



109 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street 2A  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1283

## **MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. The State Conservation Commission meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, November 20, 2011 at the Airport Hilton Hotel, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, Kansas.
2. **ATTENDANCE:**

### **Elected Commissioners:**

Ted Nighswonger, Area I Commissioner  
Andy Larson, Area II Commissioner  
Brad Shogren, Area III Commissioner  
John Wunder, Area IV Commissioner  
Rod Vorhees, Area V Commissioner

### **Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:**

Eric Banks, State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(NRCS)  
Chad Voigt, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture,  
Division of Water Resources  
Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment  
(KCARE), K-State Research and Extension

### **Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:**

Greg Foley, Executive Director  
Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager  
Max Foster, Public Service Executive  
Don Jones, Water Quality Programs Manager  
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Programs Manager  
Steve Frost, Water Conservation Programs Manager

## **SCC MEETING MINUTES**

**November 20, 2011**

**Page 2**

Rob Reschke, Riparian Coordinator  
Donna Meader, Program Consultant

### **Guests:**

\*Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts  
\*Jon Starns, Area I Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts  
\*Kyle Hoffman, Area II Secretary/Treasurer, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts  
\*Gene Albers, Area III Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts  
\*Bevin Law, Area IV Vice-President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts  
\*Ronald Brown, Area V, President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts  
Chris Wilson, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds  
Jim Krueger, Assistant State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Troy Munsch, Supervisory Soil Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Jon Ungerer, Supervisory Soil Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
\*Don Paxson, Supervisor, Graham County Conservation District  
Steve Hargrave, Supervisor, Riley County Conservation District  
\*Wayne Lukert, Supervisor, Shawnee County Conservation District  
Mike Irvine, Chief Council, Kansas Farm Bureau  
Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor  
**\*left at 2:00 p.m.**

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the agenda as mailed. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion Carried.**

### **4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the September 15, 2011 minutes as mailed. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.**

## SCC MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2011

Page 3

5. Discuss Kansas Farm Bureau Proposal for changes to K.S.A. 2-1001 et. seq. with Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Board of Directors and guests.

**Motion by Brad Shogren to send a notice to Kansas Farm Bureau that the State Conservation Commission (SCC) is supportive with the concept of providing recommendations on cropland soil erosion and land treatment practices to resolve local resource concerns and issues. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried 7 - yea to 1 - nay.**

### 6. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- a. Don Paxson, Supervisor, Graham County Conservation District – Provided an update from the Kansas Water Authority.
- b. Mike Irvine, Chief Council, Kansas Farm Bureau. – Briefing on K.S.A. 2-2001 et seq – Dust Issues/Proposal for Conservation Districts. A lengthy discussion took place to explain an urban fugitive dust issue in Riley County. The Farm Bureau proposal was to modify current law and create a mechanism that the County Commission could request recommendation from a conservation district.
- c. Clancy Holeman, Riley County Counselor, Dust Issues/Proposal for Conservation Districts. Joint comment presented with Kansas Farm Bureau.
- d. Gene Albers, Area III Director Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.
- e. John Starns, Area I Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.
- f. Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.
- g. Ron Brown, Area V President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.

### 6. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. Fiscal Year 2012 first quarter financial report see Attachment A – Max Foster.

**Motion by Andy Larson to approve the FY 2012 first quarter financial report. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

## SCC MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2011

Page 4

### 7. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. State Association of Kansas Watersheds Annual Convention January 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Topeka, KS.

### 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Review the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Convention roles and responsibilities for Commissioners and Staff – Scott Carlson.
- b. Discuss (KACD) Breakout Sessions and Committee Meetings – Greg Foley.
- c. Update on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant activity – Don Jones. Direction was given to staff to proceed to modify current agreement to include a target for wetland technical assistance.

### 9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review the 2012 Spring Workshops dates and locations see Attachment B – Scott Carlson.
- b. Overview of the FY 2013 Division of Conservation budget see Attachment C – Max Foster/Greg Foley. When the Governors Budget is released the agency will learn if any current year adjustments are necessary.
- c. Authorize Commissioner and staff travel – Greg Foley.

**Motion by Brad Shogren to approve John Wunder and Andy Larson to attend the 2012 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 1, 2012. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

- d. Discuss Management Information Systems (MIS) reporting – Max Foster.
- e. Review of 2011 KACD resolutions see Attachment D – Scott Carlson.

## SCC MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2011

Page 5

- f. Approve 2011 Governor's Mined Land Reclamation Program annual reclamation award – Scott Carlson.

**Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approved Mid-States Materials, LLC to receive the 2011 Land Reclamation Award. Brad Shogren seconded. Motion carried.**

- g. Watershed Dam Construction Program. Funding for Inundation Mapping for FY 2012 see Attachment E – Hakim Saadi.

**Motion by John Wunder to approved the FY 2012 Innundation Mapping Recommendations for \$59,311 to complete applications. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

- h. Cost-Share cancellation December 2, 2011 and reallocation options – Staff.

- i. Technical assistance review/modification for wetland implementation – Rob Reschke/Greg Foley.

### 10. REPORTS:

- a. Agency Reports:
  - i. NRCS – Eric Banks. See Attachment F.
  - ii. KDA, DWR – Chad Voigt – Budget Shortfalls; Term Permits have been keeping Division of Water Resources swamped at this time.
  - iii. K-CARE, K-State Research and Extension.
- b. Staff reports – None.
- c. Commissioner Reports - None

**SCC MEETING MINUTES**

**November 20, 2011**

**Page 6**

**11. ADJOURN:**

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. January 17, 2012 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Room, Topeka, KS.

**Motion by Andy Larson to adjourn. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg A. Foley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a circular flourish at the end.

Greg A. Foley.  
Executive Director

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2012 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

	PROGRAM/FUND	INDEX	Appropriation/ Allocation	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		UNCOMMITTED BALANCE
						Committed/		
						Encumbered-Contigent		
<b>1.</b>	<b>STATE GENERAL FUND - 1000</b>							
	a. Office Operations	0053	552,381.00	207,723.88	37.6%	0.00		344,657.12
	b. Hospitality Fund	0054	1,200.00	722.06	0.0%	0.00		477.94
	<b>TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>\$553,581.00</b>	<b>\$208,445.94</b>	<b>37.7%</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		<b>\$345,135.06</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>STATE WATER PLAN FUND - 1800</b>							
	<b>a. Water Resources Cost-Share</b>							
	(1) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		2,525,710.00	390,807.58	15.5%	1,686,989.48		447,912.94
	(2) Office Operations		118,631.00	27,443.65	23.1%	43,621.05		47,566.30
	(3) Reserve Funds		65,057.90	0.00	0.0%	0.00		65,057.90
	<b>WR - TOTAL</b>	<b>1205</b>	<b>2,709,398.90</b>	<b>418,251.23</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>1,730,610.53</b>		<b>560,537.14</b>
	<b>b. Non Point Source Pollution Control</b>							
	(1) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		2,075,578.90	388,065.81	18.7%	1,170,253.37		517,259.72
	(2) Office Operations		31,019.20	2,760.95	8.9%	22,900.20		5,358.05
	(3) NPS/TA-Conservation Technician Positions		200,000.00	139,434.10	0.0%	17,000.00		43,565.90
	(4) NPS/TA-No Till Conservation Districts		25,000.00	3,107.00	0.0%	7,500.00		14,393.00
	(5) Revolving Loan Fund		766,175.29	0.00	0.0%	0.00		766,175.29
	<b>NPS - TOTAL</b>	<b>1210</b>	<b>3,097,773.39</b>	<b>533,367.86</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>1,217,653.57</b>		<b>1,346,751.96</b>
	<b>c. Aid to Conservation Districts</b>	<b>1220</b>	<b>2,259,754.00</b>	<b>2,035,096.02</b>	<b>90.1%</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>224,657.98</b>
	<b>d. CREP/WTAP</b>							
	(1) Office Operations		85,303.00	31,324.78	36.7%	325.20		53,653.02
	(2) WR/CREP CSIMS		114,117.20	0.00	0.0%	105,933.20		8,184.00
	(3) WRAP PROJECTS		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	(4) Reserve Funds		1,801,309.72	0.00	0.0%	0.00		1,801,309.72
	<b>CREP/WTAP - TOTAL</b>	<b>1225</b>	<b>2,000,729.92</b>	<b>31,324.78</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>106,258.40</b>		<b>1,863,146.74</b>
	<b>e. Watershed Dam Construction</b>							
	(1) Watershed Dam Cost-Share Assistance		508,803.00	75,420.89	14.8%	433,382.11		0.00
	(2) Inundation Mapping		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	(3) Rehabilitation		126,383.00	0.00	0.0%	126,383.00		0.00
	(4) Reserve		60,953.57	0.00	0.0%	0.00		60,953.57
	<b>WATERSHED PROGRAM - TOTAL</b>	<b>1240</b>	<b>696,139.57</b>	<b>75,420.89</b>	<b>10.8%</b>	<b>559,765.11</b>		<b>60,953.57</b>
	<b>f. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative</b>							
	(1) CSIMS-KS Water Quality Buffer Projects		279,124.88	(489.94)	0.0%	265,056.36		14,558.46
	(2) Office Operations		1,250.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		1,250.00
	<b>BUF - TOTAL</b>	<b>1250</b>	<b>280,374.88</b>	<b>(489.94)</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>265,056.36</b>		<b>15,808.46</b>
	<b>g. Riparian and Wetland Protection</b>							
	(1) CSIMS-Demonstration Projects		292,881.46	0.00	0.0%	102,887.59		189,993.87
	(2) Office Operations		6,530.00	150.00	0.0%	4,831.62		1,548.38
	<b>RW - TOTAL</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>299,411.46</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>107,719.21</b>		<b>191,542.25</b>
	<b>i. Lake Restoration-Water Supply Program</b>	<b>1275</b>	<b>257,668.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>252,172.00</b>		<b>5,496.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL - STATE WATER PLAN FUND</b>		<b>\$11,601,250.12</b>	<b>\$3,093,120.84</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>\$4,239,235.18</b>		<b>\$4,268,894.10</b>

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2012 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

CASH CONTROL FUNDS PROGRAM	INDEX	Fee Deposit Accounts	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		Cash Flow
					Committed/	Encumbered-Contigent	
1. LAND RECLAMATION FEE FUND - 2542	2090	142,219.77	51,320.39	36.1%	0.00	90,899.38	
2. KDWP-Buffer Partnership - 2517	2510	107,086.63	47,052.61	43.9%	49,325.73	10,708.29	
3. KDHE/EPA - FEDERAL FUNDS - 3889	(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED TO KDHE)				REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST		
a. KDHE/Buffer Partnership	3880	50,910.00	41,638.17	81.8%	0.00	9,271.83	
b. KDHE/Buffer Indirect Funds	3880	18,502.05	0.00	0.0%	10,000.00	18,502.05	
b. KDHE/NPS/WRAPS	3705	669.95	0.00	0.0%	1,064.00	669.95	
b. KDHE/NPS Indirect Funds	3705	0.00	0.00	0.0%	4,500.00	0.00	
<b>TOTAL- FEDERAL FUNDS - 3915</b>		<b>70,082.00</b>	<b>41,638.17</b>	<b>59.4%</b>	<b>15,564.00</b>	<b>28,443.83</b>	
4. NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS - 3715	(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REQUESTED FROM NRCS)				REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST		
a. NRCS/NPS/WQ Conservation Tech	3825	68,725.21	0.00	0.0%	79,595.75	68,725.21	
b. NRCS/RW/WQ EQIP Projects	3825	450.00	450.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
c. NRCS/RW//WQ SCCPersonnel Ind	3825	6,913.18	0.00	0.0%	0.00	6,913.18	
d. NRCS/RW/WQ Indirect Funds	3825	36,789.59	0.00	0.0%	0.00	36,789.59	
<b>TOTAL- NRCS FUNDS - 3917</b>		<b>112,877.98</b>	<b>450.00</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>79,595.75</b>	<b>112,427.98</b>	
5. CONVERSION FUND - 2429	2070	1,965.75	0.00	0.0%	0.00	1,965.75	
6. MOTOR VEHICLE FUND - 6118	6000	29,584.95	1,973.54	6.7%	24,044.00	3,567.41	
<b>TOTAL - CASH FLOW</b>						<b>\$248,012.64</b>	

# 2012 Spring Workshops

November 20, 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 6, 2012	Sternberg Museum, Hays
March 7, 2012	Finnup Zoo, Garden City
March 8, 2012	NRCS Conference Center, Salina
March 14, 2012	Farm Bureau, Topeka
March 15, 2012	Iola Country Club, Iola

**FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

Resolution No. 1: Fiscal Year 2013 Division of Conservation Budget

WHEREAS, financial and technical assistance needs have been identified in high priority Total Maximum Daily Load watersheds of the Kansas – Lower Republican, Lower Arkansas, Marais Des Cygnes, Missouri, Neosho, Upper Arkansas, Verdigris, Walnut, Smoky Hill/Saline, Upper Republican, Cimarron, and Solomon River Basins; and

WHEREAS, a need exists to improve and sustain the State’s rivers, streams and aquifers with conservation grants; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Plan has identified the priority watershed areas that need assistance to address non-point source pollution problems, reduce urban and rural flooding, and to reduce stream bank erosion and degradation of riparian areas; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts have established a need for cost-share incentives to address local concerns; and

WHEREAS, the conservation provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) have increased the demand for conservation technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, a need for priority multipurpose small lakes projects, watershed dam construction and rehabilitation, restoration of water supply systems, and riparian and wetland protection was identified in the State Water Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Conservation is responsible for carrying out programs of state assistance to conservation districts, state assistance in watershed dam construction, water resources cost-share, riparian and wetland protection, multipurpose small lakes, non-point pollution control, water quality buffer initiative, water rights purchase\water transition assistance, water supply restoration and surface mining land reclamation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the Division of Conservation’s FY 2013 budget request as described below, and in addition, supports the Division’s request for appropriation language allowing the carry over of funds from the current fiscal year to FY 2013;

**STATE GENERAL FUNDS:**

Administrative Operations \$ 559,611

**STATE WATER PLAN SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS:**

Aid to Conservation Districts	\$ 2,260,000	
Water Resources Cost-Share	\$ 2,008,700	
Water Supply Restoration	\$ 190,000	
Non-Point Source Pollution	\$ 2,008,691	
Watershed Dam Construction	\$ 625,000	
Riparian and Wetland Protection	\$ 165,000	
Water Quality Buffer Initiative	\$ 270,000	
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program\WTAP	\$ 425,000	
Subtotal - Special Revenue Fund		\$ 7,952,391

**FEE FUNDS:**

Land Reclamation Fee Funds \$ 148,495

**FEDERAL FUNDS:**

Federal Grant Funds \$ 452,717

**OTHER FUNDS:**

Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks contract \$ 75,000

**TOTAL - FY 2013 BUDGET REQUEST**

**\$ 9,188,214**

In addition to the FY 2013 Budget Request outlined above, the Division of Conservation is seeking KACD’s support of the following FY 2013 budget enhancements which totals \$12,500,000.

Program	State General Fund	State Water Plan	ELARF	Motor Pool Fund	TOTAL
Nutrient and Sediment Reduction	\$7,000,000				\$7,000,000
Streambank Stabilization / Reservoir Protection			\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Water Right Purchase			\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Improved Irrigation System Efficiency			\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Water Supply Restoration			\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000
Dam Rehabilitation			\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,000,000</b>		<b>\$5,500,000</b>		<b>\$12,500,000</b>

RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT REQUIRES  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNTY COMMISSIONS ON  
METHODS TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE SOIL EROSION  
CAUSED BY WIND STORMS**

WHEREAS, soil erosion caused by wind and dust storms are recognized and declared to be destructive to the natural resources of Kansas and the health and well being of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, landowners have a responsibility to take actions to prevent and reduce the amount of soil erosion caused by wind and dust storms; and

WHEREAS, the duties of county commissioners under K.S.A. 2-1004 are to inspect blowing dust and in their judgment determine what can be done to immediately eliminate or reduce blowing dust; and

WHEREAS, the board of county commissioners may order a landowner to cultivate the blowing soil to eliminate or reduce blowing dust; and

WHEREAS, the State Conservation Commission and the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture under K.S.A. 2-1904 has the duty *“to facilitate arrangements under which conservation districts may serve county governing bodies and other agencies as their local operating agencies in the administration of any activity concerned with the conservation of natural resources; and*

WHEREAS, county conservation districts duties and authorities under K.S.A. 2-1901 et seq. provide for the comprehensive planning and guidance to landowners and other entities to prevent soil erosion by wind and other means; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports legislation that would require conservation districts to provide recommendations to county commissioners at their request on methods to eliminate or reduce soil erosion caused by wind storms.

RESOLUTION # \_\_\_\_\_

**ENCOURAGE THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO CHANGE THE  
FEDERAL TAX CODE TO REMOVE DISTRICT  
SUPERVISORS AS EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, Kansas Conservation Districts have been made aware during 2011 IRS compliance audits that districts have been incorrectly reporting supervisor tax information; and

WHEREAS, the IRS Compliance Examination concluded elected board member/officer compensation consisting of personal commuting mileage and reimbursed personal meals not related to overnight travel are subject to applicable payroll taxes; and

WHEREAS, the IRS Compliance Examination concluded the payments made to the elected board members/officers are properly treated as wages paid to them; and

WHEREAS, the IRS Compliance Examination concluded elected board members of governmental entities are considered to be “public officials,” and as such, are to be treated as employees of the governmental entities for which they provide services; and

WHEREAS, conservation district supervisors serve without pay; and

WHEREAS, conservation district supervisors incur personal expenses in the disposition of their duties as an elected official; and

WHEREAS, conservation district supervisors perceive the reporting and taxation of reimbursed expenses as an unjust burden and a disincentive to public service; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourages the National Association of Conservation Districts to take action to remove district supervisors as employees of the conservation district in which they serve in the federal tax code.**

# KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

## WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION: INUNDATION MAPPING FY 2012

	Watershed District	Site	County	Basin	FC(ac ft)	Drainage (ac)	C-S APP
1	Allen Creek WD 89	102	LY	NEO	114	249	\$3,500.00
2	Allen Creek WD 89	103	LY	NEO	138	365	\$3,500.00
3	Allen Creek WD 89	108	LY	NEO	381	1,225	\$3,500.00
4	Allen Creek WD 89	128	LY	NEO	125	736	\$4,550.00
5	Delaware WJD 10	C-114	JA	KLR	118	209	\$3,500.00
6	Delaware WJD 10	C-127	JA	KLR	42	162	\$3,500.00
7	Delaware WJD 10	C-29	JA	KLR	126	525	\$3,500.00
8	Labette-Hackberry WJD 96	B-10	NO	NEO	115	445	\$3,500.00
9	Labette-Hackberry WJD 96	B-21	NO	NEO	229	778	\$3,500.00
10	Nemaha-Brown WJD 7	1-23	JA	KLR	176	307	\$3,500.00
11	Nemaha-Brown WJD 7	4-2	JA	KLR	106	384	\$3,500.00
12	Nemaha-Brown WJD 7	4-4A	JA	KLR	143	370	\$3,500.00
13	Pottawatomie Cr WJD 90	H-11	FR	MDC	194	775	\$2,940.00
14	Pottawatomie Cr WJD 90	H-13	FR	MDC	444	1,542	\$3,234.00
15	Pottawatomie Cr WJD 90	H-9	FR	MDC	218	869	\$3,087.00
16	U Marais des Cygnes WJD 101	104	LY	MDC	224	689	\$3,500.00
17	U Marais des Cygnes WJD 101	117	LY	MDC	137	743	\$3,500.00

**Σ = \$59,311.00**

May change Hazard Class according to CO because of downstream dwelling.

**WDCP Funding Available = \$60,954**      **→ Carry-Over for FY 2013 = \$1,643**



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
760 South Broadway  
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

Phone: 785-823-4500  
FAX: 785-823-4540  
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

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**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES  
for the  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
WICHITA, KANSAS  
November 20, 2011**

**PERSONNEL**

New Hires: Jennifer D. Jarvis, Office Assistant, Hutchinson Area Office

Reassignments

and/or Promotions: Kevin B. Arnet, Soil Conservationist, Hugoton, to Soil Conservationist, Effingham  
Tanya J. Gerstberger, District Conservationist, Oakley, to District Conservationist, Colby  
Loren L. Graff, Budget Officer, to State Administrative Officer, Salina State Office  
A. Tyler Labenz, Soil Scientist, Hutchinson Area Office, to Resource Soil Scientist, Hutchinson Area Office  
Jeffrey D. Ladner, District Conservationist, Cimarron, to District Conservationist, Oskaloosa  
E. Dean Millsap, Soil Conservationist, Belleville, to District Conservationist, Meade  
Robert M. Murphy, Resource Soil Scientist, Hutchinson Area Office, to Soil Scientist, Madison, Wisconsin  
Matthew C. Palmquist, Supervisory District Conservationist, Colby, to Supervisory District Conservationist, Hoxie (Management Unit headquarters change)  
Christopher G. Tecklenburg, Rangeland Management Specialist, Hutchinson Area Office, to Ecological Site Inventory (Quality Control), Salina MLRA Soil Survey Office

Retirements: C. Duane Cheney, RC&D Coordinator, Oakley  
Matthew W. Markley, District Conservationist, Johnson

**OPERATIONS**

- The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) continues to operate under a continuing resolution. Anticipated budget appears to be tight but manageable.
- A new Pheasants Forever biologist has been hired for Winfield. Her name is Ardath Lawson. She reports for duty on December 5. Ardath has family in Chautauqua County.

- As of November 6, former federal employees who are now conservation district employees are now able to apply for their LincPass cards. All NRCS employees and partner employees are required to have and use their LincPass cards for computer access.
- The Kansas 2012 Business Plan is in draft form and will be finalized once NRCS receives a final budget.
- The annual Supervisory District Conservationists' Meeting was held in October with updates on technology, programs, and management philosophies.

## PROGRAMS

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
  - The cutoff date for batching applications for ranking is November 15, 2011.
  - The following EQIP Initiatives will have three cutoff dates for batching of applications: (period 1) February 3, 2012; (period 2) March 30, 2012; and (period 3) June 1, 2012.
    - Organic Initiative
    - Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative **(NEW)**
    - On-Farm Energy Initiative **(NEW)**
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
  - Kansas is currently making payment on Stewardship contracts for participants who want to be paid during the 2011 calendar year. Participants that wish to receive payment during 2011 must have their payment certified by December 9, 2011. The deadline for all Stewardship payments is March 26, 2012.
  - No announcement has been made for a fiscal year (FY) 2012 Stewardship signup.
  - Kansas is still awaiting 2012 funds in order to make payment on Conservation Security Program contracts.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
  - NRCS is developing conservation plans of operations for Continuous CRP (CCRP) Sign-up 42 offers and providing those plans to FSA as requested. Included in CCRP is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the Upper Arkansas River where there have been 25 new offers representing about 4,000 irrigated acres in Finney, Gray, and Kearny counties.
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)
  - Kansas has 2 new EWPP projects recently determined eligible. Sponsors will be city of Manhattan and city of Beloit. Funding requests will be submitted to NRCS national headquarters for placement on the national wait list for future appropriation approval.
- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
  - Kansas is working with a cooperating entity to close on 4 easements by the end of the 2011 calendar year.
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
  - Kansas NRCS continues to work towards the acquisition of FY 2011 GRP enrollments.
  - Once the FY 2011 easements are acquired, an approximate 4,900 acres of native Kansas grasslands will be preserved in Pottawatomie and Greenwood Counties.

- Kansas NRCS has partnered with the Ranchland Trust of Kansas to perform onsite monitoring of 32 previously recorded easements.
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
  - Kansas has closed on 6 easements since October 2012, protecting 326 acres of wetlands.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
  - The cutoff date for batching applications for ranking is November 15, 2011.
- Watershed Rehabilitation Activities
  - During FY 2011, Kansas NRCS provided technical and financial assistance to local watershed district and conservation partners interested in watershed rehabilitation.
  - NRCS signed a project agreement with Wakarusa Watershed District in Douglas County for a \$1.5 million rehabilitation construction project on site #24. One unique component of this project is the armoring of the auxiliary spillway with cellular concrete mats. These mats are interlocking concrete blocks laced together with cables.
  - The rehabilitation design for Spring Creek R-1 in Sedgwick County is being done internally by NRCS. FY 2012 construction funds have been requested for this rehabilitation project.
  - Rehabilitation construction on Switzler Creek R-7 Watershed in Osage County is nearly complete. Seeding, mulching, and fencing are underway and will wrap-up this project. The mitigation plan for the Switzler site involving tree planting next spring continues to move forward.
  - Kansas NRCS has requested FY 2012 funds for watershed rehabilitation planning for 6 dam sites in Butler County.
  - Kansas NRCS is actively participating in a recently established Missouri River Flood Task Force. Federal and state partners are working to assist those affected along the Missouri River by the floods this past spring and summer. The initiative currently involves a 7-state area which includes 4 counties along the Missouri River in northeast Kansas

## TECHNOLOGY

- Division of Conservation (DOC) Streambank Agreement
  - 6 more projects have been built.
  - 9 projects are in construction or preparing for construction.
  - New DOC contractor is to start design work on four 2011 projects.
- Architect and Engineer (A&E) Contracts
  - 3 task orders have been issued for the design of animal waste management systems.
  - 4 task orders have been issued for the design of streambank protection projects to control bank erosion.
- Resources
  - Working with partners to update ranking criteria/information for FY 2012 program year and update additional program information as needed.
  - Updated a number of new and revised standards/specifications.

- One major change is update of Conservation Practices 550, Range Planting, and 645, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, to remove seeding information from 645 and include it in 550.
- Working to arrange for Ray Archuleta to hold a couple of soil quality workshops/field days in the state.
- Updating wetland conventions.
- National Resources Inventory
  - A Local Data Collection is currently being performed by our field office personnel. The data collection focuses on gathering erosion and program information on cropland, hay land, pasture land, and land in the CRP. There are 2,551 sites throughout the state selected for this inventory. Each inventory site in Kansas generally consists of a quarter section of land with three data collection points randomly located within it.

## OUTREACH

- Hispanic and/or Female Farmers and Ranchers Claims

The USDA required the Kansas Food and Agriculture Committee (FAC) consisting of NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), and Rural Development (RD) to develop a joint Outreach Plan (OP) from November 1, 2011, through March 2012. The OP identifies joint and individual agency efforts to be carried out. The field offices will also have responsibilities. This has been done and will be implemented. One monthly report is now required of the combined efforts of the three agencies. They also required a Point of Contact who is Trish Halstead, FSA, Manhattan, Kansas.
- Senator Moran's Conservation Tour Well Attended

On September 29 and 30, Senator Moran and approximately 50 people toured through Harvey, Sedgwick, Butler, and Greenwood Counties. The media was present throughout the tour. The tour's theme was Water Conservation. Those attending heard outstanding presentations at each stop and certainly were provided with information about the efforts of how cities, producers, groups, and others are working to conserve water in innovative and the efficient ways.

We can only speculate that information presented on the tour by the State Association of Kansas Watersheds persuaded Senator Moran to introduce recent watershed rehabilitation legislation.

- Deputy Secretary Merrigan Hosts Roundtable

Deputy Merrigan visited Kansas to speak in the evening at the Alpha Zeta Fraternity at Kansas State University (KSU) on October 13. Since she arrived early in the day, she stopped in Lawrence and visited the "Merc," a consumer-owned natural foods store offering organic and locally produced foods. She arrived in Manhattan and stopped at the FSA state office. Several NRCS and RD employees were on hand along with FSA employees to hear Deputy Merrigan speak about concerns for the agency, such as budget cuts, and to ask questions of the her.

Later in the afternoon, the Deputy held a roundtable to visit with 20 producers about their concerns. These producers voiced concerns on a variety of issues such as the lack of butchering facilities for organically grown meat, Farm Bill cuts, hiring concerns, the small producer, dairy industry, and seed industry. One producer with a high tunnel through EQIP

was very satisfied with his endeavor of selling everything he could raise through most seasons.

- Getting the Word Out
  - A news release was sent to the state media, field offices, and Kansas Technical Committee about the EQIP and WHIP sign-up cutoff date of November 15, 2011. A radio interview was aired by KFRM on the KSU show Kansas Agriculture Today announcing the cutoff date.
  - NRCS staffs have been hosting exhibits around the state: National AgriWomen's Conference, Wichita; Fort Hays University; Langston University; KSU; Kansas Association of Conservation and Environmental Educators; job fairs at Fort Riley and the Occupational Center of Central Kansas (OCCK) in Salina; and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.
  - Articles written by NRCS professionals and partners will be available to conservation districts for their annual conservation editions. Article topics include management of grass during drought, maintenance of conservation practices, wetlands, and others. These articles are in demand since nearly 80 percent of the conservation districts in Kansas have a conservation edition in their local newspaper.
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- Earth Team Volunteers

Kansas hits the high marks with 3,513 volunteers in 100 percent of offices, volunteering 37,038.75 hours. The value of an hour of volunteer time for 2011 is \$21.36 which equals \$791,147.70 for Kansas in FY 2011. Wow!
- Upcoming events in Kansas
  - Great Plains Vegetative Growers, St. Joseph, MO, January 5-7, 2012
  - Kansas Natural Resources Conference, Wichita, January 26-27, 2012
  - Women Managing the Farm, Wichita, February 10-11, 2012
  - Kansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference, Wichita, January 2012
  - Conservation Planning will be featured on a billboard at I-70 mile marker 314, Maple Hill in November and December
- Social Media
  - Want to be alerted to natural resources conservation? Follow Kansas NRCS on Twitter @NRCS\_Kansas. Retweet our messages so even more can follow NRCS\_Kansas.
  - Have a smart phone? Scan our Quick Response code, get an app, and have the Kansas NRCS Web site at your fingertips.