

Meeting called by: Andi Neugebauer-Bailey

Engineering/Resources

Attendees:

Jackie Byam – State Conservationist – NRCS

Andi Neugebauer-Bailey – SRC

Shawn Follum – SCE

Brian Jensen – ASTC-Partnerships

Katie Vaporis – ASTC – Programs

James Bauchert – ASTC - M&S

Alyssa Ludeke – Public Affairs Specialist

Annie Bryce – FSA

Anita Bartlett – Powder River Conservation District

Michelle Huntington – Converse County Conservation District Mgr.

Jonathan Sloan – WY State Forestry Div.

Amanda O’Keefe – WCCD

Caleb Carter – Weston Co. NRD

Cheyenne Love – CCCD

Tracy Crow – NRCS

Keela Deaton – NRCS

Delanie Warren – DU

Don McDowell – LFLCD

Sarah Anderson – CCNRD

DeMont Grandy – LCCD

Jennifer Hayward – NRCS

Jake Hogan – NRCS

Rory Karhu – NRCS

Kelsey Beck – PopoAgie CD

Tim Kramer – Partners for Wildlife - USFWS

Leah Burgess – RMEF

Jen Marken – NRCS

Rusty Schwartz – NRCS

Shaleas Harrison – WLA

Triston Rice – WACD

David Waterstreet – WYDEQ

Danielle Duni – NCAAT

Michelle Christopher – WARWS

Holly Dyer – Larmie Rivers CD

Mahonri Williams - USBOR

Janessa Julson – NRCS

Tyler Therkildsen – NRCS

Dirac Twidwell, PhD – UNL

John Derek Scasta, PhD – UWYO

Scott Morford -Univ of Montana

Jason Nehl – NRCS
 Nicole Bondurant - TNC
 Jessica Van Woerkom – NRCS
 Sara Domek - TNC
 Kevin Ellingson – ABC
 Mason Peebles – NRCS
 Madison Harper – JHLT
 Rob McAfee – NRCS-MHQ
 Michael Stillwagon – NRCS

Minutes

Agenda Item: STC Update		Presenter: Jackie
Discussion: 1st Engineering/Tech STAC Meeting Big topic is still the CR, March 1 st , we should be hearing more information on the subject. IRA – Still a Big Push, Thoughts – Climate, Climate plan Received 13 Mil for EQIP - IRA Working thru hiring. Pathways announcements are on the street.		
Conclusions:		
Action Items	Responsible Person(s)	Deadline

Agenda Item: Engineering		Presenter: Shawn Follum
Discussion: 1 st Update for STAC in a while PL-566 Program Watershed Team: Additional Hires pending to complete the Watershed Team. Program support must be requested by a qualified sponsor. Q. – Any IRA Fund put into this? A. 800 Mil BIL Funds but no IRA funding PL-566 projects Silver Lake Wall Reservoir West Fork Reservoir Big Sandy Canal Project Boulder Creek Shoshoni Heart Mt. Evanston -Bear River		

New Projects

Open Season- but will have a target timeframe of March – 17 May for FY24 requests.

Watershed Projects

4 Program Phases

Typically pay up to 100% for 1st 3 phases

Up to 75% towards Construction Phase for Agricultural Water Management projects

Show examples of request letter (process to request to support slide) May 17 -date for deadline.

Standard Drawings will be added to the FOTG under section 3

Urban Engineering was hoping to have a new handbook -it's in draft and under review. But program is changing to allow technical assistance from NRCS for Urban practices.

Conclusions:

<i>Action Items</i>	<i>Responsible Person(s)</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
		Date Time
		Date Time

Agenda Item: State Geologist

Presenter: Michael Stillwagon

Discussion:

- Slide 2: The goal in mind slide- a lot goes on in the planning of new wells, 22 pending wells, 13 applications and 21 proposed wells (2024)
- Slide 3: General background on groundwater terminology
- Slides 4-7: Outline workflow for data collection, Q/C and project build
- Slides 8-9: Example of data input / filtering in ArcGIS Pro
- Slides 10-12: Examples of geologic workflows / tools used to identify aquifer targets
- Our backlog used to be years now with a geologist on board we are looking at the current year for planning new wells.

Conclusions:

<i>Action Items</i>	<i>Responsible Person(s)</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
		Date Time
		Date Time

Agenda Item: Resources Updates

Presenter: Andi Neubauer-Balie

Discussion:

Staffing – Resources job advertisements out and some will be coming out. Catherine Hadley on detail to Soil Health Division. Forester will be coming on board soon (hopefully).

Top Priorities

New information we need to learn about Climate and documenting mitigation.

Updating 528-Prescribed Grazing – putting together a tool
 IRMA- Spend a lot of time looking at that since we have lots of money.
 Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities
 Business Tools
 GIS Support -ArcGIS Pro – new system, getting people trained.
 528 & CSP Enhancement builds on the requirements in the Standard. They must implement the Standard, PLUS something new.

Conclusions:

<i>Action Items</i>	<i>Responsible Person(s)</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Send out Info for Urban Farming (flyers & such) – For Dawn		Date Time
		Date Time

Agenda Item: Woody Encroachment in Wyoming **Presenter: John Derek Scasta**

Discussion:
 Opportunities for WY
 Tools how to focus our work for NRCS.
 Regional Efforts
 1. Shrub control strategies
 2. Chem./Bio. /Mech/ - Economical Support
 3. Big Game, Sage grouse, Mule Deer Concerns

Agenda Item: Woody Encroachment in Wyoming **Presenter: Director Twidwell**

Discussion:
 Everything works well when it's customized to the place.
 What impressed him – Wyoming already plans to address the woody encroachment
 Paying attention to these large-scale threats.
 Telling more stories of what Ranchers do.
 Control is not just local – it's global. How can we avoid large scale issues?
 Boundaries are moving – managing the boundaries.

Conclusions:

<i>Action Items</i>	<i>Responsible Person(s)</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
		Date Time
		Date Time

Agenda Item: Landscape Explorer **Presenter: Scott Morford**

Discussion:
 Visualize & Communicate Landscape change.
 3 Main Points
 conservation targeting
 outcome evaluations
 spatial tools enabling conservation partnerships.

Pictures are to show people the profound expansion of the coverage occurring. - Connecting people.

Mapping – LandscapeExplorer.Org
 Woody Encroachment
 Cropland Expansion
 Urbanization

*How to use-
 Basic Navigation
 Map Mode
 Terrian Mode
 Zone In
 Slide Bar

Can slide into a location.

GIS users – how to use the data, click on title, can download to GIS.

Conclusions:

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		Date Time
		Date Time

Agenda Item: NRCS Urban Ag Coordinator | **Presenter: Robert McAfee**

Discussion:
 -Wyoming Slide -2020 Census
 Urban
 Can look different in different settings.
 Urban movement started in Ohio first, with adjustments for small scale and urban Agriculture.
 Program is continuing to change; we are at the early stages of the program. Going thru a process. Improvement efforts underway.
 Landscape scale – where we want to go right now, what is the potential?
 Can we service them with our current model at NRCS?
 Several opportunities to serve our communities.
 *Grants.gov – Rural Development grant funding geared towards WY

Conclusions:

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		Date Time
		Date Time

Agenda Item: Grassland CRP | **Presenter: Brian Jensen**

Discussion:
 Dec 2021 – Kick off of the Big Game Pilot which is now a full-blown WLFW Initiative -Key Components:
 Conservation Practices (EQIP)
 Conservation Lease (grassland CRP)

Permanent Ag Land protection (ACEP-ALE) Increased coordination between USDA and State of WY
 MOU with USDA/WY Governor encourages FSA to utilize grassland CRP for BG Conservation.
 Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
 -FSA working land program- grazing or haying is allowed
 -Under the CRP “Umbrella”
 -No cropping history requirement
 10 – 15-year rental contracts
 -Per acre rental rate- \$14-\$19/acre in WY. Large increase from a few years ago.
 -Cost share policy- FSA can provide assistance on a small sub-set of conservation practices. No cost-share available for brush management or herbaceous weed control. EQIP can provide assistance on many more practices.
 -FSA program
 -NRCS provides technical assistance and conservation planning for grassland CRP.
 Environmental Factors have been tweaked for BG to prioritize properties in important BG areas of WY.
 State CRP Wildlife Priorities (primarily tied to General CRP)
 State Priority Grassland Zone; vastly expanded to prioritize much of WY.
 National CRP priority zone. Expanded to included NW WY.
 A lot more interest in the program and a lot more accepted offers in WY.

Moving Forward –

Waiting on the Final waiver for FY 23. Working on a more permanent solution. FY 24 grassland CRP Sign-up forthcoming (likely this spring)

Conclusions:

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		Date Time

<i>Agenda Item: Final Thought</i>	<i>Presenter:</i>
<p>Discussion: NEXT STAC – JUNE 27, 2024, AT 9:00 A.M.</p> <p>PROGRAMS</p>	

Other Information – Slides Attached
