



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 8:13 a.m., Thursday, September 13, 2018, at the Cottonwood Court Building, Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, 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:**

Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment  
(KCARE), K-State Research and Extension

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

Rob Reschke, Executive Director (out 9:28 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. to attend another meeting)  
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director (left at 11:45 a.m.)  
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager  
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager  
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Programs Manager  
Tim McCoy, Riparian & Wetland Program Manager  
Cindy Pulse, Administrative Specialist  
Cathy Thompson, Program Consultant (joined at 1:28 p.m.)

**Guests:**

Larry Biles, State Forester, Kansas Forest Service (KFS) (9:27 a.m. - 10:09 a.m.)  
Bob Atchison, Rural Forestry Program Coordinator, Kansas Forest Service (KFS) (9:27  
a.m. - 10:09 a.m.)  
Gaye Benfer, Assistant State Conservationist for Management & Strategy, NRCS  
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watershed (SAKW)  
Dan Meyerhoff, KACD Executive Director

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Allen Roth, KACD Area I  
William Simshauser, KACD Area II  
Jerry Clasen, KACD Area III  
Bevin Law, KACD Area IV  
Ronald Brown, KACD Area V

### 3. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

8. d. Review Commissioner and staff travel – Chairman Vorhees

**A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.**

### 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

**A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the August 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 - Progress report of 566 program - three Watershed Districts are receiving proposals from consultants to do first phase of projects. Offered to take over program from the Corp of Engineers (COE). Is attending 566 meeting in Texas next week – will ask around there.

Hakim - 404 permitting process is an EPA deal delegated to the COE. Part of it is delegated to KDHE; has been for years.

Rob - not sure if attitude would change much with this kind of move (state agency vs. federal agency), and not sure if changing things would make things move forward any quicker; may possibly create more problems transferring from federal to state agency.

John - concerned that it appears there is a need to move to an agency that is more willing to move forward on this project.

b. Larry Biles – thank you for allowing KFS attendance and contribution (See Attachment A). Reviewed Audit page on KFS fire audit action. They believe KFS is best agency to take lead role. The 46th Annual Arborist Training program is at beginning of October. Extent of wildfires means more now than before 2016.

c. Bob Atchison – Discussed power wheel - has number of advisory groups. Will continue to work with Conservation District partnerships to improve and strengthen their relationship. Received grant for Fall Field Day – working with Kickapoo tribe on this. Discussed annual awards being distributed at KACD convention.

Rod - Wilson County is working on “out of the box stuff” with another partner (pilot project) – involves carbon cycling, soil activities, found ways to quantify that.

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When they get that information, will share with KFS. Forest land does a tremendous amount of benefit for that project.

### 6. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Governor's Luncheon at the State Fair – Rob announced the time and location.
- b. New District Employees:

#### Area I:

- a. Linda Phillips, new Gove County District Manager, effective 9-10-18

#### Area III:

- a. Robin Struble, new Harper County District Manager, effective 8-27-18. Teresa Mandevill retired effective 7-27-18
- b. Patti Winters, Lincoln County District Manager, resigned effective 8-17-18. Position is currently vacant.

#### Area IV:

- a. Thomas Ehlinger, Douglas County Conservation Technician, resigned effective 8-3-18.

#### Area V:

- a. Lori Siebert, new Lyon/Chase Counties District Manager, effective 8-28-18. Kelsey Keith resigned effective 8-3-18.
- b. Lacie Davis, new Anderson County District Technician, effective 7-23-18

### 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for rehabilitation FY 2019 – Saadi (See Attachment B).
  - \* Hakim – this year 11 applications were received totaling approximately \$800,000 - \$120,000 is the maximum that can be given to a district per year. When the approved bidding process begins, it is placed in the Kansas register. Most rehabilitation projects are pipe replacements. There is a map on the website that shows where all the watershed districts are. A new proposed Watershed District is in Clay County and will be added to the November general election. There may be yet another Watershed District to be proposed in the Beloit area.

**A motion was made by Andy Larson to approve funding recommendation(s) for Watershed Dam Rehabilitation as outlined in the attachment. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

- b. Budget updates for the 2020 fiscal year – Reschke/Frost (Attachment C).
  - \* Have had several meetings lately. Streambank continues to be well-funded. Tim has advanced the program a great deal with his ideas. To date there are 10 water

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technology farms - are working on new one in the eastern part of the state. If we believe in our programs, then we should do all we can to support those programs. We don't have lack of programs; we have a lack of funding. There's not much restorative funding – it's more in to new initiatives. RACs were involved in the budget process.

### Discussion:

John – need to have a legislative strategy component but is not sure who to work with so we have a way to impact, influence and help advise legislature and administration of what has significant importance in funding.

Rod – Dan Meyerhoff, Keri Harris, and Stephanie Royer gave a presentation supporting districts at the Water Authority meeting.

Rob - KWA meeting attendance has tripled after the start of the Water Vision. KDA's enhancement to our budget includes Aid to Conservation Districts and Water Resources.

### c. Discuss Livestock Water Supply Financial Assistance Initiative Funding and Ranking - Jones

\* Have received 143 applications totaling \$243,500 from 28 counties. Applications are still coming in; should be ok on funding. Has been a great project; no negative feedback. Pumping plant was added with a possibility of Energy-free waterers. This has been a very smooth process.

**BREAK 9:29 a.m. to 9:47 a.m.**

## 8. NEW BUSINESS:

### a. Review KACD Annual Convention Agenda, discuss/finalize SCC luncheon speaker and assign Commissioner duties – Vorhees.

- i. Preside at Monday SCC Luncheon – Rod Vorhees
- ii. Give invocation at Monday luncheon – Andy Larson
- iii. Guest luncheon speaker introduction – Rod Vorhees
- iv. Governor's Recognition award winners during banquet – John Wunder, Ted Nighswonger
- v. Presentation of 20-year awards during banquet – Brad Shogren
- vi. Hold elections at area meetings for the following:
  - a. KACD areas I, III, and V
  - b. SCC areas II and IV

### b. Reservoir Protection Initiative Update – Jones

\* New initiative \$900,000 specifically for Best Management Practices (BMP). Water Office asked KDHE and DOC to form BMP implementation group to develop way to spend this money. Districts will receive applications then submit to DOC. 100 applications were received in August. Group recommendations – no landowner limits, majority of group wanted to fund all applications, 90%-95% of applications were cover crops. Will approve all applications and KDHE agreed to cover difference on shortage. Is paid per ton of sediment reduced. Working with Dean

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Krehbiel, NRCS – waiting on cover crop recommendations before approving contracts. Will work on evaluating the impact of this project.

c. SCC Planning Session (Starting the discussion on future strategies for the SCC) – Vorhees

Rod – The reason for strategic planning is possible change in administration. Feels it is wise to capitalize on this opportunity to do several things and need to have a plan. What are the SCC roles, goals and objectives? Feels like this year haven't been together enough to know what's going on. Need to be informed, need to improve communication.

John – We need to set goals and have communication, legislative, intra-agency and inter-agency strategies. Need to define what are Conservation District goals, what are SCC goals, what are DOC goals, and what is our role with the partnerships. Need to get our name out there in the public world – if it's not out there, they don't know us (conservation partners). Explain who we (conservation partners) are and what we do.

Cindy – Explained what all DOC has been doing in response to communication issues.

Rod – How does DOC and SCC communicate amongst each other between meetings?

Steve – Suggested utilizing Heather Lansdowne, KDA Director of Communications, serving as a facilitator.

Rod – Also need to re-define Commissioners' role in legislature. How do we work better in the Department of Agriculture? How do we better partner with other agencies? How can we become more effective and better serve others throughout the State?

Rob – Will work on the communication and Cindy will provide SCC with monthly staff report.

d. Review Commissioner and staff travel – Vorhees

i. Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 13-14, 2018, in Manhattan, Kansas.

ii. NACD – February 2-6, 2019, San Antonio, Texas

## 9. REPORTS:

a. Agency Reports:

\* Dan Devlin, KCARE – none

\* Gaye Benfer, NRCS – Provided report (See Attachment D). Has been good having Karen Woodrich, new State Conservationist, there – is very energetic. Vehicle allocation study done to determine right size and number of vehicles.

## LUNCH BREAK 11:45 a.m. to 1:28 p.m.

b. Staff Reports:

\* Tim McCoy – none

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\* Dave Jones – none

\* Scott Carlson - none

\* Cindy Pulse – Finished up Land Reclamation letters to companies delinquent in reporting acres and bonds. Working on presentation for NASCA. Student worker began work; interviewed and offered job for intern position.

\* Rob Reschke – none

\* Steve Frost – Working on new contribution agreement with NRCS that will go into effect October 1; hope to be up to 30 Conservation Technicians statewide. DOC's contribution is the largest; other partners are KDHE, Wildlife & Parks, KACD.

\* Hakim Saadi – Reviewed handout, began working on updating Watershed District Handbook – hope to have ready July 2019.

\* Cathy Thompson – working on CSIMS 2.0.

### c. Commissioner reports:

\* Ted Nighswonger – Several attended the most recent Water Authority meeting, including Jackie McClaskey. Worked on planning, strategies, working through issues.

\* Brad Shogren – none

\* Andy Larson – Had good soil health day – good resource of information and great attendance. Bill Simshauser did a good job putting it all together.

\* John Wunder – Had soil health workshop last month; had good attendance. Reported that WIBW quoted that from September 2017 to August 2018 it has been the driest 12-month period in the history of Jefferson County.

\* Rod Vorhees – Thank you for concerns and friendship. Ponds are full for first time in 18 months.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Sunday, November 18, 2018, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, Kansas.

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**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 1:40 p.m.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Reschke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "R".

Rob Reschke  
Executive Director

# ATTACHMENT A

## **Kansas Forest Service Fire Audit Action**

Backdrop on the Legislative Post Audit of KS Wildfire Suppression System.

- the reason for the audit,
- the legislators requesting the audit,
- the agencies audited,
- the process (compared KS to ND, SD, Ok and TX), and the
- outcomes:
  - ND, SD, OK and TX have one lead entity, KS has three
  - KS provides fewer state resources
  - Lack of resources limits training
  - Lack of resources limits KS ability to mitigate wildfire damage
  - Tripartite leadership fosters communication and coordination issues
  - KS does not maintain complete wildfire management data
  - Large wildfires unavoidable
  -

KFS supports Legislative Audit Staff Recommendation 1:

### ***Recommendations for Legislative Consideration***

To address the problems relating to the Kansas wildfire suppression system's fragmented structure and insufficient resources (pp. D-8 through D-16), the Kansas Legislature should consider:

- a. Amending state law to designate a single state entity to lead the state's wildfire suppression system and ensure this state entity has sufficient firefighting equipment, certified firefighters and wildfire management personnel, and state funding to effectively and independently lead the state's wildfire suppression system. This might include:
  - i. educating local authorities on how the state's wildfire suppression system is supposed to work, the resources available through the state during wildfires, and when it is necessary to call for state assistance.
  - ii. coordinating and forming effective working relationships with local fire districts, county emergency managers, and other state agencies in advance of wildfires.
  - iii. providing sufficient wildfire suppression and mitigation training to local fire districts and landowners.
  - iv. prepositioning and deploying local, state, and out-of- state firefighting resources during wildfires.
  - v. supporting both the state emergency operations center and local officials during wildfires.



The Kansas Forest Service's response to recommendation 1, which is affixed as an official part of the Legislative Audit, was:

*KFS agrees with this statement and believes the audit has clearly stated that the agency with the experience, training, and expertise to fulfill this role is the Kansas Forest Service. We fully support the roles of KDEM in resource tracking, FEMA coordination, damage assessment, etc., and of OSFM in the many roles in which it serves Kansas fire departments as well as reporting and regulatory functions but believe that KFS is uniquely positioned to assume the specific duties described in this recommendation. Our existing growth plan, referenced within this report, if funded, would strongly position us to fulfil this responsibility at all levels described. All action items listed under 1A are things we have already identified internally that we need to provide, and towards which our previously referenced growth plan was specifically written.*

The Audit report was accepted by KS' Legislative Audit Committee on June 20, 2018 and subsequently forwarded to four Standing Committees in each chamber of the 2019 Legislature for deliberation:

**House:**

Agriculture  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget  
Federal and State Affairs  
Appropriations

**Senate**

Agriculture and Natural Resource  
Federal and State Affairs  
Interstate Cooperation  
Ways and Means

Kansas Forest Service's Advisory Council crafted and passed the following motion:

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Legislative Post Audit Staff we move the following:

1. KS Forest Service should become the lead agency for wildfire suppression and management activities.
2. Staff should develop a narrative to support the conclusion that KFS become lead Agency. The narrative should use the four key findings of the audit encompassing KFS strengths in areas of expertise, preparation, relationships and data.
3. Direct staff to work with legislators, staff and stakeholders to develop an appropriate legislative strategy.

The Fire Program discussion closed with the crafting of a Power Wheel.

## Kansas Forest Service



Kansas State University's Kansas Forest Service pursues designation as the State lead Agency for wildland fire management and suppression, providing funding is allocated at a level necessary to meet the State training, education, coordination, and relationship needs of fire districts, property owners, state and federal government partners and commercial enterprises.

### What is the Problem?

Unlike other Great Plains states, Kansas, at the state level, lacks a well-funded, organized agency that can provide technical support and resources to local response agencies when wildland fires exceeds their management capacity. Kansas Forest Service lacks both the funding and staff to effectively offer training opportunities to local firefighters, fire mitigation projects and efficiently manage the excess property program.

### What is the Solution?

Kansas Forest Service, with their unique qualifications and expertise, 1.) Be the single state entity to lead the state's wildfire suppression and management systems; and 2.) receive funding for wildfire suppression and management services sufficient enough to be successful in providing support to Kansas' fire services, landowners, and other state entities.

The Kansas Forest Service Advisory Council, on August 22, 2018, approved a motion that stated "Pursuant to the recommendations of the LPA study, we move the following recommendations: 1.) KFS should become the lead agency for wildfire suppression and management activities; 2.) Staff should develop the narrative to support the conclusion that KFS become lead agency. The narrative should use the four key findings of the audit encompassing KFS strengths in areas of expertise, preparation, relationships and data; 3.) Direct staff to work with our legislators, staff and stakeholders to develop an appropriate legislative strategy.

### How will this benefit Kansas?

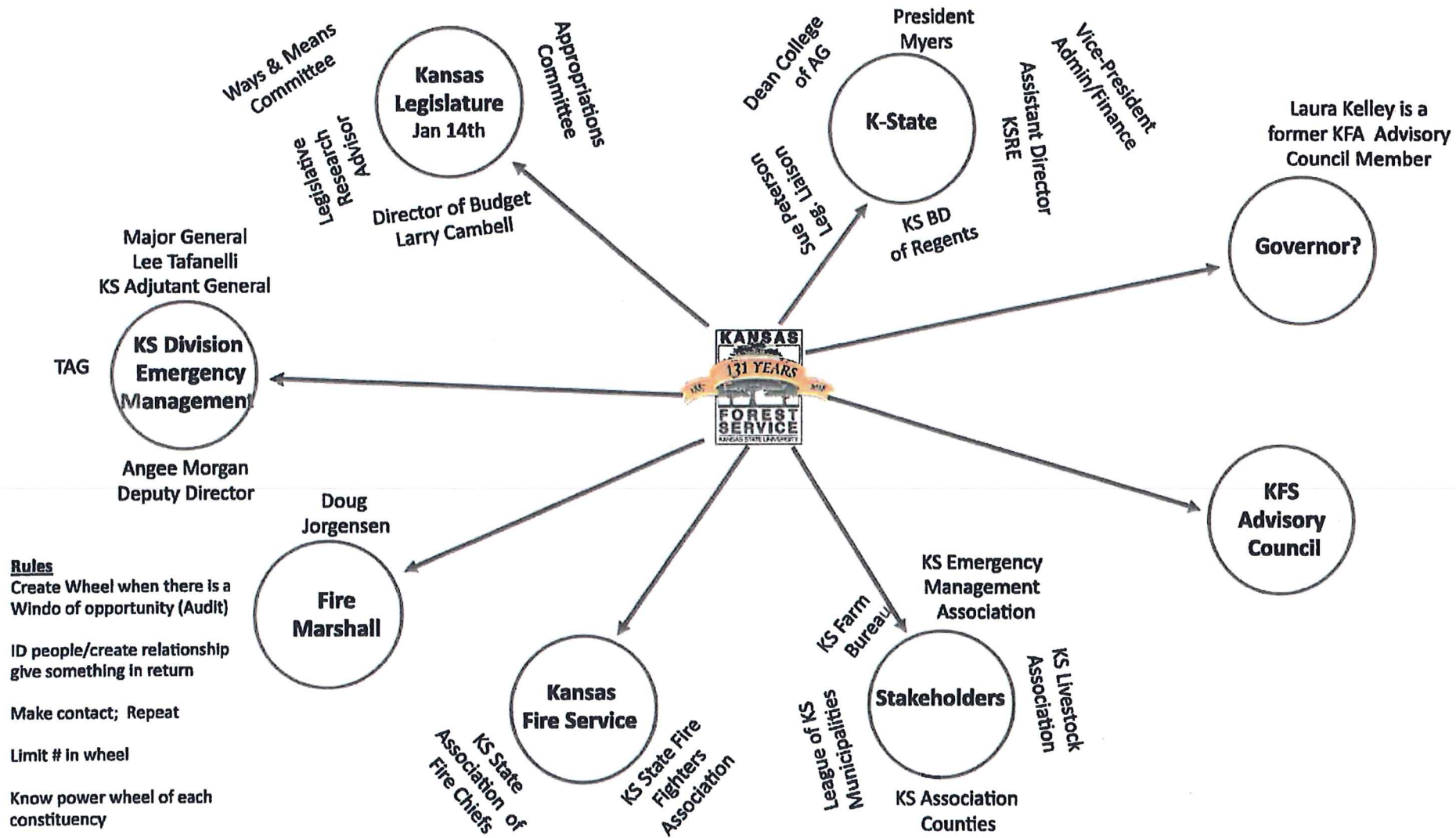
- Educate local authorities on how the state's wildfire suppression system works, the resources available, and when it is necessary to call for state assistance
- Enhanced coordination and effective relationships with local fire districts, county emergency managers and other state agencies
- Provide wildfire suppression and mitigation training to local fire districts and landowners
- Prepositioning and deploying local, state, and out-of-state resources during a wildfire
- Support both the state emergency operations center and local officials during wildfires

### Why Kansas Forest Service?

- KFS staff has the expertise, qualifications, and experience to provide assistance and high quality training.
- KFS mission is to continue ongoing fuel reduction projects and promote prescribed fire benefits. KFS is exclusively in position to request out-of-state NWCG resources and initiate the Great Plains Interstate Fire Compact.
- KFS, through a long history of training and grant issuance, has built a network of strong working relationships with local authorities, federal and state agencies, and out-of-state resources.
- KFS already utilizes Incident Qualification System, a nationally recommended training record database, in addition to a strong working relationship with the OSFM's incident reporting manager.



# KFS Power Wheel for Wildfire Management Legislative Post Audit



- Rules**
- Create Wheel when there is a Windo of opportunity (Audit)
  - ID people/create relationship give something in return
  - Make contact; Repeat
  - Limit # in wheel
  - Know power wheel of each constituency



# Fall Forestry Field Day Tuesday, October 16, 2018



This year's Fall Forestry Field Day will be held on October 16th at the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas reservation. The Kansas Forest Service is currently assisting the Kickapoo Tribe with a comprehensive forest assessment and management initiative and a number of stream stabilization projects. The tribe's property contains a diverse mix of cropland, pastures, upland forests, wooded riparian areas, and many streams. Field day participants can look forward to visiting two unique forest sites where they will receive lessons on wildlife habitat, forest ecology, stream processes, and timber management.



All participants are invited to bring portable lawn chairs and to wear clothing appropriate for outdoor activities.

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 8:30 AM Registration**  
Kickapoo Community Center
- 9:00 AM Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:30 AM Split into two groups and travel to morning sites**
- 10:00 AM Morning Sessions Begin**
- 11:30 AM Session ends. Groups return to Kickapoo Community Center**
- 12:00 PM Lunch**  
KFA auction
- 1:00 PM Groups reassemble and travel to afternoon sites**
- 1:30 PM Afternoon Sessions Begin**
- 3:00 PM Session ends. Groups return to Kickapoo Community Center**
- 3:30 PM Q&A session and Dismissal**

## PRESENTATIONS

- **Birds of the Forest**  
Alice Boyle, Assistant Professor, KSU Division of Biology
- **Wildlife and Ecology**  
Bill Busby, Associate Scientist, KBS
- **Stream Processes**  
Phil Balch, Stream Specialist, Wildhorse Riverworks
- **Plant Identification**  
Charles Barden, KSU Extension Forester
- **Forest Assessment**  
Ryan Neises, Forester, Ecotone Forestry
- **Working Forest Management**  
Ryan Rastok, KFS District Forester

An introduction to Kansas birds and their forest habitats is one of the sessions offered at the 2018 Fall Forestry Field Day.



Enjoy presentations on how to manage our forests and streams, with an emphasis on complimenting their natural cycles of change and productivity.



## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Additional Persons: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION : \$12 registration

**Please register by October 9th!**

Please submit registration form and payment to:

Kansas Forest Service  
Fall Forestry Field Day  
2610 Claflin RD  
Manhattan, KS 66502-2798  
FEIN#: 480771751



John Grange of Bird Creek Sawmill and Debra McDaniels of **Log to Bench** are both donating a bench for auction. Proceeds will be donated to KFA!!

Phone: 785-532-3300 Fax: 785-532-3305

Web: <http://www.kansasforests.org>





# ATTACHMENT B

## KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

#### WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION: REHABILITATION

**FY 2019**

|   | Watershed District              | Site | Hazard | WSI      | Funding      |              |              |
|---|---------------------------------|------|--------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|   |                                 |      |        |          | Requested    | Approved     | Cumul App    |
| 1 | Delaware WJD 10 (*)             | A-36 | L2     | DNM-0277 | \$40,246.36  | \$40,246.36  | \$40,246.36  |
| 2 | Upper Little Ark WJD 95         | 22 A | L3     | DNM-0290 | \$91,680.00  | \$91,680.00  | \$131,926.36 |
| 3 | Pony Creek WJD 78               | 21   | L2     | DJA-0160 | \$50,581.04  | \$50,581.04  | \$182,507.40 |
| 4 | Salt Creek WJD 104              | 118  | L2     | DNS-0110 | \$56,590.00  | \$56,590.00  | \$239,097.40 |
| 5 | Vermillion Creek WD 70, Revised | SC-4 | S2     | DBR-0330 | \$120,000.00 | \$120,000.00 | \$359,097.40 |
| 6 | Delaware WJD 10                 | A-35 | L2     | DOS-0195 | \$58,400.00  | \$58,400.00  | \$417,497.40 |
| 7 | Pawnee WJD 81 (**)              | 2-35 | L3     | DSG-0054 | \$120,000.00 | \$86,102.60  | \$503,600.00 |

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Requested =</b> | <b>\$808,850.40</b> |
| <b>Total Funded =</b>    | <b>\$503,600.00</b> |

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>Percentage Funded =</b> | <b>62%</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|

|  |                     |  |
|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>FY 2019 Funding Available:</b>          | <b>\$550,000.00</b> |  |
|  | <b>\$503,600.00</b> |  |
| <b>[New Const Ericson Site, M WJD 102]</b> | <b>\$46,400.00</b>  | <b>Funding approved on August 13, 2018</b> |
| <b>(*) Partially Funded in 2018 needs:</b> | <b>\$40,246.36</b>  |  |
| <b>(**) To be Supplemented in 2020:</b>    | <b>\$33,897.40</b>  |  |



**FY 2018 Rehabilitation: 7 Sites funded.**

3 Sites: All rehab work is complete:

1. Labette-hackberry WJD 96, Site B-21A
2. Vermillion WD 70, Site SC-1
3. Rock Creek WJD 84, Site 205

3 Sites: All rehab work is 95% complete:



1. Wet Walnut WJD 58, Site 145
2. Pawnee WJD 81, Site 5-11
3. Delaware WJD 10, Site A-36

1 Site: Construction work did not start yet: Switzler Creek WD 63 Site 3: bids opened July 31, 2018, Construction will start last week of September.

**KSMG V3**

**KSMG V3 UPDATES:**

- 1) Removed 25% in-stream credit requirement
- 2) Removed livestock exclusion credit
- 3) Removed section on water rights
- 4) Removed retrofitting storm water detention facilities credit
- 5) Removed construction of off-channel storm water detention facilities credit
- 6) Removed "clearing, utility crossing, temporary inundation zone" from impact activities
- 7) Removed criteria requiring additional 2-feet of buffer when proposed buffer has greater than 2% slope.

   
US Army Corps  
of Engineers.



Water Office

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www.kwo.ks.gov

## MEMO

DATE: August 20, 2018  
 TO: Kansas Water Authority  
 FROM: Karma Mason  
 RE: KWA Budget Committee

The Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee held a meeting on August 17th, 2018. Primary topics of the meeting included:

1. Review of the FY2019 KWA recommendation to the legislature
2. KWA budget committee recommendation for FY2020-2021 State Water Plan Funds

Karma Mason (chair), Gary Harshberger, Brad Loveless and Mark Fischer were present with Randy Hazlett on the call along with the agency and research representatives.

The KWA Budget Committee had a lengthy discussion and review of the agency and RAC request on recommended projects for the SGF/EDIF transfer in Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021. The committee wants to continue to focus funding to priority projects that are in the Vision and Regional Advisory Goals Action Plans. It was concluded that the Kansas Water Authority Budget Committee recommendations included in the 2018 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature should continue to be the primary requests for restoration of demand transfers. The following table shows the Budget Committee's recommendation for additional SGF/EDIF restoration for FY 2020 and 2021.

| Agency                                       | Program/Project                               | FY2020              | FY2021             |
|--|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| KDA  | Streambank Stabilization                      | \$ 1,000,000        | \$1,000,000        |
| KDHE   | Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy | \$ 175,000          | \$ 175,000         |
| KWO  | Milford Lake Watershed RCPP                   | \$ 600,000          | \$ -               |
| KWO  | Vision Education Strategy                     | \$ 250,000          | \$ 250,000         |
| KWO  | Watershed Conservation Practice Imp           | \$ 1,800,000        | \$1,800,000        |
| <b>Water Conservation Sub-Total</b>          |   | <b>\$ 3,825,000</b> | <b>\$3,225,000</b> |
| KDA  | Real Time Water Management(Telemetry)         | \$ 125,000          | \$ 125,000         |
| KDHE   | Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot                     | \$ 450,000          | \$ 450,000         |
| TOTAL  | TOTAL SGF = 497,658                           | TOTAL SGF           | TOTAL              |
| SGF =  |   | = 497,658           | SGF =              |
| 497,658                                      |   |                     | 497,658            |
| KWO  | Reservoir and Water Quality Research          | \$ 350,000          | \$ 350,000         |
| KDA  | Crop and Livestock Research                   | \$ 150,000          | \$ 150,000         |
| KDA  | Irrigation Technology                         | \$ 500,000          | \$ 500,000         |
| KWO  | Water Tech Farms                              | \$ 250,000          | \$ 250,000         |
| <b>Technology and Crop Variety Sub-Total</b> |   | <b>\$ 1,250,000</b> | <b>\$1,250,000</b> |
| KDA  | Water Supply Restoration Program              |                     | \$ 300,000         |
| KDHE   | Contamination Remediation                     | \$ 400,000          | \$ 400,000         |
| KDHE   | Drinking Water Protection                     | \$ 350,000          | \$ 800,000         |
| KWO  | Equus Beds Chloride Plume Project             | \$ 100,000          | \$ 100,000         |
| KWO  | Storage Purchase                              | \$ -                | \$1,350,000        |
| KWO  | Water Injection Dredging                      | \$ 1,500,000        |                    |
| <b>Additional Source of Supply Sub-Total</b> |   | <b>\$ 2,350,000</b> | <b>\$2,950,000</b> |



Attachment 1 is the SWPF table showing the full KWA Budget Committee recommendations for both fee revenue and the additional SGF/EDIF transfer of \$8 million in FY2020 and FY2021 to the full Kansas Water Authority. Funding lines that included SGF/EDIF transfers are shown in green.

The KWA Budget Committee recognizes that staff is necessary to carry out water resource programs and projects. As such, the KWA Budget Committee recommends full KWA support for the following state agency enhancements related to personnel and that the request should be funded from the State General Fund.

| <b>Funding Agency</b> | <b>Program/Project</b>                 | <b>KWA FY2020</b> | <b>KWA FY2021</b> |
|-----------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| KDA                   | Water Conservation Manager             | \$ 125,000        | \$ 125,000        |
| KDA                   | DWR Application Specialist             | \$ 85,000         | \$ 85,000         |
| KDA                   | Interstate Water Engineer              | \$ 100,000        | \$ 100,000        |
| KDA                   | Water Appropriations Operating Budget  | \$ 750,000        | \$ 750,000        |
| KDA                   | Water Structures Professional Engineer | \$ 100,000        | \$ 100,000        |
| KDHE                  | Onsite Environmental Support           | \$ 100,000        | \$ 100,000        |
| KWO                   | Water Resource Planner                 | \$ 100,000        | \$ 100,000        |
|                       | Total Personnel Request                | \$1,360,000       | \$1,360,000       |

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*The KWA Budget Committee recommends the KWA adopt the State Water Plan Fund as shown in the attached table to include fee revenue as well as full restoration of the State General Fund and Economic Development Initiatives Fund demand transfers. The KWA Budget Committee also recommends the KWA support additional agency staff requests as shown in the above table from the State General Fund.*

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**Attachement 1-- State Water Plan Fund**

| Agency/Program                                     | FY2018<br>Actuals              | FY2018 Carry<br>Forward           | FY2019<br>Appropriated      | FY2019 w/carry<br>forward         | FY2020 Recs                 | FY2021 Recs                 |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Department of Health and Environment</b>        |                                |                                   |                             |                                   |                             |                             |
| Contamination Remediation-1802                     | \$ 627,449                     | \$ 9,581                          | \$ 691,394                  | \$ 700,975                        | \$ 1,088,301                | \$ 1,088,301                |
| TMDL Initiatives-1805                              | \$ 244,112                     | \$ 6,252                          | \$ 278,029                  | \$ 284,281                        | \$ 276,307                  | \$ 276,307                  |
| Nonpoint Source Program-1804                       | \$ 235,045                     | \$ 10,495                         | \$ 303,208                  | \$ 313,703                        | \$ 298,980                  | \$ 298,980                  |
| Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot                          | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ 450,000                  | \$ 450,000                        | \$ 450,000                  | \$ 450,000                  |
| Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy      | \$ 549,996                     | \$ 5,004                          | \$ 730,884                  | \$ 735,888                        | \$ 730,884                  | \$ 730,884                  |
| Drinking Water Protection                          |                                |                                   |                             |                                   | \$ 350,000                  | \$ 800,000                  |
| <b>Total--Department of Health and Environment</b> | <b>\$ 1,656,602</b>            | <b>\$ 31,332</b>                  | <b>\$ 2,453,515</b>         | <b>\$ 2,484,847</b>               | <b>\$ 3,194,472</b>         | <b>\$ 3,644,472</b>         |
| <b>University of Kansas--Geological Survey</b>     | <b>\$ 26,841</b>               | <b>\$ 26,841</b>                  | <b>\$ 26,841</b>            | <b>\$ 26,841</b>                  | <b>\$ 26,841</b>            | <b>\$ 26,841</b>            |
| <b>Department of Agriculture</b>                   |                                |                                   |                             |                                   |                             |                             |
| Interstate Water Issues-0070                       | \$ 403,402                     | \$ 25,962                         | \$ 497,386                  | \$ 523,348                        | \$ 492,000                  | \$ 492,000                  |
| Subbasin Water Resources Management-80             | \$ 539,802                     | \$ -                              | \$ 619,692                  | \$ 619,692                        | \$ 610,808                  | \$ 610,808                  |
| Water Use-75                                       | \$ 75,000                      | \$ 45,178                         | \$ 72,600                   | \$ 117,778                        | \$ 72,600                   | \$ 72,600                   |
| Water Resources Cost Share-1205                    | \$ 1,601,175                   | \$ 207,050                        | \$ 1,948,289                | \$ 2,155,339                      | \$ 1,948,289                | \$ 1,948,289                |
| Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst.-1210               | \$ 1,331,554                   | \$ 299,464                        | \$ 1,860,023                | \$ 2,159,487                      | \$ 1,858,350                | \$ 1,858,350                |
| Aid to Conservation Districts-1220                 | \$ 2,000,000                   | \$ -                              | \$ 2,092,637                | \$ 2,092,637                      | \$ 2,092,637                | \$ 2,092,637                |
| Watershed Dam Construction-1240                    | \$ 528,157                     | \$ -                              | \$ 551,373                  | \$ 551,373                        | \$ 550,000                  | \$ 550,000                  |
| Water Quality Buffer Initiative-1250               | \$ 140,648                     | \$ 125,022                        | \$ 200,000                  | \$ 325,022                        | \$ 200,000                  | \$ 200,000                  |
| Riparian and Wetland Program-1260                  | \$ 44,363                      | \$ 372,495                        | \$ 152,651                  | \$ 525,146                        | \$ 152,651                  | \$ 152,651                  |
| Water Supply Restoration Program-1275              | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ -                        | \$ -                              | \$ -                        | \$ 300,000                  |
| Water Transition Assistance Program/CREP           | \$ 222,280                     | \$ 25,975                         | \$ 201,963                  | \$ 227,938                        | \$ 200,000                  | \$ 200,000                  |
| Real Time Water Management                         |                                |                                   |                             |                                   | \$ 125,000                  | \$ 125,000                  |
| Irrigation Technology                              |                                |                                   | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 100,000                        | \$ 500,000                  | \$ 500,000                  |
| Crop and Livestock Research                        |                                |                                   |                             |                                   | \$ 150,000                  | \$ 150,000                  |
| Hemp Research                                      |                                |                                   | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 100,000                        |                             |                             |
| Sorghum Crop Research                              |                                |                                   | \$ 150,000                  | \$ 150,000                        |                             |                             |
| Streambank Stabilization                           |                                |                                   | \$ 500,000                  | \$ 500,000                        | \$ 1,000,000                | \$ 1,000,000                |
| <b>Total--Department of Agriculture</b>            | <b>\$ 6,886,381</b>            | <b>\$ 1,101,146</b>               | <b>\$ 9,046,614</b>         | <b>\$ 10,147,760</b>              | <b>\$ 9,952,335</b>         | <b>\$ 10,252,335</b>        |
| <b>Kansas Water Office</b>                         |                                |                                   |                             |                                   |                             |                             |
| Assessment and Evaluation                          | \$ 446,046                     | \$ 147,976                        | \$ 450,000                  | \$ 597,976                        | \$ 500,000                  | \$ 500,000                  |
| GIS Database Development                           | \$ 50,000                      | \$ -                              | \$ -                        | \$ -                              | \$ -                        | \$ -                        |
| MOU - Storage Operations & Maintenance             | \$ 363,699                     | \$ -                              | \$ 350,000                  | \$ 350,000                        | \$ 410,000                  | \$ 523,000                  |
| Stream Gaging                                      | \$ 350,000                     | \$ -                              | \$ 431,282                  | \$ 431,282                        | \$ 430,000                  | \$ 430,000                  |
| Technical Assistance to Water Users                | \$ 382,256                     | \$ 39,219                         | \$ 325,000                  | \$ 364,219                        | \$ 325,000                  | \$ 325,000                  |
| Vision Education Strategy                          | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 100,000                        | \$ 250,000                  | \$ 250,000                  |
| Reservoir and Water Quality Research               |                                |                                   |                             |                                   | \$ 350,000                  | \$ 350,000                  |
| Water Tech Farms                                   | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ 75,000                   | \$ 75,000                         | \$ 250,000                  | \$ 250,000                  |
| Kansas Alluvial                                    | \$ 100,000                     | \$ -                              | \$ 50,000                   | \$ 50,000                         | \$ -                        | \$ -                        |
| Streambank Study                                   | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 100,000                        | \$ -                        | \$ -                        |
| Bathymetric Study                                  | \$ -                           | \$ 100,000                        | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 200,000                        | \$ -                        | \$ -                        |
| Harmful Algae Bloom Study                          | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 100,000                        | \$ -                        | \$ -                        |
| Watershed Conservation Practice Imp                | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ 900,000                  | \$ 900,000                        | \$ 1,800,000                | \$ 1,800,000                |
| Equus Beds Chloride Plume Project                  | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ 50,000                   | \$ 50,000                         | \$ 100,000                  | \$ 100,000                  |
| Milford Lake Watershed RCPP                        | \$ -                           | \$ 200,000                        | \$ 200,000                  | \$ 400,000                        | \$ 600,000                  | \$ -                        |
| Water Resource Planner                             | \$ -                           | \$ -                              | \$ 101,848                  | \$ 101,848                        | \$ -                        | \$ -                        |
| Streambank Stabilization                           | \$ 1,000,000                   | \$ -                              | \$ -                        | \$ -                              | \$ -                        | \$ -                        |
| Water Injection Dredging                           |                                |                                   |                             |                                   | \$ 1,500,000                | \$ -                        |
| Storage Purchase                                   |                                |                                   |                             |                                   |                             | \$ 1,350,000                |
| <b>Total--Kansas Water Office</b>                  | <b>\$ 2,692,001</b>            | <b>\$ 487,195</b>                 | <b>\$ 3,333,130</b>         | <b>\$ 3,820,325</b>               | <b>\$ 6,515,000</b>         | <b>\$ 5,878,000</b>         |
| <b>Total State Water Plan Expenditures</b>         | <b>\$ 11,261,825</b>           | <b>\$ 1,646,514</b>               | <b>\$ 14,860,100</b>        | <b>\$ 16,479,773</b>              | <b>\$ 19,688,648</b>        | <b>\$ 19,801,648</b>        |
| <b>State Water Plan Resource Estimate</b>          | <b>FY2018<br/>Appropriated</b> | <b>FY2018 w/Carry<br/>Forward</b> | <b>FY2019<br/>Projected</b> | <b>FY2019 w/carry<br/>forward</b> | <b>FY2020<br/>Projected</b> | <b>FY2021<br/>Projected</b> |
| Beginning Balance                                  | \$ 718,547                     |                                   | \$ 2,198,161                | \$ 2,198,161                      | \$ 522,563                  | \$ 229,290                  |
| <b>Adjustments</b>                                 |                                |                                   |                             |                                   |                             |                             |
| Release of Prior Year Encumbrance                  | \$ 479,604                     |                                   |                             |                                   |                             |                             |
| Other Service Charges                              | \$ 203,260                     |                                   | \$ 28,255                   | \$ 28,255                         | \$ 28,255                   | \$ 28,255                   |
| Transfers to SGF - John Redmond Bond               | \$ (1,260,426)                 |                                   | \$ (1,260,426)              | \$ (1,260,426)                    | \$ (1,260,426)              | \$ (1,260,426)              |
| <b>Subtotal--Adjustments</b>                       | <b>\$ (577,562)</b>            | <b>\$ -</b>                       | <b>\$ (1,232,171)</b>       | <b>\$ (1,232,171)</b>             | <b>\$ (1,232,171)</b>       | <b>\$ (1,232,171)</b>       |
| <b>Revenues</b>                                    |                                |                                   |                             |                                   |                             |                             |
| State General Fund Transfer                        | \$ 1,400,000                   |                                   | \$ 2,750,000                | \$ 2,750,000                      | \$ 6,000,000                | \$ 6,000,000                |
| Economic Development Fund Transfer                 | \$ -                           |                                   | \$ 500,000                  | \$ 500,000                        | \$ 2,000,000                | \$ 2,000,000                |
| Municipal Water Fees                               | \$ 2,993,852                   |                                   | \$ 3,267,271                | \$ 3,267,271                      | \$ 3,267,271                | \$ 3,267,271                |
| Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund                      | \$ 2,701,067                   |                                   | \$ 2,820,674                | \$ 2,820,674                      | \$ 2,710,279                | \$ 2,820,674                |
| Industrial Water Fees                              | \$ 904,987                     |                                   | \$ 1,120,701                | \$ 1,120,701                      | \$ 1,065,021                | \$ 1,120,701                |
| Stock Water Fees                                   | \$ 368,617                     |                                   | \$ 464,256                  | \$ 464,256                        | \$ 458,695                  | \$ 458,695                  |
| Pesticide Registration Fees                        | \$ 1,431,093                   |                                   | \$ 1,334,523                | \$ 1,334,523                      | \$ 1,375,453                | \$ 1,398,757                |
| Fertilizer Registration Fees                       | \$ 3,354,186                   |                                   | \$ 3,568,921                | \$ 3,568,921                      | \$ 3,584,360                | \$ 3,625,319                |
| Pollution Fines and Penalties                      | \$ 158,620                     |                                   | \$ 165,000                  | \$ 165,000                        | \$ 150,000                  | \$ 150,000                  |
| Sand Royalties                                     | \$ 6,580                       |                                   | \$ 45,000                   | \$ 45,000                         | \$ 16,466                   | \$ 9,863                    |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                              | <b>\$ 13,319,001</b>           | <b>\$ -</b>                       | <b>\$ 16,036,346</b>        | <b>\$ 16,036,346</b>              | <b>\$ 20,627,545</b>        | <b>\$ 20,851,280</b>        |
| <b>Total Available</b>                             | <b>\$ 13,459,986</b>           |                                   | <b>\$ 17,002,336</b>        | <b>\$ 17,002,336</b>              | <b>\$ 19,917,938</b>        | <b>\$ 19,848,399</b>        |
| Less: Expenditures                                 | \$ 11,261,825                  |                                   | \$ 14,860,100               | \$ 16,479,773                     | \$ 19,688,648               | \$ 19,801,648               |
| <b>Ending Balance</b>                              | <b>\$ 2,198,161</b>            | <b>\$ -</b>                       | <b>\$ 2,142,236</b>         | <b>\$ 522,563</b>                 | <b>\$ 229,290</b>           | <b>\$ 46,751</b>            |



KDA SWP ENHANCEMENT REQUESTS

|  | Annual Increased Expense | Priority / Ranking | Explanation and Justification  |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Water Appropriations Operating Budget              | 750,000                  | 1                  | Program has been operating at a deficit for several consecutive years due to SWP cuts and funding of LEMAs and WCAs with non-SWP resources. Resources from other parts of KDA have been exhausted. (Approximately \$350K in cuts and \$400K in WCA/LEMA programs.)   |
| Water Structures Professional Engineer             | 100,000                  | 2                  | The activities include independent review of complex engineering calculations and construction documents for dams, channel changes, stream obstructions, floodplain fills and levees in order to process water structure permits. The work includes field inspections of construction and completed projects, safety inspections, resolution of conflicts, and communication with landowners, contractors and other engineers. This position would ensure that succession in staff is appropriately and responsibly planned for. |
| Water Resources                                    | 500,000                  | 3                  | To increase implementation of best management conservation practices that reduce sediment, phosphorus and other specified pollutants in high priority HUC 12 watersheds. Also increasing the implementation of practices that aid in the conservation of surface and ground water through the adoption of irrigation technology such as soil moisture probes.  |
| Crop & Livestock Research                          | 250,000                  | 4                  | Work on research projects as identified by industry. See below for some current ideas. *   |
| Water Dam Construction                             | 900,000                  | 5                  | To meet unmet needs in unfunded dam construction (over a 1,000 new sites) and rehabilitation of existing flood control dams (there are approximately 1,500 existing dams).   |
| Conservation District Aid                          | 31,400                   | 6                  | To maintain and enhance conservation district operations by addressing annual inflationary costs. This enhancement provides opportunities for matching by county governments as per K.S.A. 2-1907b.  |
| Water Conservation Manager                         | 125,000                  | 7                  | To support, coordinate and supervise water conservation specialists in the field offices by performing targeted outreach and promotion for WCAs and LEMAs. Cost includes travel.   |
| Water Supply Restoration                           | 465,000                  | 8                  | Partner with the City of Augusta to rehabilitate Santa Fe Lake which serves as one of their water supply reservoirs.   |
| Public Access to Water Right Information           | 150,000                  | 9                  | To preserve and provide comprehensive public access to water right information by scanning existing paper files and making them electronically accessible through online services  |
| CREP   | 400,000                  | 10                 | 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 other interest groups to conserve limited water resources.  |
| Interstate Water Engineer                          | 100,000                  | 11                 | Will enhance the existing Interstate team to help administer and enforce the Kansas-Colorado Arkansas River Compact.   |
| Non-Point  | 300,000                  | 12                 | To implement additional soil health education activities in 105 county conservation districts as well as increasing landowner/operator scholarships to soil health educational seminars such as the annual No-Till on the Plains conference (\$100K). Additional technical assistance in high priority areas through the use of contribution agreement conservation technician positions in partnership with NRCS (\$200K).  |
| Real-Time Water Management                         | 125,000                  | 13                 | Purchase equipment to replace aging and deteriorating water pressure transducers, rate loggers, data loggers, and telemetry. Would be same equipment as KGS uses to bring consistency to mutual data collection efforts and economy of scale for maintenance.  |
| Riparian & Wetland                                 | 250,000                  | 14                 | To enroll an additional 1,111 Tier 1 acres in new sediment & nutrient reduction program.   |
| WTAP   | 200,000                  | 15                 | Start-up funds for permanent water right retirements (partial or whole) in the Rattlesnake Creek impairment area. DOC will partner with landowners, TNC, Water Pack, GMD#5 and other interest groups to conserve limited water resources.  |
| DWR Application Specialist                         | 85,000                   | 16                 | Programmer that will work on WRIS, WRIS Mobile, WSI, and GIS-related applications.   |
| Buffer   | -                        |                    |  |
| Streambank   | -                        |                    |  |
| <b>TOTAL KDA Request ABOVE FY19 Appropriations</b> | <b>4,731,400</b>         |                    |  |

\*Crop & Livestock Research Potential Projects

Advanced Crop Improvement Technology for Sorghum

Leveraging DH and CRISPR Gene Editing Sorghum

Double Haploid Technology for Sorghum

Water Recycling Systems for KLA

Change in Use Made of Water for KLA

Water Conservation Areas for KLA

Water Cycle in Agriculture for KLA

Water Comparison Study for Industrial Hemp by K-State Agronomy

Water Use Studies by Kansas Soybean

Cotton and Corn have interest. Kansas Corn indicated they are engaged in a financial partnership for the Water Tech Farms.

| Priority / Ranking No. | Program                           | Description  | Funding      | Amount                | Account Code                |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3                      | Water Resources                   | To increase implementation of best management practices that protect water quality and reduce sediment, phosphorus and other specified pollutants in high priority HUC 12 watersheds. Also to increase the implementation of best management practices 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.                      | 1800-1205    | \$500,000.00          | 559800                      |
| 5                      | Watershed Dam Construction        | To meet unmet needs in unfunded dam construction (for over 100 new sites) and rehabilitation of existing flood control dams (for approximately 1,500 existing dams).   | 1800-1240    | \$900,000.00          | 559800                      |
| 6                      | 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.  | 1800-1220    | \$31,400.00           | 551100                      |
| 8                      | 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.   | 1800-1275    | \$465,000.00          | 559800                      |
| 10                     | 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 Ratlesnake Creek impairment area). DOC will partner with landowners, TNC, Water Pack, GMD#5 and other interest groups to conserve limited water resources.  | 1800-1225    | \$400,000.00          | 559800                      |
| 12                     | Non-Point                         | 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). | 1800-1210    | \$300,000.00          | 526610 - \$100,000          |
| 14                     | Riparian & Wetland                | To enroll an additional 1,111 Tier 1 acres in the new Sediment & Nutrient Reduction program.   | 1800-1260    | \$250,000.00          | 527010- \$200,000<br>559800 |
| 15                     | 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 other interest groups to conserve limited water resources and assist them with fulfilling senior water right priorities at Quivera National Wildlife Refuge.  | 1800-1225    | \$200,000.00          | 559800                      |
|                        |                                   |  | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$3,046,400.00</b> |                             |



**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES  
for the meeting of the  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS  
September 13, 2018**

## MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

- NRCS will have sufficient technical assistance (TA) funding to complete the fiscal year (FY). We had to request additional Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) TA funds due to the increased workload. We did return some TA funds in a couple of other programs due to reduced workload in those programs – mainly the repealed Farm Bill programs. No information yet on FY19 funding.
- NRCS is in the process of completing a vehicle allocation study. This is a requirement for the agency to evaluate its vehicle fleet size and type of vehicles needed. The last one was conducted in 2015. Predominate driver of each vehicle completed a survey about the vehicle use. Results of survey analysis recommended that Kansas NRCS reduce its fleet size by up to 74 vehicles (27% of fleet). Kansas leadership is proposing to eliminate 37 of the recommended 74 vehicles (about 14% of fleet). These will be older model years and those with higher mileage. Acceptance of the Kansas proposed plan is still pending.
- Kansas NRCS entered into a cooperative agreement with KACD to assist with ATV safety training for any employee using NRCS ATVs. Those using NRCS ATVs now must be recertified every three years on safe operation of the ATV. KACD will provide a certified instructor that will complete the recertification process for each employee over a three-year period and assist with ATV safety training of new employees.
- At the end of June, we received approval to hire an additional 23 positions (8 in July, 9 in August, and 6 in September).
  - July vacancy announcements:
    - Area Resource Conservationist, Emporia AO
    - Area Resource Conservationist, Hays AO
    - Natural Resources Specialist (Business Tools Specialist), Salina State Office
    - District Conservationist, Altamont
    - District Conservationist, Stockton
    - Assistant State Conservationist - Field Operations, Hutchinson AO
    - Soil Conservation Technician, Mound City
    - Soil Conservation Technician, Russell
    - Civil Engineering Technician, Manhattan (re-advertised)
    - District Conservationist, Ness City (re-advertised)
    - Assistant State Conservationist – Programs, Salina State Office (re-advertised)
    - Rangeland Management Specialist, Hutchinson Area Office (re-advertised)
  - August vacancy announcements:
    - State Conservation Engineer, Salina SO

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

Phone: 785-823-4500  
FAX: 855-533-5070  
[www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov)

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- Administrative Support Assistant, Emporia AO
- Rangeland Management Specialist, Salina SO
- CSP Program Manager, Salina SO
- Five (5) District Conservationists positions in Cimarron, Syracuse, St. Francis, Sharon Springs, and Norton
- September vacancy announcements:
  - Engineer, Manhattan
  - Soil Conservation Technician, Greensburg
  - Soil Scientist, Salina SO
  - Three (3) District Conservationists in Fort Scott, Fredonia, and Phillipsburg
- NRCS attended a career fair at Fort Hays State University on September 12 and will be attending a career fair at Kansas State University in Manhattan on September 18.

**Personnel**

- Han Nguyen, Supervisory District Conservationist, Atwood Management Unit (MU)
- James Molzahn, Supervisory District Conservationist, Smith Center (from District Conservationist, Phillipsburg)
- Isaac Broeckelman, Soil Conservation Technician, South Hutchinson
- Earniece Young, Supervisory District Conservationist, Burlington (reports 9/16/18 from Arkansas)
- Retirements:
  - Mark Sooter, Soil Conservation Technician, Girard
- Reassignment:
  - Shaina Ott, Soil Conservationist, Garden City (from Paola)
  - Steven Davied, District Conservationist, Girard (from Oklahoma)
- Transfers Out-of-State:
  - Christopher Gauthier, Ag Engineer, Emporia AO (transfer to Wyoming)
  - Jason Stegemoller, District Conservationist, Fredonia (transfer to Texas)
  - Marvin Lewis, Soil Conservationist, Ness City (transfer to Oklahoma)
- Resignation:
  - Max Wilson-Fey, Ag Engineer, Manhattan AO
  - Laura Muse, Soil Conservation Technician, Hays

**PROGRAMS**

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)**

- There were **161 2018-1 General Applications** obligated for a total of
  - 343,155 acres
  - \$2.65 million dollars
- There are currently **40 2019-1 Renewal Applications** being processed at the field level.

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

- For fiscal year (FY) 2018 Kansas had 2 new RCPP projects approved and agreements executed. These are the Milford Lake Watershed RCPP and Doniphan County Road and Fields Sediment Reduction Projects.
- Kansas has 10 fully signed RCPP projects available to help address resource concerns.
- To date, in FY18 Kansas has obligated 105 RCPP contracts.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- Funds allocated to Kansas for 2018 EQIP available for contract approvals - \$38,469,889.00
  - Initial Allocation \$22,434,000.
    - \$5,600,000 was specifically requested for Kansas Drought Initiative.
  - Funds returned to NHQ -\$2,186,065
    - Unused allocations from the National Water Quality Initiative, Monarch Butterfly Initiative, Ogallala Aquifer Initiative, and Lessor Prairie Chicken Initiative.
  - Note: Total EQIP Obligations in the past 4 years:
    - 2017 - \$33,768,400
    - 2016 - \$21,465,800
    - 2015 - \$18,347,800
    - 2014 - \$15,883,800
- FY18 Applications & Contracts
  - Current obligated contracts - 1,287 contracts for \$32,564,866.00
  - Approved applications (pending contract obligation) - 462 applications for \$5,747,494
- FY18 Drought Initiative
  - Initiative developed late in FY18 at the request of KACD, DOC, and the Governor's Office. Through this initiative, eligible landowners and producers in declared drought emergency counties were eligible to address livestock water shortages in their operations.
  - All eligible applications were selected for funding. Contract obligation is in progress with 483 contracts in the amount of \$5,954,724 to be obligated before the FY-end.

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

- During FY18 Kansas has received 30 ACEP-WRE applications. Currently 7 applications (totaling 950 +/- acres) have been approved for funding.
- In FY17 Kansas enrolled 23 ACEP-WRE for a total of 1,737 acres (most in any one year in Kansas). Boundary surveys have been completed and should close on all these easements this fall with restoration to begin in 2018.
- Five applications have been received under the Kansas Wetlands RCPP project with Ducks Unlimited.
- Restoration has or will soon be started on the 5 closed 2016 WREs.
- Contracts are currently being developed 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.

**Watershed Operations**

- Kansas had 9 projects, totaling \$2 million in 3 watershed districts approved for Watershed Operations funding in FY17. Funds are being used to update 5 existing NRCS Authorized Work Plans (WP). Two of the 9 projects were also funded for design assistance.

- Kansas received \$2.6 million in FY18 funding to update an additional 4 NRCS Authorized Work Plans (WPs). NRCS and the watershed districts are currently working on project agreements for these watershed projects.
- 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

### **Watershed Rehabilitation**

- Kansas continues work on 5 Watershed Rehabilitation projects. Planning has been completed on 3 sites (2 WPs) and they are currently moving into design phase.
- Kansas NRCS assisted a local watershed district with 1 Dam Assessment (FY17 funded) and has received funding to complete 7 additional Dam Assessments in FY18.

### **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)**

- NRCS has submitted an Electronic Disaster Report (EDR) for the recent flooding in south central and northeast Kansas. Submission of the EDR is the first step for providing an opportunity for EWPP assistance to be made available to local sponsors if needed.

### **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 continues to work closely with Kansas State University on numerous agronomy fronts including erosion prediction, nutrient assessment, and soil health activities.
- Each NRCS field office in Kansas has received the new Trimble R1 GPS receivers paired with an Apple iPhone. Staff have been fully trained on the updated iPhone/GPS capabilities. This gives users access to existing natural resource information while in the field; allowing conservation planners to make better on-site planning recommendations to farmers and ranchers.



## **OUTREACH**

### **Outreach**

#### **USDA at the Kansas State Fair**

NRCS participated at the USDA booth at the Kansas State Fair, September 7-16, 2018, located in the Pride of Kansas building. This joint collaboration supports the "OneUSDA" initiative, which includes the creation of the USDA FPAC (Farm Production and Conservation) division, and the new [Farmers.gov](http://Farmers.gov) website. FPAC is the division under which [FSA](#), [NRCS](#), and [RMA](#) now operate, and was created to improve customer experiences, share resources, and ease the burden of applying for programs.

In addition to FSA, NRCS, and RMA, visitors to the Kansas USDA booth will be able to talk to representatives from [Rural Development](#), [National Agricultural Statistics Service](#), [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#), and [Agricultural Research Service](#). Producers can pick up information on crop insurance, ag statistics, conservation programs, rural economic assistance, and animal and plant health.

#### **Senator Moran Conservation Tour**

NRCS is currently working with Senator Moran's office to determine sites in southeast Kansas for a conservation tour on November 20, 2018.

The possible sites for the upcoming conservation tour include:

- Terraces and Irrigation Pond (NRCS provided technical assistance only) between Pittsburg and Parsons
- EQIP High Tunnel north of Pittsburg
- EQIP Wetland, Pond, Tank between Pittsburg and Parsons
- EQIP Waterways between Pittsburg and Parsons

More information will be forthcoming.