

Subpart C—State Technical Committees

SOURCE: 64 FR 42003, Aug. 3, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 610.21 Purpose and scope.

This subpart sets forth the procedures for establishing and using the advice of State Technical Committees. NRCS shall establish in each State a technical committee to assist in making technical recommendations relating to the implementation of natural resource conservation activities and programs. USDA will use State Technical Committees in an advisory capacity in the administration of certain conservation programs and initiatives. These State Technical Committees are exempt from the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.2).

§ 610.22 State Technical Committee membership.

(a) State Technical Committees shall include members who represent a variety of natural resource sciences and occupations, including those related to soil, water, wetlands, plants, and wildlife. The State Conservationist in each State will serve as chairperson. In addition, committee membership will include one representative from each of the following agencies or groups, if willing to serve:

- (1) NRCS, USDA;
- (2) Farm Service Agency, USDA;
- (3) State Farm Service Agency Committee, USDA;
- (4) Forest Service, USDA;
- (5) Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA;
- (6) Rural Development, USDA;
- (7) Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of Interior;
- (8) United States Environmental Protection Agency;
- (9) Bureau of Land Management, United States Department of Interior;
- (10) Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of Interior;
- (11) U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of Interior;
- (12) Bureau of Reclamation, United States Department of Interior;
- (13) Corps of Engineers, United States Department of the Army;

(14) Each of the Federally recognized American Indian Tribal Governments and Alaskan Native Corporations encompassing 100,000 acres or more in the State;

(15) State departments and agencies that the NRCS State Conservationist deems appropriate, including a member from each of the following agencies or entities within the State:

- (i) Fish and wildlife agency;
- (ii) Forestry agency;
- (iii) Water resources agency;
- (iv) Department of agriculture;
- (v) Association of soil and water conservation districts;
- (vi) Soil and water conservation agency;
- (vii) Coastal zone management agency; and

(16) Other Federal, State, tribal, and local agency personnel with expertise in soil, water, wetlands, plant, and wildlife management, as the NRCS State Conservationist considers appropriate.

(b) In addition to agency and Tribal membership, State Technical Committees shall include members from the following private interests, if willing to serve:

- (1) Agricultural producers with demonstrable conservation expertise;
- (2) Nonprofit organizations with demonstrable conservation expertise;
- (3) Persons knowledgeable about economic and environmental impacts of conservation techniques and programs; and
- (4) Representatives from agribusiness.

(c) To ensure that recommendations of the State Technical Committees take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the USDA, membership shall include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent the conservation and related technical concerns of particular historically underserved groups and individuals; i.e., minorities, women, persons with disabilities and socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

(d) In accordance with the guidelines in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, the State Conservationist establishes membership on the State Technical Committee. Individuals or