



Technical Training and Certification Program

Factsheet

June 2016

Background and Need

Establishing conservation practices on private lands in Minnesota is critical to achieving state and federal goals for clean and sustainable water resources, healthy and sustainable soil resources, and abundant fish and wildlife. Conservation Technical Assistance requires statewide, base technical assistance capabilities, as well as capabilities tailored to local resource concerns and conservation practices in the diverse landscapes of Minnesota. Training and certification of Minnesota's conservation professionals are key quality assurance elements of an effective conservation delivery system.

Minnesota's local conservation delivery system faces growing and evolving demands and challenges. The Technical Training and Certification Program, and the strong partnership of agencies supporting it, will connect allies and resources to efficiently provide training and enhance technical skills so Local Government conservation staff can effectively perform their jobs and meet expanding conservation needs.

Partnership approach

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE), and the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) are committed to providing resources and leadership to achieve program goals. These include:

- a renewed commitment and partnership for technical training
- a streamlined and coordinated approach to assessing needs and delivering training
- increasing opportunities for obtaining job approval authority for conservation practices

Strategies

To support a renewed commitment to technical training and credentialing of the State's conservation workforce, the partnership developed a Technical Training and Certification Strategy consisting of seven strategies, including:

- Endorsement of Core Competencies
- Identification of practices by priority resource concerns
- Creation of individual development plans
- Identification of training needs
- Identification of training roles and responsibilities
- Issuance and tracking of credentialing
- Maintaining skills through continuing education and training

Contact

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