitate landowner awareness and action
  - Increase capacity for the prescribed burning practice (338) in Nebraska

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**Q:** How do landowners get ahold of you to receive mailers

**A:** What we are using for a mailing list is what we get from our partners & FSA of the Landowners within those target areas.

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## **NORTHERN BOBWHITE, GRASSLANDS, AND SAVANNAS INITIATIVE UPDATE:**

Jenny Prenosil - Farm Bill Biologist, NE Pheasants Forever

- Background on Bobwhites
  - Habitat Requirements
  - Challenges for Quail in Southeast NE
  - 12 County Focal Areas in NE
  - GOALS IN NE
  - Applicable practices
  - Increased Capacity and Outreach
    - New Employee – Qual Conservation Delivery Specialist
      - Jared in the Tecumseh FO
    - Postcard Mailer
  - Monitoring
    - Standardized for all states in the initiative.
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## **FSA REVIEW & Grasslands CRP State Priority Zones:** Lavaine Moore - FSA Programs Specialist

- Establish new or modify existing Grassland Priority Zones for FY2023 Grassland CRP Signup
    - **Deadline to provide to our national office = October 21, 2022**
      - Reviewed Current & Proposed Grassland Priority Zones
        - Looked for locations that had high interest but low acceptance.
        - If we agree with these zones today, we will use these in the next signup, as long as they are approved by national.
  - **Interim Conservation Plan & Conservation Plan Addendums are allowed ONLY for Grassland Signup 204**
    - NRCS Deadline to provide Complete & Return Interim Conservation Plan & Conservation Plan Addendum to FSA by **September 16, 2022**.
    - Final Conservation Plan must be completed by NRCS no later than **December 16, 2022**.
    - **If participant does not agree with final conservation plan:**
      - CRP-1 will be terminated
      - No liquidated damages will apply
  - General CRP Signup 58
  - Continuous CRP Signup 57
  - Grassland CRP Signup 204
  - NE Current CRP Numbers
  - Reviewed Current Counties Approved for ECP
  - Review ECP Practices
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## PARTNER UPDATES:

- NONE
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## WRAP UP AND REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Local Work Groups are a huge impact on NE.
  - Thanks to Tammy Timms for her update on the initiatives
  - Thanks to Jeff for getting the Cadre setup.
  - Jenny it is good to hear about the targeting approach & how we can involve our local staff in the area.
  - LaVaine, Thank You & FSA for your help.
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## FUTURE Meetings:

- ❖ December 1, 2022 (via Teams & In-Person)
- ❖ MARCH 2, 2023 (Location TBD)
- ❖ JUNE 8, 2023
- ❖ SEPTEMBER 7, 2023
- ❖ DECEMBER 7, 2023