

St. Tech. Committee Meeting – 3/31/16

In-house: Andrew Baker, Bob Bettger, Kenny Dinan, John Duplissis, Jeff Fassett, Dave Griffith, Al Juhnke, Tim Kalkowski, Barbara Kliment, Martin Massengale, Boone McAfee, Tami Nordman, Burdette Piening, Jamie Petersen, Greg Reisdorff, Steve Roth, Dan Steinkruger, Kelsi Wehrman, Britt Weiser, Eric Zach, Kent Zimmerman, Gus Von Roenn, Tom Peterson, and Craig Derickson.

On phone: Mark Brohman, Mike, Burt Spader, Gene NG & P, Brad Luben, Marsha Tromke, Bill Cattlemen Producers, Shelly Kelly, Myles Ne Nursery, Mike Nehama NRD, Bruce Meinteh, Bill Amburst

Welcome! - Craig

Lidar – Shandy Bittle

Neil – Lidar purchase this year yet!

?’s – None

Client Gateway – Brian Baskerville

- Overview – communication tool
- National Status
- NE Status

* Leading conservationist email – (Michael Perry – Minden, NE NRCS Field Office Michael.Perry2@ne.usda.gov) - “as impersonal as the (agency) makes it”

Demo version – NE in a pilot program for Demo people only – entities cannot sign up yet

QUESTIONS:

Operation like Bureau of Indian Affairs, how does this work for us? As a large land holder – Brian: That is what we are trying to incorporate but the tool would be the same. Hopefully by Sept. 15; we will have this all worked out

Bob Bettger – what kinds of maps? More data maps

- Brian: yes, you would make a general request it goes off of your home address or the land address and routes the request to the nearest service center per your land or home address; whichever it pertains to.

Instant Response?

- Brain: I do get the email from GC right away and once it is updated yes you will get it

Bob Bettger – My own economic analysis?

- Brian: Yes, apply to interactive map

Farmer – how safe is this?

- Brain: Client Gateway is just sharing your own information, no personal information is out for all to see

Dan Steinkruger – Farm plus software also provides same farm information which we share the same portal

Land Owner – to share info inside portal to outside portal?

- Brian: no restriction, you can download

Tech Service Provider, can we access?

- Brian: no, but it will change come July as being mobile
- Neil: as a partner perspective, no you can't see someone else's ; it is locked down

NCCPI – Neil Dominy (see slides)

- Physical – It's withstood to end of time!
 - Chemical
 - Landscape
 - Climate – lots of climate differences throughout the state:
Lancaster County: Red is the worst, Blue is the highest, Orange is erosion areas
 - Moving more towards the index results!
 - Web S.S. – create area of interest, create a map and it's created!

?s – Crop Comm. Index, how often is it updated?

Phone – Heather Duncan: Layers available by GIS?

- Neil: Through G Surgo

Programs Update – Brad (see slides)

- Changes 2014 FB w/ EQIP
 - Merged EQIP and WHIP
 - Min. SY. Of funds for wildlife habitat
 - Advanced Payments up to 50%
 - Re-established 60% of funds for livestock prices
- Large irrigated state!
- SDI systems, sprinkler systems and IWM all popular
- IWM: we have acquired all participants to have an IWM required
- SDI pest control?

Brad: they have been working on this, still an issue

- We have 3 different levels of IWM to monitor the moisture; 3 different level of payments as well. We encourage all to use.

EQIP Contracts – Yellow dot indicates active EQIP contract

- Distribution of erosion control of practices – slide 19

EQIP Fund Pool of 2016 –

- Local funds to local work groups to manage
 - Cropland
 - Grassland
 - 5% beginning farmers
 - 5% socially disadvantage applications or 10% total

Area 1: West

Area 2: Central

Area 3: East

Special Initiatives

- Wildlife
- Forestry
- NE WQI
- Cons. Activity Plans (CAPS)
- Seasonal High Tunnel
- AFO/CAFO
- Monarch Butterfly
- Tribal
- Organic
- Energy

National Fund Pools

- Ogallala Aquifer Initiative
 - State project 225,000 miles

?’s – Any positive results? Bureau of Indian Affairs

- Brad: here in NE, we have to credit the NRD’s; we haven’t seen the declines. We are still maintaining a consist level of water. Yes we have an impact. We don’t make the decision of irrigated acres we have BMP’s to help with this.

Ogallala Initiative – slide 29

- 8-10 applications and approving 4 acres in 2014. 2015 we added another area.

National WQ Initiative – Wahoo Creek, NWQI all within area eligible to apply through April 15th. Brazil Creek, April 15th to apply.

EQIP Allocations in 2016 –

- \$3.2 mil – National Initiatives
- \$2.4 mil – Ogallala

- \$863,000 – NWQI
- \$12.4 mil EQIP General

Have to use the \$ or give it back to National

State Initiative –

- \$3.5 mil
 - \$1.7 mil – HN
- Balance \$12.2 mil

State Initiative – Slide 36

- Additional allocation to reduce greenhouse gases given yet this year. Getting details out to the field to take applications, then develop a cost allocation. They are reallocating funds nationally.
- Rolling out details and signup May/June on Demo farms, more to come soon. Funding is no reserved yet

PPS –

- Submit scenario recommendations by March 25th
- Final changes to practices and costs – by April 29th
- Final practical scenario selections – by July 15th
- Complete Payment final cost – by August 26th
- Ranking tools completed – by Sept. 16
- Application cut off – Oct. 21

State Policy – Sub committees (slide 42)

RCPP –

- \$100 mil each year
- State fund pool (slide 47)
- 2016 3 proposals (slide 51) – announced May/June could delay to 2017

CCA Fund Pool (slide 52)

APF timeline – Slide 54

CSP – has changed form a few years ago! Funding reduced with 2014 FB, highly competitive now, same criteria. Can renew if expires in 2016, today is the last for new and renewal

Enhancements – Slide 58+

Slides 67 – 2710 contracts for CSP

- 5.2 mil acres – most for any state in the country!

Future Signups – Slide 70

ACEP – Slide 73+

WRE – Side 77/78+

GARC mapping in place by mid-summer for 2017

?’s – None

ECS – update – Britt Weiser

- 1st slide – very good pic of conservation
- HEL – our soils are classified as HEL or Non EL

HEL – 3 forms

- Sheet and rill erosion – sheet uniform/thin – rill forms channels/streams
- Ephemeral gully erosion –
- Wind erosion

Ephemeral = temporary

Classic = too large to cross with equipment; “not an Ephemeral gully”

Compliance reviews every year –

- 2016 = loose tracts to look at
- Whistle blowers
- FSA/NRCS employees
- 5% FSA

QUESTIONS:

Dan Steinkruger – What’s the real control on ephemeral gully erosion?

Britt – would like to work towards cover crops rather than grassed waterways or a permanent grass – want to look at field acres – The state during a heavy rain

Dan – No-till residue management with ephemeral gully issue with no solution. Grassed waterway is not good with chemicals.

- Craig – Cons. Planning techniques used by NRCS. Very important on the effectiveness of no-till

Bob Bettger – New WEP tool talk info account on for ephemerals?

- Britt – no too sure for certain, RUSLE 2 is the current

Kent – If cutting went to classic gully would it be subject to gully? Ephemeral to gully?

- Britt – Still needs to be in compliance
- Craig – this last year through DNR and Legislature there will be a revision with us working with the NRD’s
- Britt – a little different with over compliance and the sediment control act. If we are exceeding T then they would be in violation. Hearing on April 19

Bob – How to measure volume?

- Britt – Length x width x depth then convert to tons

Classic gully development in front of you, what to do?

- Britt – diversion dam, concrete block shoots – a variety of measures

Offsite Wetland – Ritch

- Manual and regional supplements issued in 2010 factors needing to be met:
 - Soils
 - Vegetation
 - Hydrology

QUESTIONS:

?’s – Gathering data by drones?

- Ritch – No
- Craig – My staff keeps trying to get drones but may be contracted through an outside vendor

Dan Steinkruger – Higher Commodity prices with clearing across the state, what is the process for evaluating wetlands in potential violations?

- Ritch – Linear stream systems; if the site has been committed we will collect all data we can on site. Offsite techniques violations also help build pre-conversion activity. Also go up and down stream to look further.
- See lots of activity with conversion and tile impacts

Dan S. – Hwy 36, pivot conversion due to irrigation management, lots of land cleared?

- Ritch – removal of woody vegetation is also considered a conversion

Dan S. – allow mitigations?

- Ritch – allows mitigation yes

Kent – Specialists?

- Ritch – 3 – Wahoo, Hartington, and Clay Center
 - 4 – eastern 3rd part of state
 - O’Neil
 - Syracuse
 - York

Wrap up – Craig – Thank you all!!

?’s – Bob Bettger –

- Acreage report \$95.6 million acres down \$0.15
- Equate soil loss seed loss economically encourage you to use the tools, great work!
- Need to highlight your acres per erosion
- Thank you Craig and other Agencies! As a farming/producer I know what’s going on, we are farming by the acre.