

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 9:06 a.m., Monday, March 25, 2019, at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, 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 (Left meeting at 3:30 p.m.)
Rod Vorhees, Area V Commissioner

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension
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
Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Rob Reschke, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager

Guests:

Mike Beam, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture (left at 1:15 p.m.)
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)
Andy Klein, Kansas Forest Service (KFS) (left at 11:30 a.m.)
Stephanie Royer, President, KACD-EO
Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director, KACD

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3. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Peter Tomlinson moved to amend the agenda by adding a discussion of the December cancellation/reallocation approvals made in the November SCC meeting. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion Carried.

Amendment to the agenda:

Add agenda item 8. c. Discuss the December cancellation/reallocation approvals from the November SCC meeting.

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the January 14, 2019, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- a. Larry Biles, Kansas Forrest Service (Andy Klein filled in for Larry who was called away to Topeka) **See Attachment A.** Andy also explained what is done with the drone when he and Tim are in the field.
- b. Dan Meyerhoff, KACD – **See Attachment B.** Dan mentioned the possibility of eliminating the joint meeting due to cost and in turn meeting more formally at the state fair (Idea from the KACD board). He asked for the thoughts of the SCC. Rod Vorhees suggested that they call the state fair meeting a partnership meeting making sure there is representation from all partners at the meeting. John Wunder prefers the summer meeting time for the joint meeting. Brad Shogren would make time to attend whenever it is. Discussions will continue.
- c. Stephanie Royer, KACD/EO – **See Attachment C.** Stephanie thanked Dan Meyerhoff for all the things he does for districts. State EO conference is May 7-8 in Hays. The conference is built around educational tools. Stephanie has applied for the great bend prairie RAC, she hopes to find out if she gets it soon. She wants to see the state fair booth continue. EO has spent a lot of time assisting with training new district managers. Many water festivals and envirothons are in the works this spring.
- d. Herb Graves, SAKW – We need to get the word out about what each of us do. NRCS has approached SAKW about taking over the management of the operation and maintenance of the PL566 program. SAKW has been approached about setting up a conservation easement bank for stream problems with flow and habitat issues. They have met with the Corps of Engineers about this. SAKW are having O&M workshops in mid-April.
- e. Rod Vorhees extended an invitation to Acting secretary Beam to speak at the SCC luncheon during the KACD convention.

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6. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Conservation District employee update

Area I

Rawlins County CD: Rachele Hubbard, new District Manager, effective November 15, 2018. Amber Barnes, previous District Manager, resigned effective December 14, 2018.

Area II

Lane County CD: Stryder Montgomery, new District Manager, effective December 3, 2018. Ann Marie Jennings, previous District Manager, resigned effective December 28, 2018.

Ness County CD: Jenifer Axman, new District Manager, effective January 2, 2019. Nathella Humburg, previous District Manager, resigned effective November 23, 2018.

Stanton County CD: Kinsey Puyear, new District Manager, effective February 26, 2019. Kim Gerard, previous District Manager, resigned effective March 15, 2019.

Area III

Barton County CD: Sara Martinz, new District Manager, effective December 1, 2018. Pam Tucker, previous District Manager, retired effective December 21, 2018.

Harvey County CD: Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer, new District Manager, effective February 4, 2019. Krysta Woelk, previous District Manager, resigned effective January 11, 2019.

Area IV

Jackson County CD: Brian Boeckman, new District Manager, effective November 26, 2018. Jessica Wrosch, previous District Manager, resigned effective November 16, 2018.

Jefferson County CD: Taresa Stutz, new District Manager, effective February 1, 2019. Cheli Helm, previous District Manager, resigned effective January 18, 2019.

Area V

Montgomery County CD: Rob Morgan will be resigning on 3/29/2019. The new District Manager will be Levi Clubine; employment date 3/15/2019.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Legislative/Kansas Water Authority update

- i. Herb Graves discussed HB 2188 that deals with the abolishment of a Kansas watershed district. SAKW took a neutral stance.

- b. Travel Updates

- i. NACD Annual Meeting, February 2-6, 2019, San Antonio Texas

- Rob Reschke noted that Donna Meader, Dave Jones and he attended the NACD Annual Meeting. Rob stated that he felt staff attendance at this meeting was important and that he was going to try to have different staff attend in the future. Dave Jones stated that he felt the meeting was worth while.

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ii. NACD Spring Fly-In, March 13, 2019, Washington D.C.

- Rod Vorhees and Rob Reschke attended the spring fly in. Rod stated that it was a good opportunity for the partnership.
- John Wunder asked Secretary Beam if the SCC could use a “fly-in” type of approach in Topeka to go before different committees. Secretary Beam said KDA will start working on the next budget this summer, he will have a better idea then on what KDA’s strategy will be after the budget has been completed.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Program Policy Review

i. FY 2019 Irrigation Technology Initiative

- Dave Jones presented a DRAFT DOC memo outlining the proposed FY 2019 Irrigation Technology Initiative – **See Attachment D.**

Discussion by the Commissioners took place as follows:

- Brad Shogren mentioned looking at infrared flights as an alternative technology.
- Peter Tomlinson recommended that an obligation for management change (using less water) should be required.
- Steve Frost said that water conservation was a part of being in an approved water conservation area.
- Brad Shogren suggested to use caution when putting constraints to the water use, many factors to consider.
- Terry Medley suggested that LEMA’s be added to the eligible initiative area.
- Acting Secretary Mike Beam mentioned LEMA’s in relation to the initiative.
- Steve Frost noted that the WCA program is voluntary, a distinct difference from the LEMA program.
- Dan Devlin asked if components could be purchased prior to the initiative being approved. Dave Jones said this would be addressed.
- Brad Shogren suggested allowing prior purchase of probes for the first year of the initiative.
- Dan Devlin suggested putting a limit on the number of sensing units and moisture probes.
- Ted Nighswonger suggested dropping the mobile drip systems from the initiative.
- Several Commissioners suggested taking applications for 30 days and ranking them.

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the inclusion of the SCC suggestions. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger.

A motion was made by Peter Tomlinson to amend the prior motion. The amendment to the motion would prioritize (1) soil moisture probes, (2) remote sensing units and (3) mobile drip irrigation systems. The motion to amend the previous motion was seconded by John Wunder. After no further discussion, the amended motion carried.

ii. FY 2020 NPS On-Site Waste Policy

- Dave Jones discussed current issues with the On-Site Waste practice. – **See Attachment E.**

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Discussion by the commissioners took place as follows:

- Brad Shogren wanted to discuss the whole NPS program, possibly adding practices from WR and make them eligible in NPS (e.g. adding terraces as an eligible practice in NPS). John Wunder agreed.
- Stephanie Royer suggested that local county Conservation District employees get certified to be the technical arm for the local sanitary code. She also suggested looking at new practices for NPS.
- Karen Woodrich said that if NRCS technical assistance is being used for state programs, all NRCS standards and specs must be followed. (NRCS Grazing Management Plans should be required for state cost share as well.) Karen indicated that NRCS staff would review current NRCS grazing management plan requirements.
- Brad Shogren suggested going back to square one on the NPS program.
- Scott Carlson asked Karen how the NRCS grazing plans were enforced; she said forage height. It was discussed that current DOC policy was made at the recommendation of NRCS.
- Brad Shogren suggested looking at the local NPS management plans again.
- Rod Vorhees suggested that a packet of information on the NPS program would be helpful.
- Rob Reschke recommended a “Did You Know” on NPS issues.
- Rob Reschke said a web link to the DOC programs manual could be emailed to the Commissioners.

b. DOC Project and Grant Involvement

i. CCGA Grant Request Update

- Steve Frost and Rob Reschke gave an update on three CCGA grant applications submitted to NRCS by the DOC. The three grant applications involved different scenarios for additional contribution agreement positions.

ii. Doniphan County Water Quality Technology Farm Update

- Dave Jones gave a brief update about the potential water quality technology farm in Doniphan County. – **See Attachment F.**

c. Discuss the December cancellation/reallocation approvals from the November SCC meeting

- Dave Jones reviewed the December cost-share cancellation funding priorities that were approved at the November SCC meeting. He reminded the commissioners that no reallocation of cancelled cost-share funds was approved by the SCC.

9. UPDATES:

a. KDA Division of Conservation Updates:

- i. State Water Plan Fund Financial Update – **See Attachment G.**
- ii. Riparian and Wetland Protection Program Update – **See Attachment H.**
- iii. Cost-Share Review and District Training Update – **See Attachment I.**
- iv. CSIMS/RALIS Update

- Scott Carlson provided an update on the progress of CSIMS and RALIS. The programmer is making good progress on CSIMS 2.0 and has been working on issues as they are found by users. John Wunder commented that he has heard that there have been many bugs in the new

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program. Dave Jones and Scott Carlson commented that they have heard many positive comments from the Districts. The programmer is on the final stages of completing RALIS.

b. Ex-Officio and Appointed Member Updates:

- Karen Woodrich (USDA, NRCS): **See Attachment J.**
- Dan Devlin (KSU, KCARE): K-State is searching for a new Dean and Director of the College of Agronomy. Several other positions will get filled once the dean position is filled. Dan testified in D.C. for congress on a water resource issue. He also travelled to the Ukraine and toured ag lands with the United Nations and State Department.
- Peter Tomlinson (KSU Research & Extension): The Agronomy Department is operating under an interim administrator, the Garden City and Parsons agronomist positions open, an extension weed management position will be filled as well. He is leading a group in nitrogen and phosphorus extension publications.
- Terry Medley (DWR): **See Attachment K.**

c. Elected Commissioner Area Updates:

- Ted Nighswonger (Area I): The GMD board had a favorable ruling on one lawsuit. Please have anyone with an issue contact the commissioners. They have lost technicians and other positions; it is harder to get things done.
- Andy Larson (Area II): The river has flowed all winter in his area. The local environmental protection group has disbanded in his area.
- Brad Shogren (Area III): Brad provided an update on changes to his local WRAPS group, WRAPS has undergone many changes statewide. Brad gave a history of his local WRAPS group. They have landowners interested in doing tree revetments. He attended his RAC meeting in Hays.
- John Wunder (Area IV): **See Attachment L.**
- Rod Vorhees (Area V): **See Attachment M.**

10. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Andy Larson to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2019, at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.



Rob Reschke
Executive Director



Overview

A \$550,000, USFS, State and Private Forestry grant awarded to state forestry agencies in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas in 2016 to establish geospatial tree canopy layers in each state using 4-band National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) photos. Thanks to USFS, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis, for the first time, states will be able to identify location and extent of windbreaks in each respective state. Each state receives \$123,400 with the exception of Kansas which receives \$179,800 to coordinate the project. The grant ends September 30, 2019.

In addition to the creation of geospatial tree canopy data the project will accomplish the following deliverables:

- ◆ Condition assessment of windbreaks
- ◆ Ecosystem service values of windbreaks
- ◆ Geospatial data of Wind Erodibility Index of 87 or higher for new windbreak establishment
- ◆ Risk assessment and estimates of economic impact of invasive species
- ◆ Targeted outreach plan using Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) to engage priority landowners in windbreak renovation, establishment and invasive species control
- ◆ A final report to be presented at the 2019 USFS/NRCS Two Chief's Partnership Summit meeting

State Contacts:

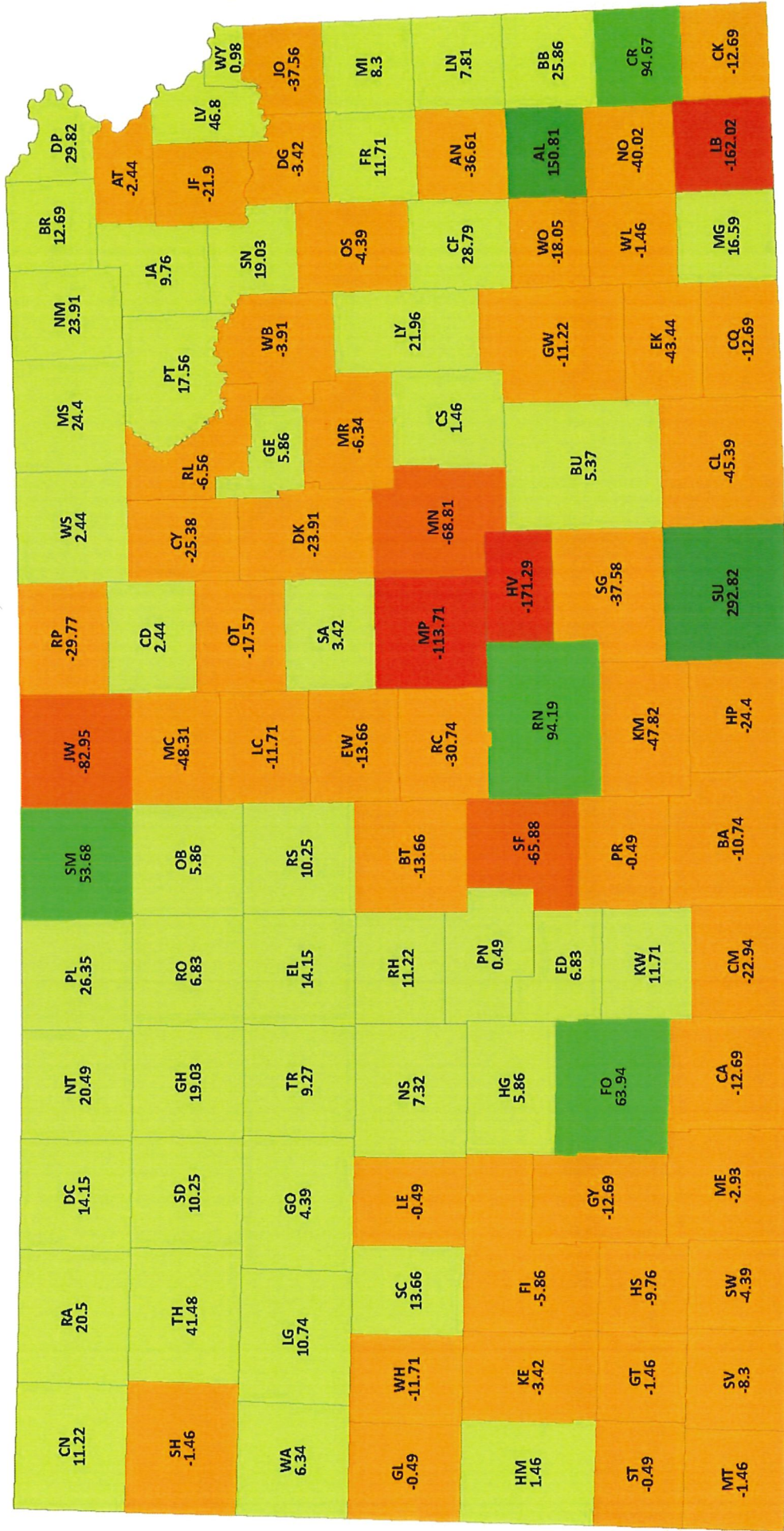
Kansas Forest Service
Bob Atchison, Rural Forestry Coordinator
785-532-3310
atchison@ksu.edu

Nebraska Forest Service
John Duplissis
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Brian.Garbisch@state.sd.us

North Dakota Forest Service, NDSU
Lezlee Johnson
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Lezlee.Johnson@ndsu.edu

Kansas Windbreak Changes 2005 to 2015



Windbreak Changes (miles)

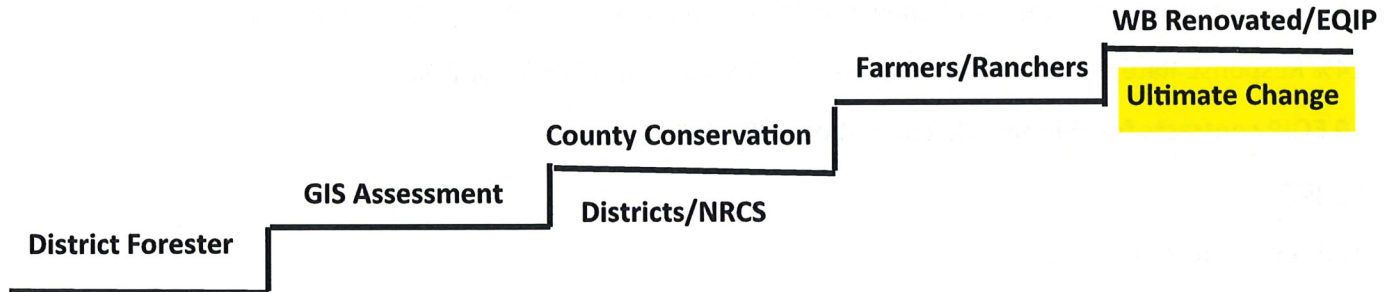


Kansas Example of TELE Integration— Windbreak Renovation Outreach

1. Setting the objective: What do you want landowners to do after receiving your message?

Fifty farmers with windbreaks in fair to poor condition in the Smoky Hill River watershed will contact their Conservation Districts October – December to discuss windbreak renovation projects through EQIP

What ultimate changes you want to see? Steps on your ladder of engagement?



2. Audience segment: Who is your primary target audience for this outreach effort? Why?

Farmers with older windbreaks in fair to poor condition that meet NRCS criteria as a resource concern under EQIP for Forestland Health. GIS assessment has identified location of windbreaks in fair to poor condition. Landowner parcel data from County Appraisers provide contact info. Includes NWOS profiles Supplemental Income and Uninvolved Owners.

Others to reach and influence: District Foresters, Conservation District Boards and Managers, NRCS District Conservationists

3. Audience Profiles: Important audience attributes/themes that guide message development?

Influenced by financial incentives and gains. Wary of restrictions on land use. Practice must be cost effective. May participate in cost-share programs. May not care about environmental benefits. Interested in reduced taxes. Reach by direct mail. Average age 66 years old. 96% white, 82% male and prime prospects.

4. Develop the Message: [Audience X] will do [Action Y] because [compelling reason].

Farmers will contact Conservation Districts/foresters to apply for EQIP windbreak renovation practices because of financial support for projects.

5. Choose channels

Personal letters will be mailed by Conservation District managers to farmers with windbreaks in fair to poor condition inviting them to contact conservation districts or foresters to begin the application process for EQIP for windbreak renovation. An EQIP brochure explaining the program with cost-share rates is included in the letter.

6. Evaluate and Adapt - How do you measure success what needs to change?

3 Counties of Outreach Focus and Results 2015

Wallace

136 Letters mailed

19 Landowners responded interested in renovation

22 Properties visited

26 Total windbreaks serviced, 18 Renovation Plans, 2 New Windbreak Plans (20 Total Plans)

14% Response Rate, 91% Had Plan Written, 82% Renovations Eligible for EQIP

10 EQIP contracts for Windbreak Renovation - \$62,040

Logan

120 Letters mailed

10 Landowners responded interested in renovation

10 Properties visited

15 Total windbreaks serviced, 7 Renovation Plans, 1 New Windbreak Plan (8 Total Plans)

9% Response Rate, 80% Had Plan Written, 70% Renovations Eligible for EQIP

10 EQIP contracts for Windbreak Renovation - \$27,000

Gove

88 Letters mailed

7 Landowners responded interested in renovation

10 Properties visited

12 Total windbreaks serviced, 8 Renovation Plans, 2 New Windbreak Plan (10 Total Plans)

8% Response Rate, 143% Had Plan Written, 114% Renovations Eligible for EQIP

4 EQIP contracts for Windbreak Renovation - \$29,325

Wallace, Logan, Gove Totals

344 Letters mailed

36 Landowners Responded

42 Properties Visited

53 Windbreaks Serviced, 33 Renovation Plans, 5 New Windbreak Plans (38 Total Plans)

10.5% Response Rate, 105% Had Plans Written, 92% Renovations Eligible for EQIP

24 EQIP Contracts for Windbreak Renovation - \$118,365 (over 90% of state-wide allocation)

Walnuts in Indian Country • Agenda

Sunday, June 16

12:00 – 4:30 PM Walnut Masters Golf Tournament: State

Forester, Larry Biles hosts!! See registration.

10 AM– Noon Walnut Council Foundation Board Meeting
(Chicago/Council Bluffs Rooms)

1 – 4 PM Walnut Council Board Meeting (same room)

2:00 – 5:00 Registration, Exhibits and Silent Auction Opens

5:00 PM Mini-buses Depart for Reception (meet in lobby)

5:30 – 9:00 KS History Museum Reception
Welcome: Charlie Barden, KS Chapter Prez
and Larry Biles, State Forester, Kansas

Meeting Blessing: Joseph Rupnick, Prairie
Band Potawatomi, National Tribal Chair

Museum Tour, Hors d'oeuvres, Drinks

8:00 – 9:00 Mini busses transport back to Resort

8:45 – 9:30 PM Hospitality room opens RM 1057- Courtyard

Monday, June 17

7:00 – 8:00 AM Hot Breakfast Longhouse Buffet \$5.99!

**8 AM – 4PM Spouse's Tour Departs for State Capitol &
Governor's Mansion**

Field Tour Departs – Barrow Ranch

Drone & equipment demos – Jami Gose,
Gresco Tech Solutions, Forsyth, GA

Assessing Black Walnut – Danny Barrows,
Barrows Logging

Sawmill demo – David Boyt, Pottershop Hollow
Tree Farm and Sawmill

Lunch – Stewarts Ol' Smokehouse

Copperhead Hill Ranch – Understanding
Agroforestry practices with Dusty Walter,
Director, Natural Resources Man, Univ.
MO; John Buchanan, Hugh Pence

Noon Spouses/Tour Lunch Blind Tiger Brewery

1:00 – 3:00 PM Spouses Tour Ted Ensley Botanical Gardens

4:30 PM All Tours Arrive Back to Resort Hotel

4:30 – 6:45 Dinner on your own

6:00 – 8:30 Silent auction and exhibits open

7:00 Evening Sessions – Great Lakes Ballroom

7:00 – 9:00 Women Owning Woodlands – Dr. Tamara
Walking Stick, Arkansas Extension Forester

Effects of Fire and Oak Thinning in KS
Woodlands, Dan Dey, USDA FS NRS

Protecting Yourself from Ticks and Disease,
Brian Herrin, KSU Vet Medicine

Landowner Show and Tell

8:45 – 9:30 PM Hospitality room opens RM 1057- Courtyard

Tuesday, June 18

7:00 – 8:00 AM Hot Breakfast Longhouse Buffet \$5.99!

8:00 AM Busses Depart for Kickapoo Reservation

**9:00 AM Spouses Tour Departs Old Prairie Town &
Mulvane Art Museum**

9:00 Kickapoo Riparian Forest Tour
Birds of the Forest, Alice Boyle, Assistant
Professor, Division of Biology, KSU
Wildlife & Ecology, Bill Busby, Associate Scientist,
KS Biological Survey

Working Forest Management, Ryan Rastok,
Forester, Kansas Forest Service

Stream Processes, Phil Balch, Stream
Specialist Wildhorse Riverworks

Forest Assessment, Ryan Neises, Forester,
Ecotone Forestry

Plant Identification, Charles Barden, KSU
Extension Forester

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (spouses do lunch & wine tasting at
Glaciers Edge Winery)

1:00 PM Return to Resort Hotel

2:00 – 5:00 PM Indoor Sessions – Grand Lakes Ballroom

Lumber vs. Nuts Making the Choice – Dr. Bill
Reid, KSU Nut Specialist, Retired

What Can Drones Do? – Trevor Witt, UAS Remote
Sensing & flight Instructor, K-State Polytech

History of the Potawatomi Tribe – Thomas
Wabnum, Tribal Historical Preservation

Landowner Show and Tell

6:00 – 6:45 Social (cash bar), Silent auction, music Atchison's

6:30 Silent auction ends

6:45 Annual Awards Banquet

8:00 PM Live Auction/Entertainment

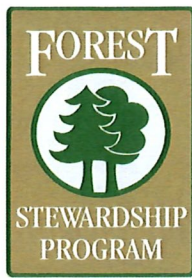
Wednesday, June 19

7:00 – 8:00 AM Breakfast Buffet Provided
Great Lakes Ballroom

8 – 9:30 AM Presentations - Great Lakes Ballroom
Ambrosia Beetles and Walnut Plantations –
Geoff Williams, Purdue Ph.D. candidate
Thinning and Fires Effects on Upland Mixed
Hardwoods – Dr. Charles Barden, KSU Extension
Forester

9:30 – 10:00 Walnut Council business meeting

10:30 – 11:30 State Chapter Reports, Door Prizes, Closing



Rural Forestry Program Update

KDA Division of Conservation Commissioners Meeting

March 25, 2019



Kansas Forest Action Plan Revision

The Kansas Forest Action Plan is the strategic plan for Kansas forests and agroforestry resources. Originating with the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, updates are required every 10 years. **June of 2020** is the deadline for the next update. The Kansas Forest Service will be requesting KDA Division of Conservation input of the assessment and strategies in the plan to address priority natural resource issues. Our goal is to present a draft for review at a KTC meeting this fall. Copies of the current plan maybe found at https://www.kansasforests.org/kansas_forest_services/kfs_docs/Kansas_FRAS_6-28.pdf.

Great Plains Initiative (GPI) 1 & 2

GPI 1 and GPI 2 are both windbreak initiative grants from the USDA Forest Service to promote windbreak renovation and establishment through State Forestry agencies in Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. GPI 1 was completed in 2009. It collected information on windbreak condition and location in the four states through on-the-ground inventory and GIS/remote sensing analysis. A summary report of GPI 1 may be found at https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs177.pdf.

GPI 2 conducted windbreak inventory in the 4-states in 2018 and for the first time is creating state-wide GIS tree canopy layers at 1 meter resolution in all four states. This enables us to document windbreak removals and establishment. GPI 2 also delivers an outreach plan to promote windbreak renovation and establishment using [Tool for Engaging Landowners Effectively](#) (TELE).

We employed TELE in an outreach campaign in Logan, Wallace and Gove Counties which was extremely effective for windbreak renovation. I have attached information about that outreach project (WB Renovation Engagement) and a description is also posted on the TELE website at <https://www.engaginglandowners.org/resources/case-study-kansas-windbreaks>. The WB Smoky Hill Final Report attachment is the GIS tool we used for outreach in Logan, Gove and Wallace counties.

National Walnut Council Meeting- Prairie Band Casino & Resort, Mayetta, KS • June 16- June 19

The Walnut Council (<https://walnutcouncil.org/>) is a science based organization that encourages research, discussion, and application of knowledge about growing hardwood trees. This international association represents nearly 900 woodland owners, foresters, forest scientists, and wood-producing industry representatives. This national meeting promotes sustainable forest management, conservation, reforestation, and utilization of American black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and other fine hardwoods.

Hosted by the Kansas Forestry Association & Kansas Forest Service, the meeting provides 4 days of field tours, scientific-based forums and networking for natural resource professionals. Contact Liz Jackson at jackson@purdue.edu or (765) 583-3501 to register.

Kansas Forest Service Grants

April 30, 2020 our RCPP grant, Improving Water Quality through Forestry Practices expires. We are asking for an extension. We have appreciated KDA-DOC in-kind support for a USDA FS LSR grant to remove tamarisk in Rattlesnake Creek Watershed, close to 20 stream miles have been restored and over 2,000 acres of tamarisk removed. Also grateful for the Water Quality Advocate Network grant collaboration and our share office arrangement with Shane Neel and Andy Klein. We would like to explore additional in-kind support from KDA-DOC for another LSR grant this year to continue to support Andy Klein and Jarran Tindle's positions. Also, working with Nebraska Forest Service on another RCPP grant in the Big-Little Blue watersheds to expand our work into Nebraska.

**State Conservation Commission Meeting
KACD Report
March 25, 2019**

Legislative Update – KACD continues to be a member of the Kansas Agricultural Alliance. The Alliance meets weekly during the Legislative session to discuss pending legislation that may be of interest to one or more members of the Alliance. KACD has been active in working several bills this year and has been actively campaigning for an increase to Aid to Conservation Districts.

The Alliance will be participating in a “Day at the Ranch” which provides an opportunity for legislators to learn more about Kansas agriculture. The attached flyer gives an overview of what legislators will see on April 27th in Greenwood county.

The KACD board, Stephanie Royer and I attended the SAKW legislative dinner in Topeka in January. The board had visits scheduled with legislators at the Capitol the next day but inclement weather resulted in most of the visits being cancelled.

KACD was represented at the Commodity Classic in Manhattan January 24th.

Allen Roth attended the KLICA meeting on January 28th.

KACD was a sponsor again this year of the Kansas Natural Resources Conference January 31- Feb 1. The conference had a record attendance this year at 403.

KACD exhibited at Women Managing the Farm Feb 7 – 8th.

The KACD board and executive director attended the NACD conference in San Antonio February 1-5. The resolution submitted by Kansas regarding CRP haying and grazing was approved at the national convention.

Elizabeth Jueneman from Washington Co received 1st place in the kindergarten – 1st grade division of the poster contest. You can view her poster on the KACD website.

KACD sponsored a “Conservation Day at the Capitol on February 20th. NRCS, DOC, SCC, KACD-EO and the KACD board participated in the event and had the opportunity to visit with legislators about the conservation partnership. KACD did sponsor lunch for legislators at the event.

KACD participated in the NACD Fly In on March 13th in Washington DC. Having the SCC, DOC and NRCS along with us really highlighted the partnership and made our visits highly effective.

KACD executive director will be attending an Oklahoma Conservation Leadership Class this week demonstrate the AR Sandbox, visit with the class about the education agreement with NRCS which allowed us to obtain the sandboxes and other educational equipment, and talk about the great work

districts do in Kansas with youth and adult education. I am also interested learning about their Conservation Leadership program to see if it is something we might want to look at in Kansas.

KACD continues to work with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on the Monarch Butterfly RCPP. Three small group planning sessions were held this month resulting in several applications and several more follow up visits with interested producers planned.

KACD entered into an agreement to provide ATV certification and re-certification training for NRCS and conservation district employees. Dan Worcester has been contracted to provide this training statewide. Dan is attending train the trainer training this week and should be ready to go to work in April.

An application to renew the five current conservation technicians has been submitted to NACD in the second round of the technical assistance grants. Two additional positions were also applied for. One is a conservation technician position in Clay Center. The other position is a proposed pilot position that would work with private sector agronomists to educate and train them on conservation planning and federal conservation programs. The objective of this pilot is to engage the private sector to inform producers of opportunities available through the conservation partnership.

KACD continues to work with KDHE on the WRAPS partnership agreement which becomes effective July 1st. Training for districts involved in this partnership is tentatively being scheduled in conjunction with the Employee organization statewide meeting in May.

The KACD 75th annual convention will be held November 24 – 26 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Wichita. KACD is looking forward to celebrating 75 years of representing conservation districts. As was done last year, KACD will be asking districts to consider submitting proposed theme for convention with the winner getting a free registration to convention.

The next KACD board meeting will be April 24th at Camp Wood during the state Envirothon competition.

A Day ^{AT THE} RANCH



April 27, 2019 | Greenwood County

**7 a.m. bus departure from Kansas City
Kansas Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. | 1405 N 98th Kansas City, KS**

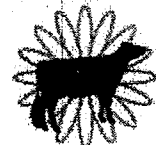
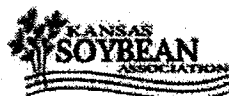
**8 a.m. bus departure from Topeka
Kansas State Capitol Circle Parking | SW 8th & Van Buren**

5 p.m. return to Topeka | 6 p.m. return to Kansas City

- View modern agriculture practices
- See a Flint Hills prescribed burn
- Talk about headline topics in agriculture

**Questions: Aaron Popelka, 785-806-7714 or Tucker Stewart, 785-747-6152
RSVP by April 19 to: megan@kla.org or 785-273-5115**

Transportation provided by Kansas Agricultural Alliance





Attachment C

• Kansas Association of Conservation Districts • Employees' Organization

KACD-EO Report

SCC Meeting

March 2019

KACD EO Statewide Conference is coming up. May 7 & 8 in Hays. First day will have agency reports and updates. Afternoon will be educational tool training and painting wood signs for fun activity. Second day will be presenters on Earth Team Volunteer Reporting and Outreach Reporting, then finishing with an educational lesson plan. Everyone at this meeting is welcome to attend.

KACD EO is giving Donna Meader with the KDA-DOC feedback and assistance with the new schedule for the Agriland Volunteer schedule for the upcoming state fair. EO appreciates her efforts with this.

KACD EO has spent a lot of time with new employee training. There has been a huge turnover of district staff in the last couple of years. EO is trying to do their part to help keep the districts moving along, headed in the right direction.

KACD EO encourages all district staff and supervisors to promote conservation districts where possible and stay ahead of their county needs. They have been encouraged to apply for vacant RAC openings across the state of Kansas. Districts have been involved in organizing Expiring CRP meetings that talk about the options of keeping it in grass, breaking it out or selling it. And have also been involved with public interest meetings for Prescribed Burn Associations in their counties.

Districts have also been involved with several education and enterprise activities. Several water festivals, watershed dam field days, soil & crop days, forester days and the Envirothon. They have been working on seed for CRP inter-seeding, pollinator areas and monarch butterfly areas. A lot of district plant trees and lay fabric and sell nursery trees. With the soil saturations most of the field work is way behind schedule.

KACD EO wants to remind our conservation partners that the districts are here to address our local resource concerns but are also here to help educate, organize and implement any conservation efforts across the state regionally or statewide to promote the Water Plan and other state priorities. There is an efficient, dependable network of districts across the state with local district in each county. Conservation is our focus.

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

Memorandum

To: Kansas Conservation Districts
From: Rob Reschke, Executive Director
Date: March XX, 2019
Re: FY 2019 Irrigation Technology Initiative

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation is pleased to announce the availability of funds to assist landowners with irrigation efficiency technology. This initiative is designed to promote irrigation efficiency by providing cost-share assistance to landowners for automated soil moisture probes, mobile drip irrigation systems and remote monitoring systems.

Following is additional program guidance on the FY 2019 Irrigation Technology Initiative:

- Applications will be accepted thru April 30, 2019.
- Eligible soil moisture probes must be automated and capable of providing data to the landowner.
- Eligible soil moisture probes can be leased or purchased by the landowner.
- Water use data including data collected by the soil moisture probes and/or remote monitoring system must be provided at the DOC's request.
- The cost-share rate for this initiative will be 70%.
- The landowner limit for this initiative will be \$10,000.00.
- Invoices for the lease or purchase of the soil moisture probe must be provided to the conservation district prior to any cost-share payment being made.
- Invoices for the purchase of mobile drip irrigation systems and remote monitoring systems must be provided to the conservation district prior to any cost-share payment being made.
- Land must be located in a DWR approved Water Conservation Area to be eligible for this initiative.

Attached is a spreadsheet that you can use to submit applications for the Irrigation Efficiency Soil Moisture Probe Initiative. Please submit the applications via email to David.Jones@ks.gov.

If you have any questions regarding the FY 2019 Irrigation Technology Initiative, contact Dave Jones with our office at 785-564-6623.

RR: daj

cc: NRCS State Office

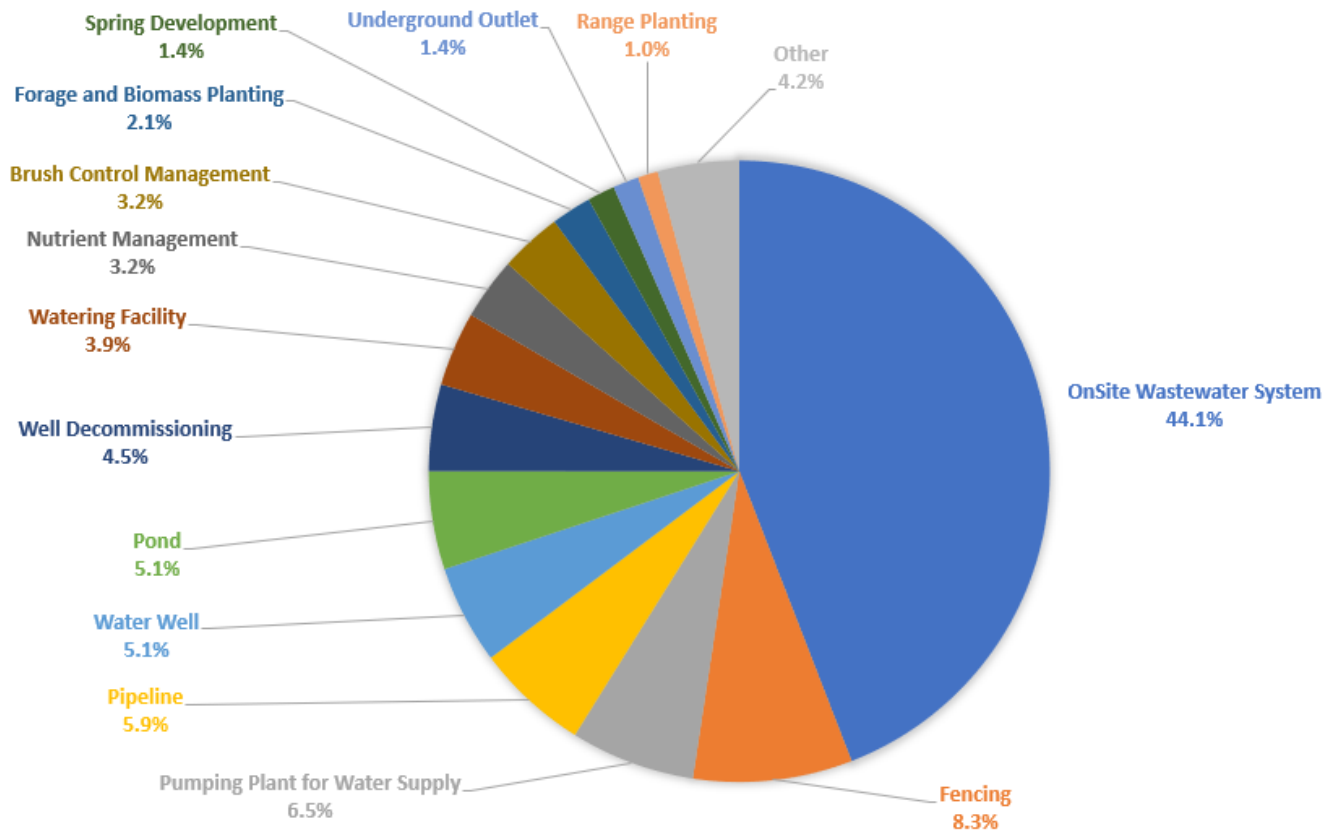
NRCS Area Offices

SCC Commissioners

Mike Beam, Acting Secretary

Attachment E

FY 2020 NPS On-Site Waste Policy Discussion



- 44.1% of the NPS cost-share dollars on average are spent for on-site wastewater systems. (Average of \$600,000 per year)
- Several western Kansas counties have elected to leave existing LEPP groups or the LEPP group has dissolved.
- Some conservation districts have informed the DOC of issues getting systems designed and permits issued.
- The DOC has been in contact with the KDHE LEPP program to discuss these issues.
- Enforcement of a local county sanitary code is required for a county conservation district to offer on-site waste under the NPS cost-share program.

Attachment F

Doniphan County Technology Farm

Date: 2/7/2019

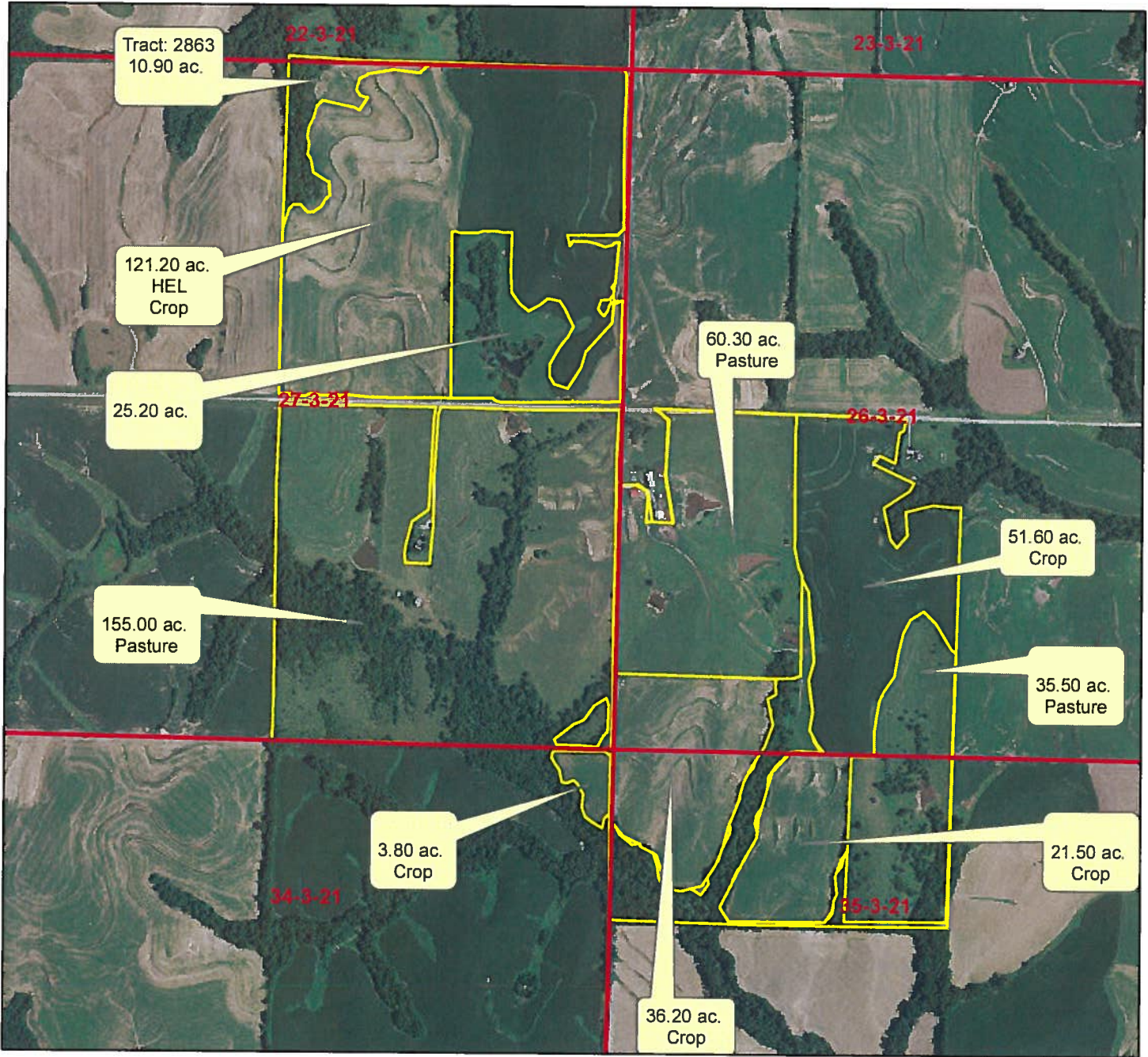
Customer(s): THADDEUS GALEN GEIGER

District: DONIPHAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Approximate Acres: 639.6



Assisted By: Patricia Griffin

State and County: KS, Doniphan County, Kansas



Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Legend

-  plss_a_ks043
-  Technology Farm

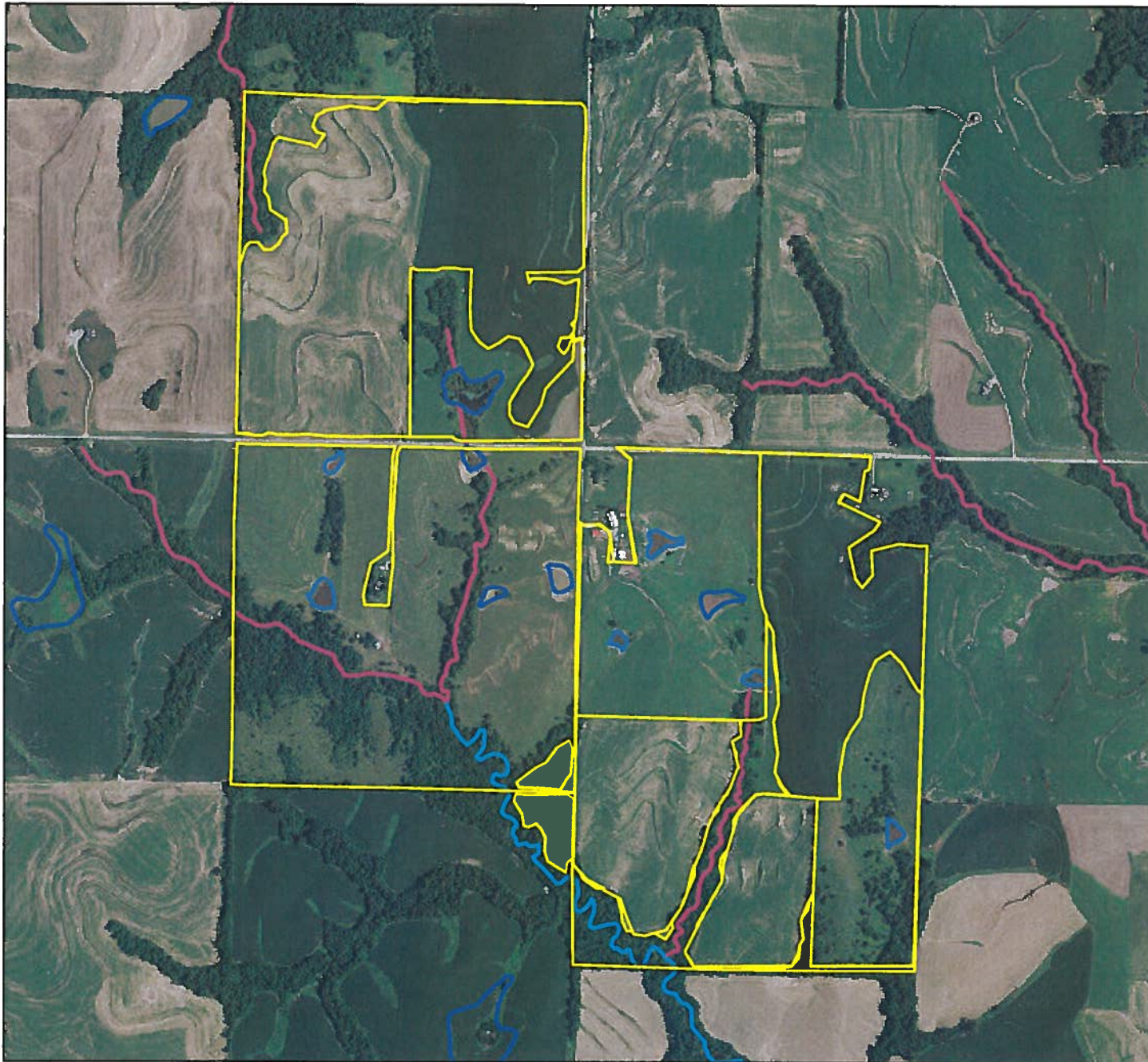


Hydrology Map

Date: 2/7/2019










Customer(s): THADDEUS GALEN GEIGER
District: DONIPHAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Approximate Acres: 639.6

Assisted By: Patricia Griffin
State and County: KS, Doniphan County, Kansas



Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Legend

-  Technology Farm **hydro_l_ks043**
-  ponds
-  New Terrace IET
-  Artificial Path
-  Canal
-  Connector
-  Intermittent
-  Perennial
-  Shoreline



Attachment G

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation

Fiscal Notes:

March 25, 2019

		FUNDING OF EXPENSES							
		FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY19 Adj	FY20	FY21
		Actuals	Actuals	Actuals	Actuals	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
FUND #	Fund Name								
1000-0053	State General Fund	484,447	480,347	498,300	480,800	482,500	483,000	483,000	483,000
1800-0088	State Water Plan - Irrigation Technology	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	100,000
1800-1205	State Water Plan - Water Resources Cost Share	2,182,318	1,930,864	2,041,643	1,600,961	1,948,289	2,155,339	1,948,289	1,948,289
1800-1210	State Water Plan - Non-Point Source	1,914,285	2,035,689	1,866,556	1,331,554	1,858,350	2,159,487	1,860,023	1,860,023
1800-1220	State Water Plan - Conservation District Aid	2,087,382	2,101,294	2,092,637	2,000,000	2,092,637	2,092,637	2,092,637	2,092,637
1800-1225	State Water Plan - Water Transition / CREP	285,492	465,350	178,572	222,280	200,000	227,938	201,963	201,963
1800-1240	State Water Plan - Watershed Dam Construction	540,215	619,463	559,353	528,157	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000
1800-1250	State Water Plan - Water Quality Buffer	231,956	201,419	179,893	140,648	200,000	325,022	200,000	200,000
1800-1260	State Water Plan - Riparian & Wetland	145,019	154,827	158,892	44,363	152,651	526,519	154,024	154,024
1800-1275	State Water Plan - Lake Restoration	258,156	235,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
1800-1290	State Water Plan - Streambank Stabilization	749,784	76,200	0	0	0	500,000	500,000	500,000
2118-1200	Agricultural Liming Materials Fee Fund	891	2,619	4,574	15,590	15,350	17,760	34,217	52,450
2517-2510	State Transfers - Conservation Techs	145,304	278,908	388,045	(798,360)	141,304	1,286,103	0	0
2542-2090	Land Reclamation Fee Fund	120,780	143,434	66,678	123,280	83,822	145,152	141,921	142,399
2817-2817	Compensatory Mitigation Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3889-3880	EPA WP Grant - Conservation Techs	21,633	80,786	273,287	135,927	50,000	0	0	0
3917-3825	NRCS CFDA GRANT - Conservation Techs	157,290	319,421	352,615	391,888	338,696	941,121	900,000	900,000
7305-7000	Watershed District CSIMS Accounts	0	0	(64,102)	0	0	64,134	0	0
	TOTAL	9,324,952	9,125,621	8,596,942	6,217,088	8,113,599	11,574,212	9,166,074	9,184,785

- A \$10,000 deposit has been made into the Compensatory Mitigation Fund to begin DOC's 3rd party easement holder status for the Marmaton WJD No. 102
- Both the House and Senate budget subcommittees have recommended a \$162,971 transfer of FY2019 Water Resources funds to CREP for pending contracts

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation

Fiscal Notes:

March 25, 2019

SWP Funds	CFY Appropriation	CFY Appropriation w/ Carryforward	1Q Expenditures	2Q Expenditures	3Q Expenditures	4Q Expenditures	CFY Expenditures	SMART Commitments	SMART Balance	CSIMS Commitments	Uncommitted / Remaining Funds
Aid to Cons. Districts	\$2,092,637	\$2,092,637	(\$1,942,270)	(\$128,851)			(\$2,071,121)	(\$21,516)	\$0		\$0
Water Resources	\$1,948,289	\$2,155,339	(\$146,267)	(\$300,968)			(\$447,235)	(\$59,168)	\$1,648,936	\$1,360,165	\$288,771
Non-Point Source	\$1,860,023	\$2,159,487	(\$201,809)	(\$347,320)			(\$549,129)	(\$68,050)	\$1,542,308	\$904,460	\$637,848
Watershed Dam Const.	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$0	\$0			\$0	(\$550,000)	\$0		\$0
Water Supply Restoration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
WQ Buffer Initiative	\$200,000	\$325,022	\$0	\$0			\$0	\$0	\$325,022	\$0	\$325,022
Riparian & Wetland	\$154,024	\$526,519	(\$14,683)	(\$15,726)			(\$30,409)	(\$2,000)	\$494,110	\$0	\$494,110
Streambank Stabilization	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0			\$0	\$0	\$500,000		\$500,000
WTAP / CREP	\$201,963	\$227,938	(\$68,657)	(\$102,754)			(\$171,411)	\$0	\$56,527		\$56,527
Irrigation Technology	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0			\$0	\$0	\$100,000		\$100,000
TOTAL	\$7,606,936	\$8,636,941	(\$2,373,685)	(\$895,620)	\$0	\$0	(\$3,269,305)	(\$700,734)	\$4,666,902	\$2,264,625	\$2,402,278

Fee Funds	CFY Beginning Cash Balance	Deposits	1Q Expenditures	2Q Expenditures	3Q Expenditures	4Q Expenditures	CFY Expenditures	SMART Commitments	SMART Balance	PFY Encumbrances Open / Paid	Uncommitted / remaining funds
Land Reclamation	\$40,653	\$19,505	(\$24,095)	\$13,879			(\$10,216)	(\$22)	\$11,477	(\$38,443)	\$11,477
Ag Liming	\$25,287	\$33,921	(\$6,316)	(\$6,218)			(\$12,534)	\$0	\$46,068	(\$606)	\$46,068
TOTAL	\$65,940	\$53,426	(\$30,411)	\$7,661	\$0	\$0	(\$22,750)	(\$22)	\$57,545	(\$39,049)	\$57,545

- 72.2% of all available FY2019 SWPF funds were either paid / expended or committed at the end of the 2nd Quarter

Cost-Share Financial Report Summary
as of 02/28/2019

Program	Project Fund Source Code	Allocation	Committed	Expenditures	Uncommitted
Water Resources - 1205	District Needs Allocation - DNA	\$1,583,827.20	\$1,179,458.69	\$252,699.54	\$151,668.97
	Total Maximum Daily Load - TMDL's	\$125,000.00	\$60,979.00	\$12,403.10	\$51,617.90
	Livestock Water Assistance - LWA	\$199,449.58	\$19,863.00	\$122,714.18	\$56,872.40
	Unallocated - (Milford - RCPP)	\$35,630.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,630.26
	Totals	\$1,943,907.04	\$1,260,300.69	\$387,816.82	\$295,789.53
Non-Point Source Pollution - 1210	Non-Point Source Pollution - NPS	\$1,358,703.65	\$734,339.36	\$398,166.39	\$226,197.90
	Total Maximum Daily Load - TMDL's	\$75,000.00	\$12,300.00	\$12,500.00	\$50,200.00
	Livestock Water Assistance - LWA	\$124,392.90	\$1,594.56	\$107,093.48	\$15,704.86
	Animal Feed Operation - Livestock Waste Management - AFO-LWM	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
	Unallocated	\$30,147.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,147.13
Totals	\$1,638,243.68	\$788,233.92	\$527,759.87	\$322,249.89	
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
	Ducks Unlimited - Great Plain Sponsorship	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ducks Unlimited -Brownlee Lake Wetlands Restoration Sponsorship	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Unallocated - (Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative - REQI)	\$120,706.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120,706.92
Totals	\$467,018.92	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$452,018.92	
CREP / WTAP - 1225		\$122,238.08	\$0.00	\$119,237.17	\$3,000.91
	Totals	\$122,238.08	\$0.00	\$119,237.17	\$3,000.91
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	\$1,119,855.10	\$308,759.49	\$529,910.21	\$281,185.40
	Non-Point Source Pollution	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
	Kansas Water Office - RCCP - Milford	\$400,000.00	\$219,855.10	\$0.00	\$180,144.90
	Totals	\$1,529,855.10	\$318,759.49	\$539,910.21	\$461,330.30
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	\$24,133.65	\$0.00	\$4,080.84	\$20,052.81
	Diamond Creek Watershed Joint District No. 61	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
	Totals	\$114,133.65	\$5,000.00	\$5,987.34	\$103,146.31
Cost-Share Grand Totals		\$6,240,417.73	\$2,521,703.16	\$1,580,711.41	\$1,928,148.06

Conservation Technicians Financial Report Summary

as of 02/28/2019

		Cash Beginning Balance	Deposits	Committed	Expenditures	Uncommitted
Non-Point Source 1210	DOC Technicians			\$20,333.27	\$20,333.27	\$0.00
	KACD Technicians			\$11,239.11	\$11,239.11	\$0.00
	Totals			\$31,572.38	\$31,572.38	\$0.00
Transfers from Other State Agencies - 2510						
	DOC Technicians - KDWPT	\$3,271.82		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,271.82
	DOC Technicians - KDHE	\$74,261.36		\$34,195.56	\$34,195.56	\$40,065.80
	DOC Technicians - Paybacks (NPS, KDWPT and KDHE)	\$104,920.02		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$104,920.02
	Totals	\$182,453.20		\$34,195.56	\$34,195.56	\$148,257.64
NRCS Grant - Various						
	DOC Technicians - 3903	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,375.65	\$0.00	-\$17,375.65
	DOC Technicians - 3825	\$0.00	\$255,472.92	\$214,596.70	\$214,596.70	\$40,876.22
	DOC Technicians - 3901	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69,502.66	\$0.00	-\$69,502.66
	DOC Technicians - 3902	\$0.00	\$125,911.22	\$144,218.42	\$125,911.22	-\$18,307.20
	DOC Technicians - 3904	\$0.00	\$3,747.75	\$121,629.65	\$3,747.75	-\$117,881.90
	NRCS Grant - DOC Technicians Totals	\$0.00	\$385,131.89	\$567,323.08	\$344,255.67	-\$182,191.19
	DOC Technicians all Funding Totals	\$182,453.20	\$385,131.89	\$621,851.91	\$398,784.50	-\$33,933.55
	KACD Technicians - 3082	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00
	KACD Technicians - 3825	\$41,120.83	\$46,000.00	\$181,760.89	\$69,510.89	-\$164,150.95
	NRCS Grant - KACD Technicians Totals	\$41,120.83	\$81,000.00	\$216,760.89	\$104,510.89	-\$164,150.95
	KACD Technicians all Funding Totals	\$41,120.83	\$81,000.00	\$228,000.00	\$115,750.00	-\$164,150.95

Attachment H

Riparian and Wetland Report for SCC meeting:

No applications for the Riparian Quality Enhancement Initiative. That funding is being directed to wetland projects.

Partnering with Ducks Unlimited on numerous wetland and playa projects across the state. Depending on estimated costs, we are planning on doing 12-24 projects. We are working on developing a ranking system to accommodate this increased interest. I am also working with Jackson County to fund a wetland development to help decrease TMDL problems in Banner Creek Reservoir.

It has been an extremely slow winter for streambank projects due to high water level and wet/frozen conditions in all watersheds.

- Tuttle has 9 projects underway, 4 entering the permitting/bidding process, and 6-8 that have been ground truthed and are being contracted.
- Cottonwood has had 1 project completed with 1 more in construction. 6 are in design. 6 more were ground truthed this month for possible work.
- Delaware has 4 sites that are almost all contracted and will hopefully move on to design soon. The streambank team has been looking at doing some repair work on previously done ARRA projects, but the process for this is in the preliminary stages.

Attachment I

FY 2019 Cost-Share & Operation Reviews

So far in FY 2019, cost-share and operation reviews have been conducted in 20 counties. During these reviews, all FY 2016, 2017 and 2018 cost-share contracts were reviewed. A total of 13 counties remain to be reviewed before the end of the fiscal year. From the 20 counties reviewed, a total of 7 cost-share contracts were overpaid totaling roughly \$2,816 in overpayments to landowners.

Below are some of my findings from the FY 2019 Cost-Share reviews:

- Aerial photo was not always in the contract file.
- Ranking worksheet was not always in the contract file. (This oversight will be eliminated beginning with FY 2020 as districts will be creating a Ranking Worksheet for each individual landowner before turning into a contract).
- CS-3 Contract for Financial Assistance was not always in the contract file.
- CS-3 Contract for Financial Assistance did not always contain the original landowner signature (was a photocopy or a fax).
- Copies of bills were not always in the contract file.
- NRCS Final Check Out Field Sheet was not always in the contract file. (This oversight will be eliminated in the future as DOC will be requiring districts to upload the NRCS Final Check Out Field Sheet when processing the contract for final payment in CSIMS.)
- CS-4 Final Payment was not always signed by a NRCS representative.
- Grazing Management Plan/DOC Forage Balance Estimate Worksheet was not always in the contract file for livestock water supply type practices.
- Grazing Management Plan/DOC Forage Balance Estimate Worksheet was not always signed by the landowner for livestock water supply type practices.
- A Well Plugging Worksheet was not always in the contract file for AWP projects.
- A WWC-5P was not always in the contract file for AWP projects. (This oversight will be eliminated in the future as DOC will be requiring districts to upload the WWC-5P when processing the contract for final payment.)
- A copy of the OSW Eligibility Criteria Worksheet was not always in the contract file for OSW projects. (This oversight will be eliminated in the future as DOC will be requiring districts to complete an OSW Eligibility Criteria Worksheet within CSIMS when creating the CS-3 Contract for Financial Assistance.)
- A copy of the County Permit was not always found in the contract file for OSW projects.
- A copy of the Final Inspection Report/Post Construction Report was not always found in the contract file for OSW projects. (This oversight will be eliminated in the future as DOC will be requiring districts to upload the OSW Final Inspection Report/Post Construction Report when processing for final payment.)
- Some contracts that were processed for final payment were not amended to reflect the actual units installed. Even if the amendment does not change the payment amount due to the landowner, the contract must still be amended to reflect actual units installed. (This error should be eliminated in the future as DOC will be requiring districts to upload the NRCS Final Check Out Field Sheet when processing the contract for final payment in CSIMS.)

Below are some of my findings from the FY 2019 Operation reviews:

- It was discovered that several conservation districts did not have a Personnel Policy Handbook on file, and/or a Signed Employee Agreement on file. I have emailed those counties an example of each document. In addition, there were a couple of district employees that did not have the board review, sign and date their employee time sheets. (A "Did You Know" email was sent statewide to make conservation districts aware of this policy.)

Compiled by Donna Meader



**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the meeting of the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MANHATTAN, KANSAS
March 25, 2019**

MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

- NRCS is currently undergoing another vehicle reduction. Kansas NRCS will be reducing its fleet by 37 vehicles.
- There was a February 20 deadline for 2019 Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements applications. This is a multi-State effort between Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Thirteen (13) proposals were received and are being reviewed by a ranking team.
- Phase 3 of the NRCS Cycle Time Study is set to begin April 8, 2019. This will be a 12-week data collection period ending on June 30, 2019 and will allow NRCS to get more information on completed tasks, as well as additional data on complex tasks (Workload Analysis Survey Fact Sheet attached). We appreciate the partners support of this effort.
- In the process of re-advertising the remaining 12 FY18 positions that were not filled. For FY 2019 we have been given 7 positions so far that can be advertised. We will receive another allotment with the next phase of hiring.
- The NRCS specific Pathways (student interns) announcements have posted, Kansas has 14 positions.
- NRCS attended the KSU career fair in January, the Fort Hays career fair in February, and will attend the career fair at McConnell Air Force Base this month.
- Official NRCS logos are available to partners on the Kansas NRCS website for use in publications and events that NRCS is assisting with.
- NRCS purchased a weather station to be installed on land owned by the Iowa Tribe in Brown County. The weather station will be connected via cellular capability to the Soil Climatic Analysis Network (SCAN). It will allow real time internet access to soil moisture, soil temperature, and wind information. We are waiting for field conditions to dry out, so the station can be installed.
- Personnel Updates:
 - Megan Lambert, District Conservationist, Stockton (from Soil Conservationist, Osborne)
 - Zachary Roth, District Conservationist, Ness City (from Soil Conservationist, Hays)
 - Kris Ethridge, ASTC-FO Area 2, Hutchinson (from Area Resource Conservationist, Manhattan AO)
 - Levi Gibson, Business Tool Coordinator, State Office (from SDC, Lincoln)
 - Sharonté Williams, ASTC for Programs, State Office (from District Conservationist, SC)

- Daniel Gudenkauf, Civil Engineering Technician, Manhattan AO (transfer from NE)
- Shanda Spurgeon, Area Resource Conservationist, Hays Area Office
- Marvin Lewis, District Conservationist, Fort Scott (transfer from OK)
- Brodie Poe, District Conservationist, Sharon Springs (from Soil Conservationist, Sharon Springs)
- Brian Schulze, District Conservationist, Norton (from Soil Conservationist, Hill City)
- Tiana Nanna, Soil Scientist, Salina SO (from Designated Conservationist, ND)
- Kevin Gustafson, State Conservation Engineer, Salina SO (from Engineer, NE)
- Bruce Wells, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations in Area 3 (from Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, Salina)

PROGRAMS

- President Trump signed the 2018 Farm Bill (Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018) into law on December 20, 2018. NRCS is in the process of updating and developing program regulations and associated policies.
- Kansas FY19 cutoff deadline for EQIP (including RCPP-EQIP) was December 21, 2018.
 - 1,990 eligible applications were received for FY19.
 - Field staff are currently working on reviewing eligibility, ranking applications, and finalizing conservation plans.
- A dedicated Program Rollout training session was conducted for NRCS FO staff that are in the recently approved Milford RCPP area. The training was provided by members of the NRCS State Office, Manhattan NRCS Area Office, and the Kansas Water Office. Numerous sponsor partners in the RCPP attended as well.
- NHQ is working through the details of the new Farm Bill. We are receiving interim guidance to get us through FY19 as the rules and regulations are being finalized.
- Working through peer reviews and getting the last few applications ranked and ready for EQIP obligation. We will be moving forward with setting obligation deadlines.
- Completing FY18 CSP payments. No new guidance on FY19 CSP applications currently.
- Draft CIG announcement is currently being reviewed by NHQ for State announcement with a tentative deadline of early summer.

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

- During FY18, seven ACEP-WRE applications (totaling 1,377 +/- acres) were approved for easement purchases. Legal surveys for each easement will be our next steps toward getting the easements acquired.
- NRCS closed on all 22 of the FY17 easement enrollments with outside contractor title companies.
- A 30-year ACEP-WRE contract with Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation was signed during a signing ceremony held on December 17, 2018.
- FY19 guidance has been distributed for ACEP-WRE including: Easement Compensation rates; Cost List for restoration, maintenance and enhancement activities;

as well as Easement Monitoring for all 368 acquired easements in Kansas for FY19.

- ACEP-WRE and ALE application cutoff is May 17th.
- To date, 14 ACEP-WRE applications have been received for FY19 eligibility consideration.

Watershed Operations

- Watershed districts and local NRCS field offices worked together on annual inspections for all NRCS-assisted flood control structures. For Calendar Year (CY) 2018, 579 of 830 total dams remained under active Operation and Maintenance (O&M) agreements. To date for CY2018, 534 inspections (92%) have been received for review and filing at the State office.
- 3 – One (1) day operation and maintenance workshops will be held:
 - April 16, 2019 – El Dorado
 - April 17, 2019 – Lincoln
 - April 18, 2019 – Centralia

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. Lapse in federal funding has delayed design contracting for 2 of the sites. The third site design is being completed by NRCS staff. Rehab planning for the remaining 2 sites is nearing completion. Both supplemental plans should be finalized by June 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 in Sept. 2018. Site visits determined eligibility for 3 sites federal funding was approved. Project agreement is currently being developed with repairs expected to begin in April.

RESOURCES

- NRCS is currently working on soil health activities including:
 - The evaluation of aerial seeding on cover crops in Southwest Kansas
 - Bulk density and soil moisture readings in cover crops in Northeast Kansas
 - Green canopy curve development in Northeast Kansas
- PMC Cereal Grains Plot Tour us Thursday, May 2, at the Manhattan Plant Materials Center, 3800 South 20th Street in Manhattan, Kansas. The tour will feature 24 entry cereal grain cover crop variety plot which includes rye, triticale, barley, and wheat. Also included in the tour is the population study and the forb introduction plot. The plot tour begins at 9:00AM and will conclude at 11:30AM.
- NRCS field offices continue to provide assistance for wetland restoration planning on CRP Migratory Bird SAFE for playa restoration, and there were 125 offers accepted in Kansas by FSA in September 2018 (covers 7,994 acres). Additionally, NRCS assists with CRP grasslands (86 offers in September 2018).
- Kansas NRCS continues to expand the use of mobile planning technology. Smart phones and GPS technology are used to efficiently gather natural resource information in the

field and provide conservation planners with more information as they work to assist farmers and ranchers meet their conservation objectives.

NEWS RELEASES

- Ethan Walker, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist, Independence, Kansas received the 2019 NRCS Early Career Rangeland and Pastureland Conservationist of the Year Award at the Society of Range Management (SRM) Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota in February.

OUTREACH

- The 2019 Conservation Editions have been posted on the KS NRCS website:
 - Understanding Acronyms
 - Nutrient Management
 - Soil Compaction
 - Forestry Practices to Improve Water Quality
 - Managing Woodlands
- **Events**
 - NRCS participated at the Kansas Forage and Grassland Council's 2018 Winter Forage Conference, the State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) 68th Annual Meeting, Soil Health U, and Women Managing the Farm.
 - We will have OneUSDA booths at:
 - 3I Show in Dodge City, Kansas from March 21 to 23, 2019
 - Mid America Farm Expo in Salina, Kansas from March 26 to 28, 2019

Workload Analysis Survey 3.0 Fact Sheet

NRCS PARTNERS

NRCS Partners are key to putting conservation on the ground. Help us measure the work we do to support our customers.

SUPPORTING CUSTOMERS

The workload analysis project is built around making sure there are enough conservation field staff to provide the best possible experience to our customers.

THE SURVEY

The survey collection period will begin April 8, 2019, last 12 weeks, and require NRCS employees to enter comprehensive data about the work they do over the course of those weeks. Partner employees are encouraged to participate in the survey alongside their NRCS counterparts.

BENEFITS TO NRCS

- Allowed NRCS to recruit 1,000+ employees in 2018
- Helps NRCS document the time it takes field office employees to perform work.
- Provides information to justify hiring needs and make hiring decisions (where located, what type of work is being done, what occupational series position is needed, etc.)

BENEFITS TO PARTNERS

- Provides information to quantify the time spent getting conservation on the ground.
- Allows them to quantify their work on State and Local programs.
- This data can be aggregated to the Region or National level for use in public relations.

BENEFITS TO CUSTOMERS

- NRCS & Partners can use a data-driven approach to identify how many and where staff should be placed to meet customer needs.
- Data can help establish expected performance for staff to ensure every customer receives quality service in every office

THE WORKLOAD ANALYSIS PROJECT

NRCS has been conducting surveys of its staff and some participating partners to determine what work is being done where and by whom. We are entering the third round of our surveys and looking for more partners to voluntarily participate in the survey collection.

Our goal is to use accurate information to determine where additional support is needed and build realistic performance standards. It also helps prioritize our streamlining efforts to make the largest impact for you and our customers. Our partners are key in these efforts

Please contact your State Conservationist to learn more about how you can participate.

Hays/R9: KDA provided the revised, proposed change order to the cities for their review on Friday, March 8. We received comments from the cities and have discussed those comments with the cities. We anticipate having the final order and individual approvals issued by next Friday, March 29

Wichita ASR: The chief engineer has decided to delegate the hearing to an independent hearing officer. The hearing that was scheduled to take place before the chief engineer on March 26 will be delayed at least one month while the hearing officer reviews the substantial record that has already been generated on this matter.

GMD 4 LEMA challenge – David and Chris have been assisting Kenny in reviewing his draft response to the plaintiff's memo in support their petition for judicial review, which is due Friday.

Floodplain Mapping Open Houses - Wabaunsee County open house for the proposed Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) was held in Alma on March 19. Chase County is scheduled for March 26. The open house is formatted so citizens can ask specific questions regarding their property or property of concern. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) specialists from FEMA also attended the event to answer questions regarding insurance.

Reno County Community Coordination meeting for the preliminary DFIRM is scheduled for March 27. The meeting is held for community officials to familiarize them with the process to move the DFIRM from Preliminary to effective.

Floodplain Mapping Kick-off Meetings – Harper County, Sumner County, Barber County, Pratt County and Kingman County.

Upper Mariais Des Cygnes Flood Risk Reduction Meetings will be held April 24 and 25. DWR will present the draft floodplain maps and discuss how community and public review will take place over the next several months.

Cimarron/Pawnee Watershed district merger – The hearing was held March 6 in Jetmore. Stephanie was the hearing officer. No objections to the merger were received via mail or at the hearing. Stephanie is working on approving the petition.

National Dam Safety Review Board Performance Questionnaire deadline is 19 April 2019. Questions are used to calculate the numbers for the state assistance grant performance metrics. ASDSO also uses the information for their state performance reports.

O&M Workshops - In conjunction with DOC, NRCS and SAKW we will be hosting workshops in El Dorado (April 16), Lincoln (April 17) and Centralia (April 18).

World Water Day: Several staff from KDA participated in World Water Day by manning informational booths at the Capitol March 21. World Water Day is a UN Observance, always on March 22, that focuses on the importance of fresh water resources. <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

LiDAR – The request for NRCS extension for hydrorenforcement was only granted for 1 year (Feb 2021) and was not authorized until Oct 2021 as requested. Trying to discuss with contractors how to meet the deliverables.

2-D modeling training – DWR held 2-D modeling February 11-13 in Manhattan. We will be holding another session in early summer in either Lawrence or Wichita.

Garden City Field Office – will be closed March 29 and April 1 to move.

CTP Grant – There is an LPA audit being conducted on the grant. All is going well so far.

AREA IV SCC COMMISSIONER REPORT

Since the first of January, I have had the opportunity to attend the Atchison, Franklin, Jackson County and my own Jefferson County Conservation District Annual Meetings. The meetings were well attended, which shows an interest by the public for their local conservation district. I also attended the State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) annual meeting held in Topeka and attended both days. I also attended the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts meeting in Topeka.

Over the last couple of months, I have had many supervisors and district managers express to me the need to have the SCC Spring Workshop. Also, of concern, is a need to fund the Water Resources and Nonpoint Source programs at previous year's levels. Also, there is a need to increase aid to conservation districts so that the districts can help get conservation on the ground and help retain employees. I spoke with Rep. Ken Rahjes at the KACD Conservation Day at the capitol regarding aid to conservation districts and he expressed they were increasing aid by \$100,000 in a bill.

Other concerns are staffing levels at USDA Service Centers. Also, in most of Area IV due to weather in the last four months there has probably been less than a week where any dirt work has been able to take place. Because of this, we may need to consider strategies to encumber and carryover funds. A recent concern in Northeast Kansas is major flooding of mainly the Missouri River.

It was great to see many of the partnership be able to attend the NACD Fly-In in Washington, D.C. Thanks to all that attended.

On a local note, Jefferson County recently hired a new District Manager, Taresa "Tari" Stutz. She started around the first of February replacing Cheli Helm, who is now working for the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts. It is great to see many of the area district managers reaching out to help Tari in the start of her new job. Also, Donna Meader has made a visit to help as well.

I try to follow KDA on social media and I think they have been doing a great job highlighting the many segments of agriculture in the state of Kansas. Since agriculture makes up 45% of the Kansas economy there are many that contribute to this success.

I would like to note the efforts of Sec. Jackie McClaskey regarding KDA. I was excited to hear that Mike Beam would be appointed the new secretary. I am looking forward to working with Sec. Beam and sharing ideas for a vision of conservation in the state of Kansas.

Respectfully submitted,
John H. Wunder
Area IV Commissioner

Attachment M

March 25, 2019 SCC Meeting
SCC and Area V Report

It has been a challenging winter for landowners, operators and agri-business in Area V and across Kansas. Adverse weather conditions with much moisture prevented implementation of planned conservation practices. Routine farm operation activities have been delayed since last fall as well. Opportunity to complete any cost-share practices has been extremely limited and should be considered in encumbrance or contract extension decisions.

I am hearing concerns from those I represent. One common complaint, concern or question was "Why are we not having an Area Spring Workshop?" Many asked me why we can't, the Districts, just go ahead and meet without a formal agenda of Agency or Staff reports. Some supervisors felt they would feel more at ease discussing resource related concerns with just peers in attendance. District Managers have been vocal about ideas, including but not limited to, using this meeting to plan multi county events, discuss management unit identified resource concerns or events and even watershed or basin related topics. To summarize there is a desire to partner more effectively inside the "Partnership", as well as to engage with other potential stakeholders. This feedback should be considered in planning the next Spring Workshop as the "20/20 Vision"?

Further I continue to hear Area wide concern for lack of technical assistance, or NRCS staff vacancies. I continue to be grateful for the contribution agreement employees and for the dedication of full time NRCS folks who are working hard to meet the needs of all.

There have been many activities since the last time we assembled together. It seems difficult to communicate all that is occurring between meetings – but I continue to identify the need and pledge to find solutions.

Specific Area V resource concerns recently include stockpiled poultry litter. While there is improvement on the location of these, the field conditions have prevented timely application. Other concerns that have been reported include the possible impact on wild bird populations due to spread or introduction of disease with poultry litter. I have seen no evidence of this, but is a concern held by some and may merit some consideration.

I was inspired by the Partners attending the NACD Fly In to Washington DC. Kansas Leadership represented grassroots issues and concerns and presented a balanced and effective dialogue about the success of voluntary conservation through Conservation Districts Statewide. This was a worthwhile trip and accomplished relationship building. I am grateful for the chance to attend and participate with this Kansas Conservation Partnership effort.

Finally, I am optimistic about the opportunity to work together as partners with mutual respect, trust and honesty to promote conservation across all urban, suburban and rural areas of Kansas.