

# POPE SOIL & WATER



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March 12, 2025

The Pope Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) requests your presence at the Local Work Group (LWG) meeting scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 9:15 A.M. The meeting will be held at the Pope USDA Service Center in Glenwood, Minnesota (1680 Franklin Street North, Glenwood). We are requesting your participation to help set priorities for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation planning needs.

LWGs are advisory in nature and have no implementation or enforcement authority. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) uses this input and recommendation to identify conservation planning needs, to prioritize resources concerns for the state's programs, and to develop ranking questions and procedures.

Specific to FY 2026 Conservation Program delivery, we are seeking input and recommendations based on the following programs and activities:

- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Agricultural conservation Land Easements including Wetland Reserve Easement and Agricultural Land Easement

LWG input and recommendations may assist our agency in identifying any of the following conditions:

- Identifying significant local geographic areas of concerns;
- Identifying significant local natural resource concerns;
- State program management policies and procedures;
- Technical programmatic recommendations;
- Need for statewide public information and outreach campaigns;
- Guidelines for developing ranking criteria for evaluation applications;
- Guidance on eligible conservation practices;
- Technical guidance on conservation practices, including new, innovative practices;
- Financial assistance payment rates, practice payment limits and methods of payment;
- Identifying, monitoring and analyzing performance indicators;
- Evaluating and reporting program impacts on natural resources and the environment
- Coordinating with other Federal, state, tribal, and local public and private activities

Local Working Group meetings are open to the public. Across the state, many organizations and individuals continue to express interest in participating in LWGs. To facilitate participation, Minnesota will again post the schedule for all LWG meetings on the Minnesota NRCS web site. With the Farm Bill, the LWG membership has been expanded to include anyone who requests membership and is deemed to have knowledge of local resource concerns.

The LWG's input specific to prioritized resource concerns, proposed program changes and technical practice recommendations will be presented to the State Technical Committee for consideration.

We thank you for your time and look forward to your participation. We hope to see you April 15th, 2025, at 9:15 a.m.

Sincerely,

Holly Kovarik  
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