



1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

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 2:00 p.m., Sunday, November 18, 2018, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 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:

Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service (left at 5:10 p.m.)
Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension (joined at 4:05 p.m.)
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality Agronomy Department, Kansas State University
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Rob Reschke, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Programs Manager (left at 5:20 p.m.)
Tim McCoy, Riparian & Wetland Program Manager
Cindy Pulse, Administrative Specialist
Cathy Thompson, Program Consultant
Donna Meader, Conservation District Program Coordinator (joined at 3:15 p.m.)

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Guests:

Larry Biles, State Forester, Kansas Forest Service (KFS) (joined at 3:05 p.m.)
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watershed (SAKW)
Stephanie Royer, President, KACD-EO

3. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the September 13, 2018, minutes as mailed and e-mailed. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- a. Herb Graves, SAKW – Glad to be here and is looking forward to panel discussion at the SAKW Annual Meeting. This will be the first time SAKW, KACD, SCC, and DOC join together to discuss a mutual partnership.
- b. Larry Biles, KFS – Thankful for the opportunity to participate and for the partnership. He reiterated that KFS lives and dies on grants, that they will need to work hard with the partnerships on philosophical support, then the monetary support will follow.
- c. Karen Woodrich, NRCS – Stated that the future of the program is unforeseen, and they are currently waiting on the hiring of a new Chief.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Invitation to the KDA Holiday Gathering to be held Friday, December 14, 2018, 11:30 a.m. Rod invited all commissioners to attend the Holiday Gathering.
- b. New and former Conservation District Employees
 - * Rod expressed his concern about the high turnover. Rob mentioned that Donna can give a good update on the employee turnover numbers, which is about 20%. The ongoing discussion with KACD is “why is this happening? What can be done to improve/correct this situation?” Steve said several of those listed below are District Technicians that are working under agreements.
 - * Since July 1, Donna has trained 14 new District Managers, three more are scheduled for training, and three more have not submitted official notice. Reasons for the turnover are that some are retiring, some are transferring to FSA or other jobs, and some have moved out of state. Stephanie added that reasons for the increased turnover is the stress of the budget, stability, pay, and lack of benefits.

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Area II:

Hodgeman County CD: Kolt Washburn, District Technician, resigned effective 9/14/18.

Area III:

Harvey County CD: Krysta Woelk, new District Manager, effective 9/18/28. Dana Stahl, previous District Manager, resigned effective 9/28/18.

Kingman County CD: Elizabeth Davis, new District Technician, effective 9/03/18.

Lincoln County CD: Nancy Walter, new District Manager, effective 10/1/18. Patti Winters, previous District Manager, resigned effective 8/17/18.

Area IV:

Douglas County CD: Jeremy Gaines, new Conservation Technician, effective 10/1/18. Thomas Ehlinger, previous Conservation Technician, resigned effective 8/3/18.

Nemaha County CD: Dalton Lee Boeckman, new District Technician, effective 10/29/18. Nicole Sudbeck, previous District Technician, resigned effective 10/17/18.

Area V:

Cowley County CD: Isaac Broeckelman, Water Quality Coordinator, resigned effective 8/31/18.

Crawford County CD: Cynthia Huber, new District Manager, effective 10/15/18. Diana Hartog, former District Manager, retired effective 10/31/18.

Crawford County CD: Mark Sooter, new District Technician, effective 9/4/18.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT:

a. FY 2019 Quarterly Financial Report – Frost (See Attachment A)

- * Steve said that the financial report has a new look providing a very brief summary of what he feels SCC is most interested in. This new report provides a quick glimpse of activities in funds most actively related to cost-share and CSIMS. The Riparian/Wetland program is very unique. CREP has been very active. The Water Quality/Buffer is being phased out and changed over to Sediment/Nutrient Initiative. On the second page summary Steve worked towards setting this part of the financial report up on a quarterly basis. This report is very similar to what was provided before, but in a shortened version.
- * John - who is the ultimate tracker? Steve answered that DOC is; Steve & Cathy are designated to keep track of balances
- * Fiscal does not keep track of individual balances such as in CSIMS, allocations, etc. DOC is one of most complex divisions in the agency.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Review KACD convention roles, responsibilities – Vorhees

- * Rod reviewed the agenda and made a few adjustments.

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- i. Preside at Monday SCC luncheon: Rod Vorhees
 - ii. Give invocation at Monday luncheon: Andy Larson
 - iii. Introduction of Ed and Youth Committee Chair: Rod Vorhees
 - iv. Keynote and Guest luncheon speakers' introduction: Rod Vorhees
 - v. Governors Recognition award winners during luncheon: John Wunder, Ted Nighswonger
 - vi. Presentation of 20-year awards during banquet: Brad Shogren
- b. Review prior year FY 2017 and FY 2018 cost-share cancellation policy recommendations – Jones

* Dave reviewed the encumbered contracts. These are funds that are scheduled to be cancelled in December. He recommended the extensions as listed below:

- **Extend all FY 2018 encumbered LWS cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program until June 1, 2020.**
- **Extend all FY 2017 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program and Water Resources cost-share program until June 1, 2019.**
- **Extend all FY 2018 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program and Water Resources cost-share program until June 1, 2020.**

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to extend all FY 2018 LWS encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control program until June 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to extend all FY 2017 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control and Water Resources cost-share programs until June 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Wunder to extend all FY 2018 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control and Water Resources cost-share programs until June 1, 2020. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

- c. Review and approve FY 2019 cancelled cost-share funds policy recommendations – Jones

* Dave feels that more soil health applications will be submitted in FY 2019. The same Conservation Districts, as well as new Districts, are utilizing these funds for soil health workshops and fields. It is hard to predict how many and what kind of applications will be received.

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- * Rob mentioned that NRCS received the “Be The Vision Award” at the Governor’s Water Conference. They were recognized for the drought initiative and EQIP priority ranking activities done through the State.
- * Priority for WR and NPS cost-share funds cancelled on December 7, 2018:
 - i. Under-funded WR and NPS applications
 - ii. Livestock Waste Applications
 - iii. Soil Health Education Funds
 - iv. Transfer to unfunded CREP applications

A motion was made by Andy Larson to approve the FY 2019 cancelled cost-share funds policy recommendations. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

- d. Update on Livestock Water Supply Financial Assistance Initiative (State and Federal) – Jones/Reschke (See Attachment B)
 - * To date 91 contracts had been paid on and Dave has sent out reminder e-mails to get the contracts paid.
 - * Karen said that NRCS received close to \$6 million in requests and they were able to fund every application. She was pleased with the great work and team effort by all partners involved. Designs are still being worked on and they were very fortunate to receive the extra funding.
- e. Update on Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative – Jones
 - * Dave praised the collaborative effort with Water Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Division of Conservation. 100 contracts were approved; 93 of those were for cover crops. Marshall County sponsored a well-attended tour of three different cover crop fields. This was a very interesting tour and the program was very well-received in those areas.
 - * Rob commended Leslie Holthaus on doing a great job of putting this together. The tour was very beneficial and this was a good example of how Districts can be very relevant in an initiative outside of traditional cost-share programs. He also gave Dave credit on lots of great work done, as this is a very intricate program.
 - * Karen appreciates the way the initiative was handled with the end result being more conservation on the ground and more people involved. This was a great pilot program, and she is very interested to see where it goes from here.
 - * Rob would like to see keeping the traditional programs as is and maintaining local participation, yet it is good to see a county do something different, i.e. new initiatives.
 - * Brad would like to see incentive-based programs, but these need to be made so producers are not able to continue year after year on these same contracts for the programs. The end result will be more successful if the practices continue year after year and are not just incentive-based.
 - * Rod expressed that any new initiative deserves the same amount of attention and scrutiny as current on-going policies.

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BREAK 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review the tentative 2019 Spring Workshop dates and locations – Reschke
 - * Rob proposed that in lieu of Spring Workshops that DOC just provide updates at the Statewide KACD-EO meeting. The reason for suggesting this is due to low attendance at past workshops and hoping that this change may have different results. This could be an opportunity to try something new as we evolve into the world of technology.
 - * Brad suggested preparing a personable video about 5-10 minutes in length with DOC updates for those who cannot attend.
 - * Rob feels that this effort to do something different to provide pertinent information in a different fashion will be successful and hopefully be able to reach more people.
 - * Peter suggested making you-tube videos, which could be accessed at any time and from any location.
 - * Scott said the biggest problem nationally is the lack of connectedness. Maybe we should reach out to NACD and/or NASCA to help fund upgrades for NRCS to open up more possibilities of tele-conferencing. The key is to have participants interact so they can provide input and ask questions. Rather than beat up on supervisors, maybe we need to change.
 - * Peter suggested using Zoom to conduct meetings live, save the video, and edit as necessary, then provide links to webinars.
 - * John reminded all that networking is a strength that Districts have. How do you replace the networking through videos? Why aren't supervisors more involved?
- b. CSIMS 2.0/RALIS Update – Carlson
 - * RALIS would have been complete long ago if not due to budget cuts. The majority of it is complete, the remainder should be complete by June 2019, and what is left is mostly cosmetic, some reporting features, and maps.
 - * CSIMS 2.0 is very exciting. January 3 is when the new version goes live state-wide. The upgrade is very impressive and can be used as a management tool. An update can be shared sometime if anyone is interested.
 - * KDA will be moving to the Cloud hopefully by early spring.
- c. Review DOC Budget Resolution – Frost (See Attachment C)
 - * Reviewed budget resolution, there may be possibly three more resolutions presented at the business meeting per Wayne Lukert.
 - * \$2.6 million is necessary to fully fund all of the Aid to Conservation Districts. Jackie is supporting additional enhancements, including \$31,400 for Aid to Conservation Districts. Rob thought of this amount as a bridge to the \$2.6 million, with the intention of progressively requesting a little bit at a time to get to the \$2.6 point. She is looking at all ways to benefit DOC through priorities. These are what she will ask for in enhancement request.
 - * Rob – Explained that the items on back page were requested in some way or another to the Water Authority, but no requests were moved forward. The \$2.6 million comes from if all 105 counties received \$25,000 state matched funds.

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- * John asked that all be advocates for DOC, SCC, and that the local Conservation Districts be the lead person for conservation.
 - * Steve – this is the budget that KDA will be proposing and is asking KACD to support DOC on this resolution.
- d. Review Commissioner and Staff Travel
- i. NACD Annual Meeting – February 2 through February 6, 2019, in San Antonio, Texas
 - * Rob will be attending
 - * No Commissioners will be attending
 - e. Report on staff attendance at the following:
 - i. National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) Annual Meeting in Syracuse, New York, October 1-4, 2018. – Pulse
 - * There are many vegetable farms around Syracuse, New York. The conservation tour involved viewing row cropping, nutrient management, rotational grazing, many of which are very similar to Kansas. Discussions during field staff sessions included Silvo Forests, Signage, Feral Hogs, Audits, Open Records Act, Outreach, New Initiatives. Kansas presentation was “Adapting Conservation Programs in a Changing Landscape”. Supervisor involvement and working with defunct districts was common concern.
 - ii. Applied Fluvial Geomorphology Training in Fayetteville, Arkansas, November 4-9, 2018. – McCoy
 - * This was a valuable experience with several hands-on learning experiences. It provided some good information to improve the streambank stabilization projects and for communicating with Phil and Brock during the site selection process.
 - f. Discuss Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) signing in Doniphan County – Jones
 - * Dave attended the RCPP signing, which was very well-attended. There were great presentations and great media coverage.

10. UPDATES:

- a. Agency Updates:
- * Dan Devlin, KCARE – none
 - * Terry Medley, DWR – Pawnee and Cimarron district merger is awaiting hearing. Republican River had emergency meeting to adopt resolution to extend deadlines for retiring 25,000 acres of irrigation in South Fork Republican. Dam safety team is fully staffed now. Water use reporting fees is going into effect this year and will be charging \$20 for filing via paper form; no charge if filed online.
 - * Stephanie Royer, KACD-EO – (See Attachment D) Encouraged all to get input from the Districts and that it is better to get them involved earlier than later. The KACD photo directory is almost complete; hope to get it online through KACD and/or CSIMS. Hopefully district funding will get back on track soon to help curb District turnover.

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Our mission is to try to get Districts more active and help them to understand that their involvement affects all around them. Districts are the grassroots of the entire state. Raindrops reach every inch of soil around the state, and we need to find that happy medium, not just targeted areas. KACD is trying to get Districts to attend the legislative fair and bring educational tools such as the sandbox, etc. and other hands-on activities instead of just photos. Other ways to promote this are setting up more meetings with legislatures, be more involved in County Commissioners' presence than just once a year, and revamp the local work groups to use them more throughout the year.

- * Herb Graves, SAKW – Has all three contracts awarded to do the feasibility study in the 566 program.
- * Peter Tomlinson, K-State – Is working on interesting projects geared towards soil health on a grant through International Plant Institute. The Agronomy Department has a new department head.
- * Karen Woodrich, NRCS – Provided report (See Attachment E). Odds of one-year extension of current Farm Bill are high. Leonard Jordan is retiring January 3, 2019, and there is no indication of hiring a permanent chief yet. Several key vacancies are not able to be filled due to transition process on higher level.

b. Staff Updates:

- * Tim McCoy – Attended Rosgen Stream Training in Fayetteville, AR for five days. Nine projects are being built this winter in Tuttle, two in Cottonwood, and three in Delaware with more projects in each watershed to be going out for bid next spring. The Riparian/Wetland Program will release the Sediment Nutrient Initiative as soon as a farm bill has passed and CRP acres become available. The Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative will be released as soon as a little more information is obtained through NRCS and KSRE.
- * Dave Jones – none
- * Scott Carlson – Is working on developing and executing first court order with KDA legal department. Donna and Steve received Employee of the Quarter Awards.
- * Cindy Pulse – Has been preparing for Mining License Renewal, to begin December 1. Attended one day of the Governor's Water Conference. Student worker has been busy entering data into DocuWare and working on load reduction project. Intern has been working on entering information into website for Conservation District "Toolbox" (not live yet).
- * Rob Reschke – none
- * Steve Frost – Is working on Playa project in the western part of the state with Tim.

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- * Hakim Saadi – Seven rehabs were funded in 2018, were started and will hopefully be finished before the end of the fiscal year. He is reviewing the Watershed District Handbook and is currently 30% complete.
- * Cathy Thompson – Is working on cost-share most of the time. The new ranking process has been a challenge; Districts have to do ranking now before creating a contract.

c. Commissioner Updates:

- * Ted Nighswonger – Not much new is going on at the Water Authority, and he is still harvesting milo.
- * Brad Shogren – Attended the water conference; great networking went on there. Is excited to see new administration and their priorities with water. Is still harvesting milo.
- * Andy Larson – Is still harvesting milo. Wanted to compliment Donna on her visits to the Districts; feedback has been good about Donna being so helpful.
- * John Wunder - Still has soybeans to harvest. Conservation practices are getting started late in his area due to the moisture. In regards to staffing, people just don't stay in one job like they used to. Is there a way we can we enhance the District Manager position to reduce turnover? He appreciates everyone working hard for conservation throughout the state, enjoys discussions at SCC meetings, feels that we need to continue to think outside the box.
- * Rod Vorhees – The theme of KACD convention is “Create and Inspire Change”. He asked if all will allow SCC to get creative with next meeting. There are no details yet, but the meeting will be more in the format of a planning process to put all our heads together to discuss and improve. Continue to inspire and create change should be a part of our missions.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 14, 2019, at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.



Rob Reschke
Executive Director

**Cost-Share Financial Report Summary
as of 10/31/2018**

Attachment A

| Program | Project Fund Source Code | Allocation | Committed | Expenditures | Uncommitted |
|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Water Resources - 1205 | District Needs Allocation - DNA | \$1,582,874.01 | \$1,060,491.36 | \$107,553.04 | \$414,829.61 |
| | Total Maximum Daily Load - TMDL's | \$125,000.00 | \$35,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$80,000.00 |
| | Livestock Water Assistance - LWA | \$199,449.58 | \$46,668.24 | \$67,669.94 | \$85,111.40 |
| | Unallocated - (Milford - RCPP) | \$35,630.26 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$35,630.26 |
| | Totals | \$1,942,953.85 | \$1,142,159.60 | \$185,222.98 | \$615,571.27 |
| Non-Point Source Pollution - 1210 | Non-Point Source Pollution - NPS | \$1,358,703.65 | \$721,621.66 | \$215,914.39 | \$421,167.60 |
| | Total Maximum Daily Load - TMDL's | \$75,000.00 | \$8,300.00 | \$12,500.00 | \$54,200.00 |
| | Livestock Water Assistance - LWA | \$124,392.90 | \$6,725.00 | \$93,471.98 | \$24,195.92 |
| | Animal Feed Operation - Livestock Waste Management - AFO-LWM | \$50,000.00 | \$40,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| | Unallocated | \$55,147.13 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$55,147.13 |
| Totals | \$1,663,243.68 | \$776,646.66 | \$331,886.37 | \$554,710.65 | |
| Riparian & Wetland Program - 1260 | Riparian & Wetland - RW | \$50,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$50,000.00 |
| | Sediment and Nutrient Reduction - SNR | \$281,312.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$281,312.00 |
| | Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative - RQEI | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| | Unallocated - (Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative - REQI) | \$137,706.92 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$137,706.92 |
| Totals | \$469,018.92 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$469,018.92 | |
| CREP / WTAP - 1225 | | \$122,238.08 | \$0.00 | \$44,338.70 | \$77,899.38 |
| | Totals | \$122,238.08 | \$0.00 | \$44,338.70 | \$77,899.38 |
| Governor's Water Quality Buffer Initiative - 1250 | Buffer - BUF | \$325,021.26 | \$134,409.06 | \$0.00 | \$190,612.20 |
| | Totals | \$325,021.26 | \$134,409.06 | \$0.00 | \$190,612.20 |
| Irrigation Technology - 0088 | Irrigation Technology - IRR TECH | \$100,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$100,000.00 |
| | Totals | \$100,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$100,000.00 |
| Transfers from Other State Agencies - 2510 | | | | | |
| Water Resources Non-Point Source Pollution Kansas Water Office - RCCP - Milford | Reservoir Protection Initiative - RPI | \$1,119,855.10 | \$966,089.17 | \$45,245.05 | \$108,520.88 |
| | Animal Feed Operation - Livestock Waste Management - AFO-LWM | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$10,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| | Reservoir Protection Initiative - RPI - (\$219,855.10) | \$400,000.00 | \$219,855.10 | \$0.00 | \$180,144.90 |
| | Totals | \$1,529,855.10 | \$976,089.17 | \$55,245.05 | \$288,665.78 |
| Watershed Districts - 7000 | Cherry Plum Creek Watershed District No. 17 | \$40,000.00 | \$5,000.00 | \$1,906.50 | \$33,093.50 |
| | Cedar Creek Watershed District No. 97 | \$24,133.68 | \$4,029.84 | \$0.00 | \$20,103.84 |
| | Totals | \$64,133.68 | \$9,029.84 | \$1,906.50 | \$53,197.34 |
| Cost-Share Grand Totals | | \$6,216,464.57 | \$3,038,334.33 | \$618,599.60 | \$2,349,675.54 |

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation

SCC FY2019 Quarterly Financial Report

1st Quarter – DOC ending cash balances as of September 30, 2018

| State Water Plan Funds | Current FY Appropriation | Current FY Appropriation w/ Carryforward | 1st Qtr Expenditures | Current FY Expenditures | SMART Commitments | SMART Balance | CSIMS Commitments | Uncommitted / Remaining Funds |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | |
| Aid to Cons. Districts | \$2,092,637 | \$2,092,637 | (\$1,942,270) | (\$1,942,270) | (\$150,367) | \$0 | | \$0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Water Resources | \$1,948,289 | \$2,155,339 | (\$146,267) | (\$146,267) | (\$104,631) | \$1,904,441 | \$1,017,577 | \$1,904,441 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Point Source | \$1,860,023 | \$2,159,487 | (\$201,809) | (\$201,809) | (\$62,500) | \$1,895,178 | \$841,466 | \$1,895,178 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Watershed Dam Const. | \$550,000 | \$550,000 | \$0 | \$0 | (\$46,400) | \$503,600 | | \$503,600 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Water Supply Restoration | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| WQ Buffer Initiative | \$200,000 | \$325,022 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$325,022 | \$134,409 | \$325,022 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Riparian & Wetland | \$154,024 | \$526,519 | (\$14,683) | (\$14,683) | \$0 | \$511,836 | | \$511,836 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Streambank Stabilization | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$500,000 | | \$500,000 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| CREP / WTAP | \$201,963 | \$227,938 | (\$68,657) | (\$68,657) | \$0 | \$159,282 | | \$159,282 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Irrigation Technology | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$100,000 | | \$100,000 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | \$7,606,936 | \$8,636,941 | (\$2,373,685) | (\$2,373,685) | (\$363,898) | \$5,899,358 | \$1,993,452 | \$3,905,906 |

| State Transfers | Current FY Beginning Cash Balance | Prior FY Encumbrance Open / Paid | Deposits | 1 st Qtr Expenditures | Current FY Expenditures | SMART Commitments | SMART Balance | CSIMS Commitments | Uncommitted / Remaining Funds |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| KWO/KDHE/KDWPT | \$1,769,338 | (\$483,235) | 900,000 | (\$4,502) | (\$4,502) | (\$751,862) | \$1,429,739 | \$899,196 | \$530,542 |

| Fee Funds | Current FY Beginning Cash Balance | Prior FY Encumbrance Open / Paid | Deposits | 1 st Qtr Expenditures | Current FY Expenditures | SMART Commitments | SMART Balance | CSIMS Commitments | Uncommitted / Remaining Funds |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Land Reclamation | \$40,653 | (\$38,443) | \$10,425 | (\$24,095) | (\$24,095) | (\$4,700) | (\$16,160) | | (\$16,160) |
| Ag Liming | \$25,287 | (\$606) | \$33,846 | (\$6,316) | (\$6,316) | (\$4,700) | \$47,511 | | \$47,511 |
| TOTAL | \$65,940 | (\$39,049) | \$44,271 | (\$30,411) | (\$30,411) | (\$9,400) | \$31,351 | | \$31,351 |

Fiscal Notes:

1. The Mined Land Reclamation Program receives its annual revenues of approximately \$123,000 from a combination of a) license fees totaling about \$9,000 which are collected in the October – December time frame; and b) site registration & tonnage fees totaling about \$114,000 which are collected April – May.

2. The Agricultural Liming Materials Program receives its annual revenues of approximately \$33,000 from site registration & tonnage fees collected in the June – July time frame.

Land Reclamation

Annual Mine Report & Site Registration Renewal – due April 1

*Based on tons sold / consumed per year x \$.003 + \$45 per new acre affected
OR a \$45 minimum

License to Mine – due December 1

*License fee is dependent on tonnage reported on the Annual Mine Report
0-9,999 tons = \$25.00
10,000-99,999 tons = \$50
100,000-499,999 = \$100
500,000 + = \$150

Ag Lime

Quarry Registration Renewal – June 30

*\$25 per quarry

Annual Tonnage Report & Inspection – July 31

*\$.05 per ton

Attachment B

FY 2019 Livestock Water Supply Financial Assistance Initiative

- Initially approved 174 applications in 38 Counties
- Total amount initially approved was \$322,229.71 (WR &NPS funds utilized)
- 91 contracts have been paid as of 11/16/2018
- \$181,199.32 in payments as of 11/16/2018

Kansas Reservoir Protection Initiative

- \$1,119,855.11 has been allocated for approved contracts
- 100 contracts were initially approved
- 93 contracts were for cover crops
- Marshall County had 62 contracts for \$712,988.89 (58 were cover crop applications)
- We have paid \$63,734.73 on 13 contracts as of 11/16/2018
- Most cover crop contracts are coming in under the estimated dollars needed
- Marshall County hosted a KRPI Cover Crop tour on 10/31/2018, Lt. Governor Mann as well as several local and agency representatives were in attendance

Resolution No. 1: Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 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, the Kansas 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, a need for priority multipurpose small lakes projects, watershed dam construction and rehabilitation, restoration of water supply systems, and riparian and wetland protection is identified in the Kansas State Water Plan; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the conservation provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) have increased the demand for conservation technical assistance; 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 right transition assistance, CREP, water supply restoration, surface mining land reclamation and agricultural liming materials; then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the Division of Conservation’s FY2020 and FY2021 budget request as described below, and in addition, supports the Division’s request for appropriation language allowing the carryover of funds from the current fiscal year to FY 2020, as well as the carryover of funds from FY2020 to FY2021, as follows:

| | <u>FY2020</u> | <u>FY2021</u> |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| STATE GENERAL FUNDS: | | |
| Administrative Operations | \$ 483,000 | \$ 483,000 |
| STATE WATER PLAN FUNDS: | | |
| Aid to Conservation Districts | \$2,092,637 | \$2,092,637 |
| Water Resources Cost-Share | \$1,948,289 | \$1,948,289 |
| Water Supply Restoration | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |
| Non-Point Source Pollution | \$1,860,023 | \$1,860,023 |
| Watershed Dam Construction | \$ 550,000 | \$ 550,000 |
| Riparian and Wetland Protection | \$ 154,024 | \$ 154,024 |
| Water Quality Buffer Initiative | \$ 200,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program \ WTAP | \$ 201,963 | \$ 201,963 |
| Streambank Stabilization | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 |
| Irrigation Technology | <u>\$ 100,000</u> | <u>\$ 100,000</u> |
| Subtotal – State Water Plan Special Revenue Funds | \$7,606,936 | \$7,606,936 |
| FEE FUNDS: | | |
| Land Reclamation | \$ 141,921 | \$ 142,399 |
| Agricultural Liming Material | <u>\$ 34,217</u> | <u>\$ 52,450</u> |
| Subtotal – Fee Funds | \$ 176,138 | \$ 194,849 |
| FEDERAL FUNDS: | | |
| Natural Resource Conservation Service | \$ 900,000 | \$ 900,000 |
| TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST | <u><u>\$9,166,074</u></u> | <u><u>\$9,184,785</u></u> |

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY2020 and FY2021:

AND WHEREAS, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts also unilaterally advocates the Kansas Legislature to fully fund the State Aid to Conservation Districts program; and

WHEREAS, the annual budgets adopted for every conservation district in 2019 contain certifications of county allocations to each conservation district for calendar year 2020, and these district budgets should serve as the basis for the Division of Conservation's FY2020 and FY2021 State Aid to Conservation District state budget request, and thereby, for providing the necessary matching funds to conservation districts as provided under state law; then

THEREFORE, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports enhanced funding of the State Aid to Conservation Districts program to meet county conservation district budget needs according to the county certified amounts as per K.S.A. 2-1907c up to \$2,625,000; and then

FURTHER, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports funding of the following Kansas Department of Agriculture budget enhancement requests for the Division of Conservation in FY2020:

| Program | Description | Amount |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Water Resources | To increase implementation of BMPs that protect water quality and reduce sediment, phosphorus and other specified pollutants in high priority HUC 12 watersheds. To increase the implementation of BMPs that promote conservation of both surface water and ground water through adoption of evolving irrigation technologies such as soil moisture probes and remote telemetry systems. | \$500,000.00 |
| Watershed Dam Construction | To meet unmet needs in unfunded dam construction (approx 100 new sites) and for rehabilitation of existing flood control dams (approx 1,500 existing sites). | \$900,000.00 |
| Aid to Conservation Districts | To maintain and enhance conservation district operations by addressing annual inflationary costs. This enhancement provides underfunded opportunities for matching by county governments as per K.S.A. 2-1907b. | \$31,400.00 |
| Water Supply Restoration | To partner with the City of Augusta in rehabilitation of Santa Fe Lake which serves as one of the city's main water supply reservoirs. | \$465,000.00 |
| Conservation Reserve Enhancement | To prioritize enrollment of 4,000 additional acres (6,000 ac-ft of water rights in the Mid-Arkansas River region adjacent to the hydraulically connected Rattlesnake Creek impairment area). DOC will partner with landowners, TNC, Water Pack, GMD#5 and interest groups to conserve limited water resources. | \$400,000.00 |
| Non-Point Source Pollution Prevention | To implement additional soil health education activities in 105 county conservation districts as well as to increase landowner / operator scholarships for soil health educational seminars such as the annual No-Till on the Plains conference (\$100K). To increase additional technical assistance in high priority areas through the establishment of local conservation technician positions in contribution agreement partnerships with NRCS (\$200K). | \$300,000.00 |
| Riparian & Wetland | To enroll an additional 1,111 Tier 1 acres in the new Sediment & Nutrient Reduction program. | \$250,000.00 |
| Water Right Transition Assistance | To facilitate voluntary, permanent water right retirements (partial or whole) in the Rattlesnake Creek impairment area. DOC will partner with landowners, TNC, Water Pack, GMD#5 and interest groups to conserve limited water resources and assist them with fulfilling senior water right priorities at Quivera National Wildlife Refuge. | \$200,000.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$3,046,400.00 |



Attachment D

• Kansas Association of Conservation Districts • Employees' Organization

KACD-EO Report

SCC & KACD Meetings

November 2018

KACD EO had our Executive Board Meeting this morning. Finished organizing our KACD EO Annual Meeting. KACD EO does have the silent Christmas Auction and 50/50 raffle. KACD EO will be presenting our KACD EO District Professional Award at the Banquet tomorrow night. Our theme this year is KACD EO – Inspire Progress.

KACD EO is participating with the KACD Auction with items from each of our 5 areas. EO has also been assisting Dan Meyerhoff where we can with convention.

Our Photo Directory is finished and was presented at our KACD EO annual meeting. EO will make sure a copy is available for the KACD, SCC and DOC.

As far as EO dues. 99 counties paid dues this year. 123 employees paid dues. Numbers were up even with budgets being tight.

KACD EO participated with the Agriland Booth at the State Fair in Hutchinson. State Fair committee still looking for ways to get more volunteers to sign up.

Kerri Harris and myself participated in a presentation with Dan Meyerhoff at the Kansas Water Authority to promote conservation districts across Kansas to remind them that the districts are wanting to participate with progressing the Governor's Water Vision wherever possible. Several districts followed up by attending this year's Governor's Water Conference. KACD was a sponsor.

KACD EO will be having a telephone conference call in January of 2019 and a meeting in April of 2019 in Salina. Focus will be on the upcoming KACD EO State Wide Conference.

And as always, if anyone has any questions or issues they need assistance with please contact myself or your area KACD-EO rep for assistance.



**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the meeting of the
KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
WICHITA, KANSAS
November 18, 2018**

MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

- We are operating under a continued resolution through December 7, 2018. We received funding for that period based on FY18 levels. For some programs, we are using carryover funds from previous fiscal years due to the absence of a Farm Bill.
- At the end of June, we received approval to hire an additional 23 positions (8 in July, 9 in August, and 6 in September).
 - 9 of the 23 positions have been filled. Still waiting on other certificates to be completed.
 - Additional hiring has been approved for FY19, just waiting on final numbers for Kansas.
- NRCS attended a career fair at Fort Riley on November 8.

PROGRAMS

- Kansas will be announcing a FY19 application cutoff deadline for EQIP of December 21, 2018. This will include RCPP-EQIP. Payment schedules and ranking criteria will be posted to the Kansas NRCS website by November 21, 2018.
- Program rollout training is scheduled for the week of December 3, 2018. A one-day training will be held in each area.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

- CStP funds for modifications to enable 2018 payments were released November 9, 2018.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Signing ceremonies for the FY18 RCPP projects were held on October 25, 2018 at the Court House in Troy for Doniphan County and November 13, 2018 for Milford Lake at the Governors Water Conference.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program–Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)

- During FY18, Kansas received 30 ACEP-WRE applications. Seven applications (totaling 1,090 +/- acres) were approved for funding totaling \$2.6 million for easement purchases.
- Five applications that were received were under the Kansas Wetlands RCPP project with Ducks Unlimited of which 2 were funded on 287 acres.
- NRCS has ordered closings on 16 of the FY17 easement enrollments which will be completed by an outside contractor title company.

- Contracts have been approved to complete repair and maintenance work to 10 WRP easements in southeast Kansas
- No ACEP-ALE applications were received in FY17 or FY18. Closed on one FY15 ACEP- ALE Conservation Easement on 1,488 acres in Comanche County during the past FY18.
- Easement monitoring was completed on 100% of the 367 acquired easements in Kansas for FY18.

Watershed Operations

- Kansas NRCS continues to assist 3 local sponsors with 9 watershed projects, totaling \$2 million, funded in FY17. Funds are being used to update 5 existing NRCS Authorized Work Plans (WPs) and provide design assistance on 2 projects. The watershed districts recently contracted with Engineering firms to complete “Reaffirming Feasibility” requirements for each of the respective work plans.
- Kansas received \$2.6 million in FY18 funding to update an additional 4 NRCS Authorized Work Plans (WPs). NRCS and the 4 watershed districts have established project agreements for these watershed projects. Reaffirming Feasibility for all the remaining unbuilt sites in the WPs will be the next action.
- Watershed districts and local NRCS field offices are working together to ensure annual inspections are completed on all NRCS-assisted flood control structures. For Calendar Year 2018, 579 of 830 total dams remain under active Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Agreements. As of November 13, 2018, 103 inspections have been received for review and filing at the State office.

Watershed Rehabilitation

- Kansas continues work on 5 Watershed Rehabilitation projects. Planning has been completed on 3 sites (2 WPs) and they are now in design phase. Rehab planning for the remaining 2 sites is nearing completion. Both supplemental plans are on track to be finalized by March 2019.
- Kansas NRCS is assisting 4 local watershed districts with 7 Dam Assessments funded in F18. The contract for them shows reports will be completed and available to the Watershed District’s by April 2019.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)

- NRCS is working with City of Manhattan, who submitted a formal request for EWPP assistance, associated with flood damages. Site visits to determine eligibility of 6 sites has been completed with response back to the local sponsor to determine next steps.

NRCS of the Future

National Headquarters recently presented “NRCS of the Future.” There are several working groups made up of NRCS staff from field, areas, State, and National offices collaborating on improving Conservation Planning, Program Delivery, and Information Technology.

- CART Project and Conservation Planning
 - Solicit ideas for improvements for every Program
 - Seeking single application
 - Examine current ranking tools/process to verify/identify conservation-based ranking
 - Automate ranking for conservation programs based on information collected from conservation planning process

TECHNOLOGY

Resources

- NRCS is working on conservation plans for:
 - CRP Migratory Bird SAFE Continuous Signup Practice
 - Practice is for playa lake restoration in western Kansas and Nebraska
 - 125 offers accepted in Kansas by Farm Service Agency in September 2018
 - Those offers cover 7,994 acres.
 - NRCS must complete the conservation plans by December 12, 2018
 - CRP Grasslands
 - Farm Service Agency accepted 86 offers in September 2018
 - NRCS must complete the conservation plans by December 12, 2018
- NRCS continues to develop Conservation Desktop, the next generation planning tool that will replace Customer Service Toolkit. Conservation Desktop includes improved workflow efficiencies and additional integration with other NRCS tools and will fully replace Toolkit with the next year. A version of Conservation Desktop with limited functionality can currently be used by NRCS staff.
- NRCS has signed an agreement with Emporia State University to scan and georeference 1930s and 1940s aerial imagery for 33 counties in Kansas. This is a 2-year agreement that will result in the Kansas Data Access and Support Center (DASC) hosting the imagery as a public domain web service. DASC will also be developing web-based tools for other organizations to document their historical aerial imagery resources in both hard copy and digital format. The information will be used to prioritize for potential future agreements.

OUTREACH

Outreach

Senator Moran Conservation Tour

Senator Jerry Moran will be hosting his 13th annual conservation tour on November 20, 2018 in southeast Kansas with stops in Neosho, Labette, Cherokee, and Crawford Counties.

The sites for the upcoming conservation tour will focus on a variety of conservation issues to include:

- Healthy Streams Initiative and Sustainable Rivers Program
- Kansas Forest Service Community Forestry and Fire Management Programs
- Natural Resources Damages Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)
- Conservation discussion with Kansas Commodity groups
- Pond Irrigation and Terraces (Alan Egbert Farm)
- High Tunnel and Specialty Crops (Misty Morning Farms)