



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 9:07 a.m., Thursday, September 14, 2017, 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:

Eric Banks, State Conservationist, USDA, NRCS
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 (KSU)

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary of Agriculture (9:43 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.)
Susan Metzger, Deputy Secretary (9:43 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.)
Jason Walker, Director of Public Relations (9:43 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.)
Rob Reschke, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Program Manager
Cindy Pulse, Administrative Specialist

Guests:

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Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)
Dan Meyerhoff, KACD Executive Director
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:

Addition:

f. Discuss and finalize SCC Luncheon Speaker

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the August 7, 2017, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

a. Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) – Herb mentioned the PL-566 program and going through the proposal process to get the projects approved for funding.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Governor's Luncheon at the State Fair
 - * The location of the luncheon was discussed.
- b. Katie Burke resignation
 - * Per Rob, Katie took a teaching position at K-State and the job opening has been announced. It will remain open until filled.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for rehabilitation FY 2018 – Saadi (See Attachment A)
 - * Hakim reviewed the handout and said 44% of funding requested was approved

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A motion was made by Brad Shogren 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 2019 fiscal year – Reschke/Frost (See Attachment B)
 - * Rob reviewed the handout and emphasized that the task at hand is to have less encumbrances and less carryovers.

9:43 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.: Jackie McClaskey, Susan Metzger, and Jason Walker were present.

- * Jackie showed her appreciation to the DOC and SCC for being there.
- * Rod expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the Ag Summit and that it was time well spent.
- * Scott relayed his appreciation to Jackie for the agency-wide wage increase.

- c. Review Statewide TMDL Map – Jones (See Attachment C)
 - * Dave discussed each map and the high priority areas.

10:10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Rob left the meeting to attend another meeting

- d. Wildfire Relief Funds program recommendation – Jones (See Attachment D)
 - * Dave is working on proposing to add this as a practice code on cost-share, to have it treated like a drought, maybe allow the counties to do their own eligibility/ranking, and possibly have a landowner limit.

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve program recommendations for Wildfire Relief as outlined in the attachment and as modified with suggestions from the SCC. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

- e. Thomas County Cost-Share Policy Update – Frost (See Attachment E)
 - * Steve gathered and compiled an attorney's interpretation of this update.
 - * Rod suggested studying this issue more and address it at KACD or spring workshops
- f. Discuss and finalize SCC Luncheon Speaker – Chairman Vorhees.
 - * Rob said the Lieutenant Governor has been invited and that if he is not able to speaker then Plan B will be to have Jimmy Emmons, President of Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, be the back-up speaker.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review and assign commissioner's responsibilities and duties for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Annual Meeting – Chairman 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

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- v. Presentation of 20-year awards during banquet – Brad Shogren
- vi. Hold elections at area meetings for the following:
 - a. KACD areas II and IV
 - b. SCC areas I, III, and V
- b. Review Commissioner and staff travel – Chairman
 - i. Governor’s Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas – November 8-9, 2017, in Manhattan, Kansas
 - * Brad, Rod, John, Ted, and Hakim are interested in attending
 - ii. NACD – January 27-31, 2018, in Nashville, Tennessee
 - * Decided to wait and discuss again at November meeting
- c. Discussion on resolutions for the KACD convention – Chairman Vorhees (See Attachment F)
 - * Dave quickly reviewed the resolutions at hand

Lunch break 11:45 – 1:25 p.m.

KACD Board joined the meeting after lunch

9. REPORTS:

- a. Agency Reports:
 - * NRCS – Eric Banks – Provided his report in the joint meeting (See Attachment G)
 - * KACD – Dan Meyerhoff – no comment
 - * KCARE – Dan Devlin – no comment
 - * K-State – Peter Tomlinson – no comment
- b. Staff Reports: No comments
- c. Commissioner reports: No comments

11. ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 19, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, Kansas.

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.



Rob Reschke
Executive Director

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION**

WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION: REHABILITATION

FY 2018

Watershed District	Site	RAC	Hazard	WSI	Funding		
					Requested	Approved	Cumul App
1 Vermillion Creek WD 70, Revised (*)	SC-1	KS	S	DMS-0019	\$120,000.00	\$46,373.56	\$46,373.56
2 Rock Creek WJD 84	205	NE	S	DLY-0105	\$75,090.00	\$75,090.00	\$121,463.56
3 Labette-Hackberry WJD 96	B-21A	NE	L	DNO-0107	\$84,700.00	\$84,700.00	\$206,163.56
4 Pawnee WJD 81 (Jones/Neill)	5-11	GB	L	DNS-0115	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$326,163.56
5 Pawnee WJD 81 (Frusher)	2-3B	GB	L	DHG-0041	\$69,788.80	\$69,440.00	\$326,163.56
6 Wet Walnut WJD 58	145	US	L	DLE-0067	\$69,440.00	\$69,440.00	\$395,603.56
7 Switzler Creek WD 63	3	MC	H	DOS-0061	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$515,603.56
8 Delaware WJD 10	A-36	KS	L	DNM-0277	\$52,800.00	\$12,553.64	\$528,157.20
9 Pottawatomie Cr WJD 90	H-26	MC	L	DFR-0072	\$63,250.00		\$528,157.20
10 Delaware WJD 10	A-35	KS	L	DNM-0290	\$56,000.00		\$528,157.20
11 Nemaha-Brown WJD 7	21-15	KS	L	DBR-0239	\$49,280.00		\$528,157.20
12 Nemaha-Brown WJD 7	12-2	KS	L	DNM-0283	\$105,160.00		\$528,157.20
13 LDM WJD 5	25	KS	L	DBR-0030	\$36,044.80		\$528,157.20
14 Delaware WJD 10	C-59	KS	L	DJA-0160	\$54,720.00		\$528,157.20
15 Vermillion Creek WD 70, Revised	SC-4	KS	S	DMS-0018	\$120,000.00		\$528,157.20
					\$1,196,273.60	\$528,157.20	

FY 2018 Funding Available:	\$528,157.20
Partially Funded in 2017 needs:	\$73,626.44
To be Partially Funded in 2019:	\$40,246.36

44%

State Water Plan Fund

Attachment B

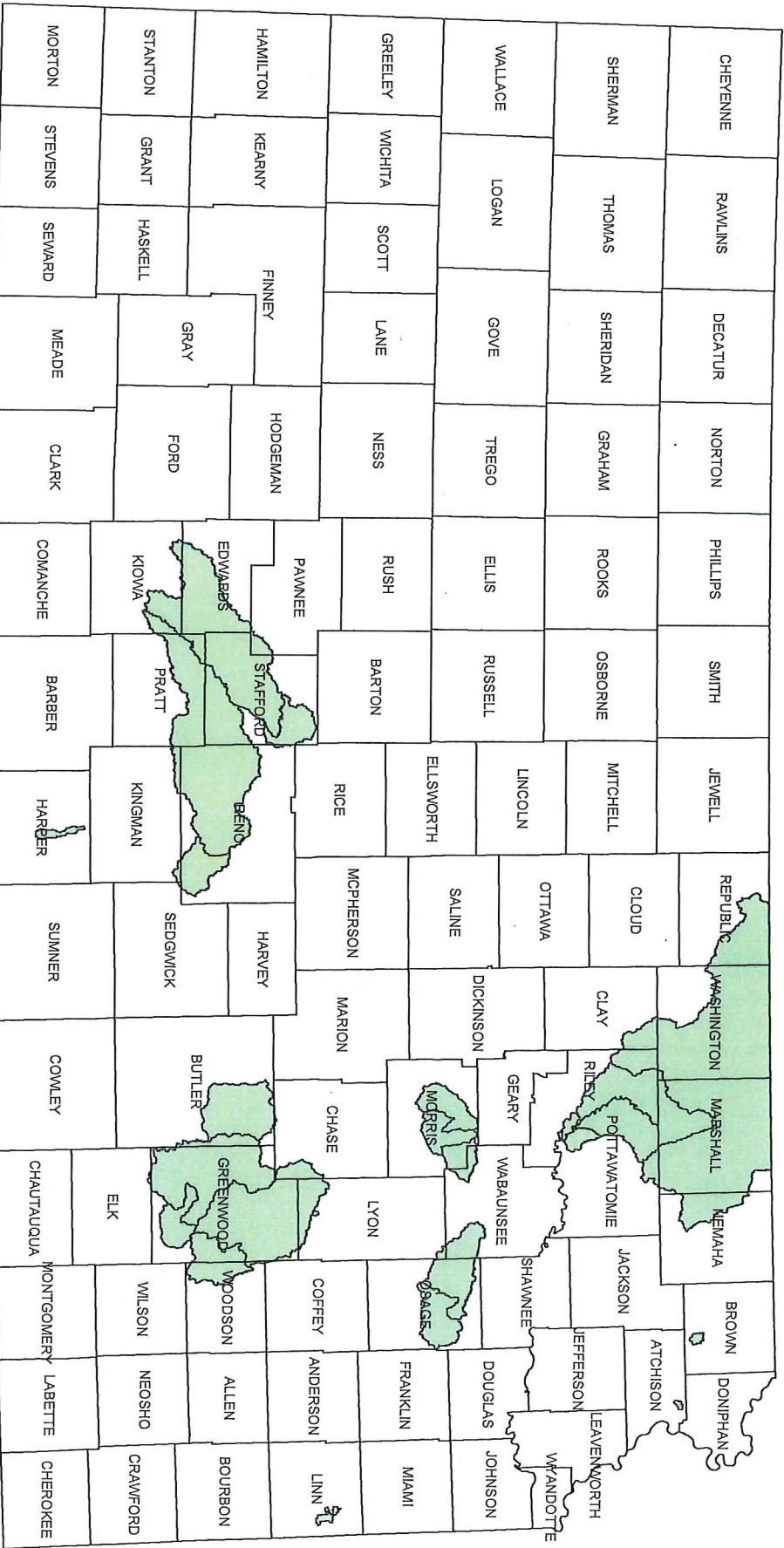
Agency/Program	FY2017 Actuals	FY2017 Carry forward	FY2018 Appropriated	FY2018 w/Carry Forward	FY2018 Enhancement	FY2019 Appropriated
Department of Health and Environment						
Contamination Remediation-1802	\$ 654,095	\$ 34,206	\$ 602,824	\$ 637,030	\$ -	\$ 688,301
TMDL Initiatives-1805	\$ 244,057	\$ 34,250	\$ 216,114	\$ 250,364	\$ -	\$ 276,307
Nonpoint Source Program-1804	\$ 297,768	\$ 7,000	\$ 238,540	\$ 245,540	\$ -	\$ 298,980
Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy	\$ 555,884	\$ -	\$ 555,000	\$ 555,000	\$ -	\$ 555,884
Total--Department of Health and Environment	\$ 1,751,804	\$ 75,455	\$ 1,612,478	\$ 1,687,933	\$ -	\$ 1,819,472
University of Kansas--Geological Survey	\$ 26,841	\$ -	\$ 26,841	\$ 26,841	\$ -	\$ 26,841
Department of Agriculture						
Interstate Water Issues-0070	\$ 451,841	\$ 37,884	\$ 387,413	\$ 425,297	\$ -	\$ 487,000
Subbasin Water Resources Management-80	\$ 780,713	\$ 132,688	\$ 407,149	\$ 539,837	\$ -	\$ 610,808
Water Use-75	\$ 107,488	\$ 55,810	\$ 64,368	\$ 120,178	\$ -	\$ 72,600
Water Resources Cost Share-1205	\$ 2,041,643	\$ 81,023	\$ 1,727,387	\$ 1,808,410	\$ -	\$ 1,948,289
Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst.-1210	\$ 1,866,556	\$ 128,109	\$ 1,502,909	\$ 1,631,018	\$ -	\$ 1,858,350
Aid to Conservation Districts-1220	\$ 2,092,637	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,092,637
Watershed Dam Construction-1240	\$ 559,353	\$ 17,081	\$ 511,076	\$ 528,157	\$ -	\$ 550,000
Water Quality Buffer Initiative-1250	\$ 179,893	\$ 177,008	\$ 88,662	\$ 265,670	\$ -	\$ 200,000
Riparian and Wetland Program-1260	\$ 158,892	\$ 203	\$ 135,343	\$ 135,546	\$ 281,312	\$ 152,651
Water Supply Restoration Program-1275	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Water Transition Assistance Program/CREP	\$ 178,572	\$ 71,114	\$ 177,141	\$ 248,255	\$ -	\$ 200,000
	\$ 8,417,588	\$ 700,920	\$ 7,001,448	\$ 7,702,368	\$ 281,312	\$ 8,172,335
			\$ 6,142,518			\$ 7,001,927
Kansas Water Office						
Assessment and Evaluation	\$ 545,732	\$ 94,023	\$ 500,000	\$ 594,023	\$ -	\$ 450,000
GIS Database Development	\$ 112,306	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -
MOU - Storage Operations & Maintenance	\$ 302,066	\$ -	\$ 363,699	\$ 363,699	\$ -	\$ 350,000
Stream Gaging	\$ 431,282	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ -	\$ 431,282
Technical Assistance to Water Users	\$ 377,646	\$ 96,479	\$ 325,000	\$ 421,479	\$ -	\$ 325,000
Kansas Alluvial			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -
Bathymetric Study			\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -
Streambank Stabilization	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total--Kansas Water Office	\$ 2,169,032	\$ 190,502	\$ 2,788,699	\$ 2,979,201	\$ -	\$ 1,556,282
Total State Water Plan Expenditures	\$ 12,365,265	\$ 966,877	\$ 11,429,466	\$ 12,396,343	\$ 281,312	\$ 11,574,930

State Water Plan Resource Estimate	FY2017 Actual	FY2017 w/Carry Forward	FY2018 Appropriated	FY2018 w/Carry Forward	FY2018 Enhancement	FY2019 Appropriated
Beginning Balance	\$ 582,946		\$ 718,841	\$ 718,841	\$ 718,841	\$ (504,151)
Adjustments						
Division of Budget- released PY Enc. Not recorded	\$ 702,377					
Release of Prior Year Encumbrance	\$ 549,091					
Reduced Resources						
Other Service Charges	\$ 28,255		\$ 28,255	\$ 28,255	\$ 28,255	\$ 28,255
Transfers to SGF - John Redmond Bond	\$ (916,550)		\$ (1,260,426)	\$ (1,260,426)	\$ (1,260,426)	\$ (1,260,426)
Subtotal--Adjustments	\$ 363,174	\$ -	\$ (1,232,171)	\$ (1,232,171)	\$ (1,232,171)	\$ (1,232,171)
Revenues						
State General Fund Transfer	\$ -		\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ -
Economic Development Fund Transfer	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Municipal Water Fees	\$ 3,028,509		\$ 2,838,217	\$ 2,838,217	\$ 2,838,217	\$ 3,267,271
Clean Drinking Water Fee Fund	\$ 2,724,051		\$ 2,539,046	\$ 2,539,046	\$ 2,539,046	\$ 2,820,674
Industrial Water Fees	\$ 973,133		\$ 934,928	\$ 934,928	\$ 934,928	\$ 1,120,701
Stock Water Fees	\$ 387,655		\$ 415,975	\$ 415,975	\$ 415,975	\$ 464,256
Pesticide Registration Fees	\$ 1,359,410		\$ 1,334,523	\$ 1,334,523	\$ 1,334,523	\$ 1,334,523
Fertilizer Registration Fees	\$ 3,491,049		\$ 3,224,145	\$ 3,224,145	\$ 3,224,145	\$ 3,568,921
Pollution Fines and Penalties	\$ 152,205		\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 165,000
Sand Royalties	\$ 21,975		\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Total Receipts	\$ 12,137,986	\$ -	\$ 12,686,834	\$ 12,686,834	\$ 12,686,834	\$ 12,786,346
Total Available	\$ 13,084,106	\$ -	\$ 12,173,504	\$ 12,173,504	\$ 12,173,504	\$ 11,050,024
Less: Expenditures	\$ 12,365,265	\$ -	\$ 11,429,466	\$ 12,396,343	\$ 12,677,655	\$ 11,574,930
Ending Balance	\$ 718,841	\$ -	\$ 744,038	\$ (222,839)	\$ (504,151)	\$ (524,906)

SGF/EDIF Transfer – State Water Plan – FY2018 & FY2019 Enhancement Req

	FY2018	FY2019
Vision Strategic Education Plan	\$0	\$500,000
Watershed Conservation Practice Implementation – BMP Team	\$0	\$1,800,000
Milford Lake Watershed RCPP Project	\$200,000	\$200,000
Streambank Stabilization	\$0	\$1,000,000
Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot	\$400,000	\$500,000
Contamination Remediation	\$0	\$400,000
Interstate Water Compact Compliance	\$0	\$100,000
Water Structures Inspections	\$0	\$200,000
Irrigation Technology	\$0	\$1,000,000
Water Technology Farms	\$0	\$250,000
Vision Implementation Research – Research Coordination Group	\$0	\$500,000
Telemetry	\$0	\$850,000
Waters Leaving the State Evaluation	\$0	\$200,000
Equus Beds Chloride Plume Project	\$0	\$500,000
FY2018 & FY2019 Enhancement Request Total	\$600,000	\$8,000,000

Kansas
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Sedimentation Above Federal Reservoirs
High Priority for Implementation Total Maximum Daily Loads
Siltation



Legend


 High Priority TMDLs for Silt

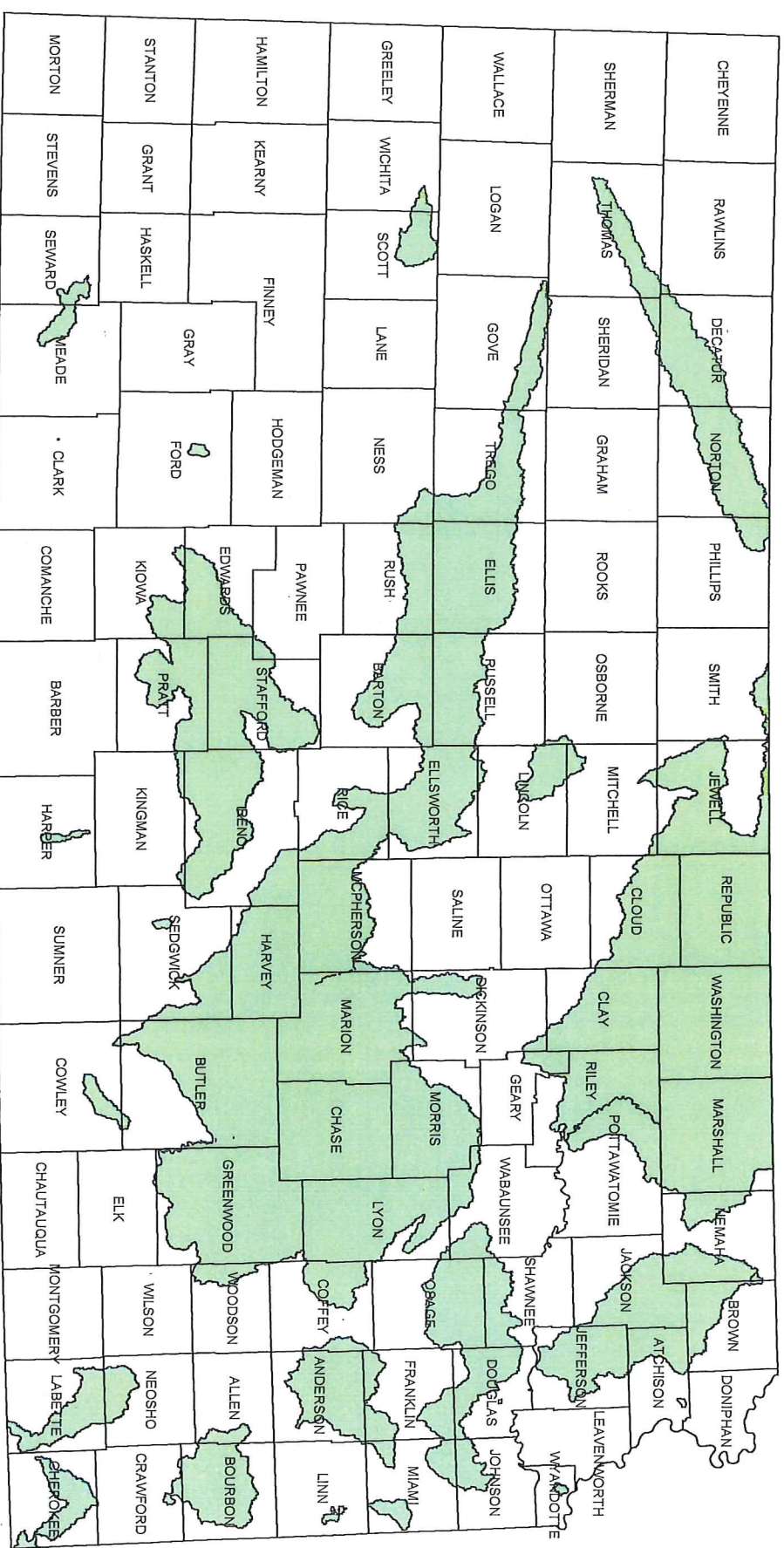
* Other high priority for implementation impalements may exist.



Kansas

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

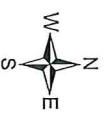
High Priority for Implementation Total Maximum Daily Loads Alachlor, Atrazine, Total Suspended Solids, Siltation, Total Phosphorus, Eutrophication, and Dissolved Oxygen



Legend

High Priority TMDLs for Ala-At-TSS-Silic-TP-Eu-DO

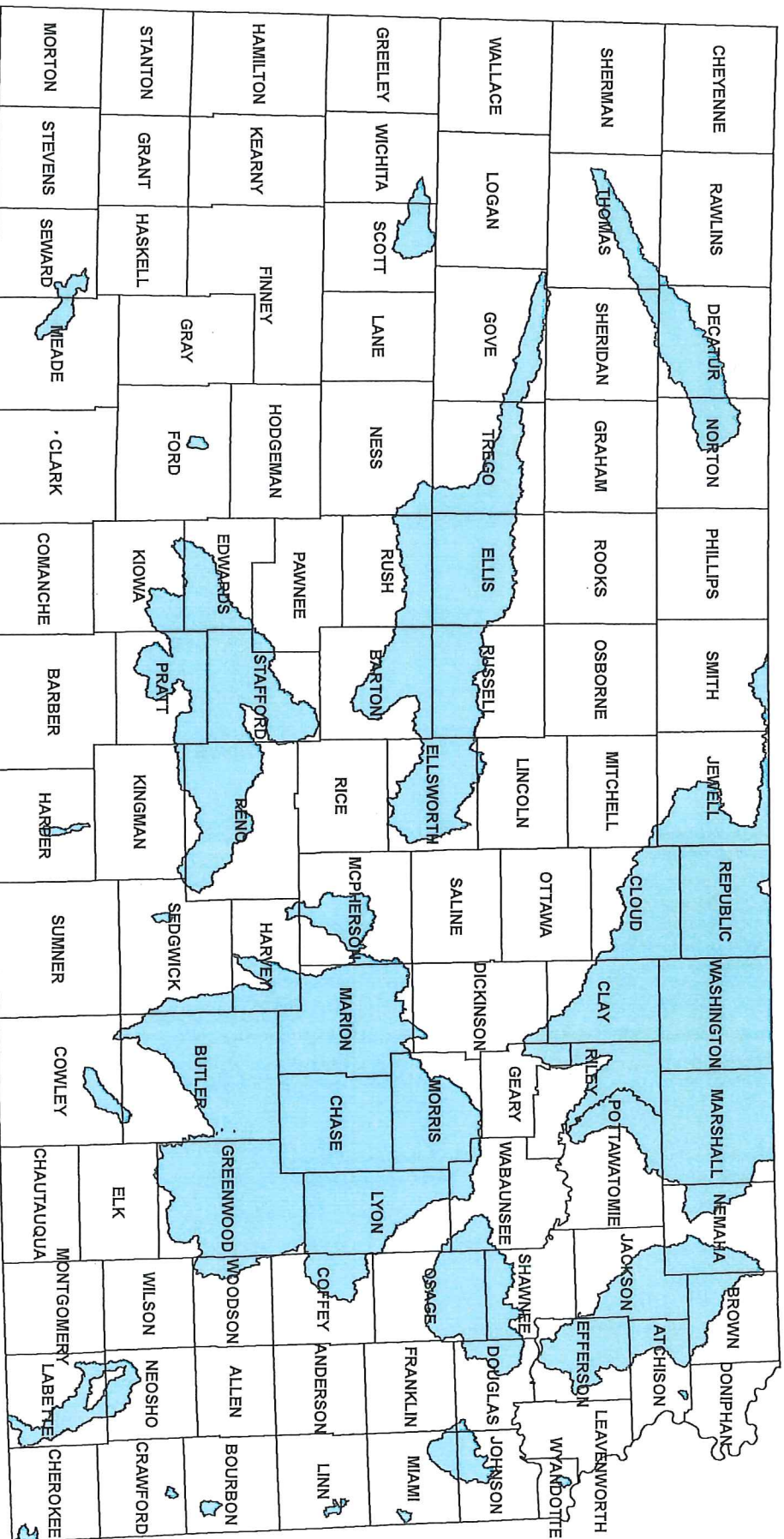
* Other high priority for implementation impairments may exist



Kansas

Environmental Quality Incentives Program Water Quality

High Priority for Implementation Total Maximum Daily Loads Eutrophication, Siltation and Total Phosphorus



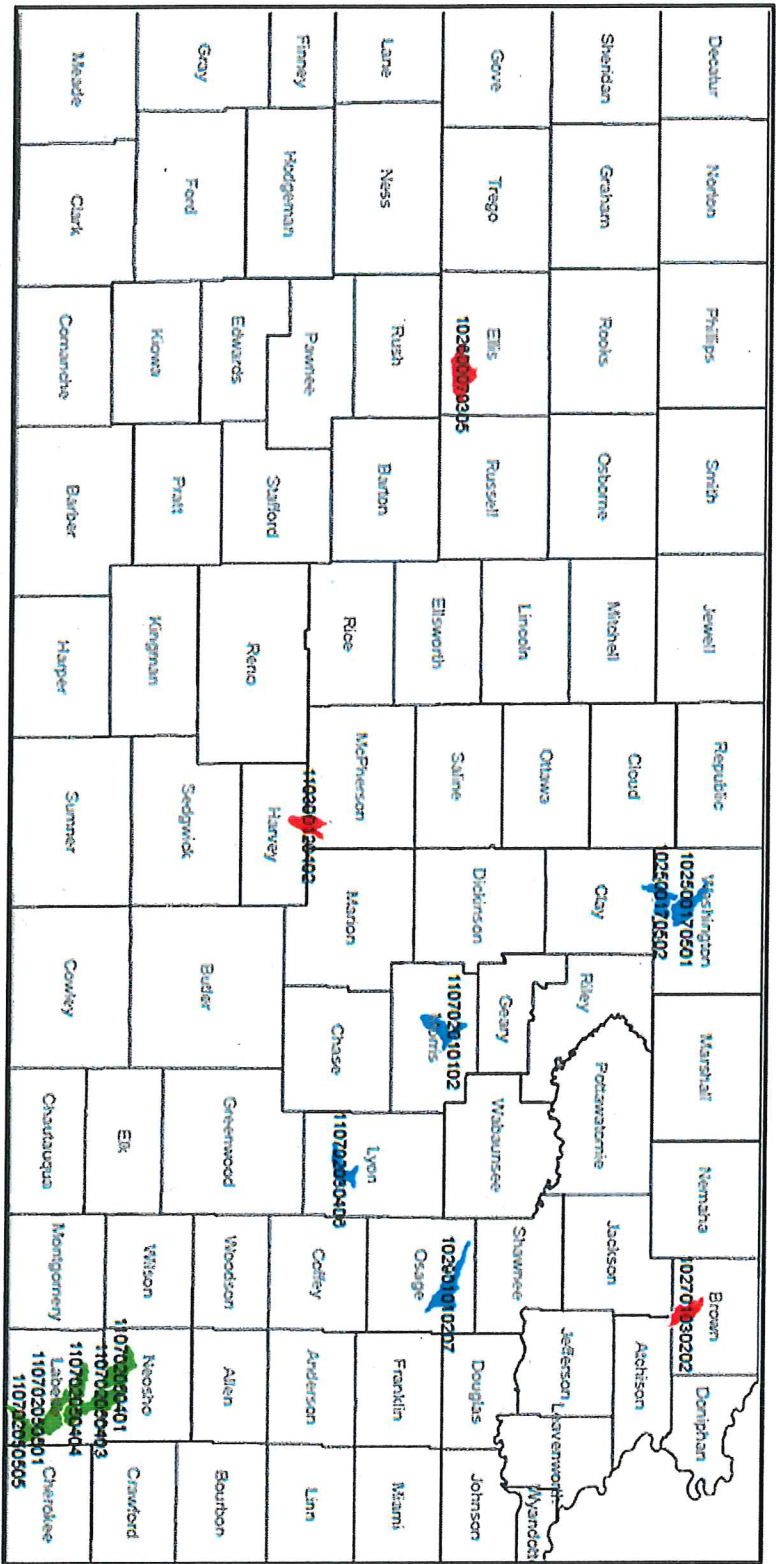
Legend

High Priority TMDLs for EU-SILT-TP

* Other high priority for implementation impairments may exist



Division of Conservation - TMDL Funding SFY 2016



Legend

- OK RCPP - DOC Funding
- DOC TMDL Funding
- NWQI Funded



M. Green

Memorandum

To: Kansas Conservation Districts

From: Rob Reschke, Executive Director

Date: September 18, 2017

Re: Kansas Wildfire Cost Share Initiative

Secretary of Agriculture, Jackie McClaskey has announced the Kansas Wildfire Cost Share Initiative to provide cost-share assistance to landowners in areas affected by the March 2017 Kansas wildfires as well as the Anderson Creek wildfire. The State Conservation Commission took action during their September 14, 2017 meeting to approve funding of an initiative that will provide \$200,000 of cost-share assistance targeted at livestock water supplies, cross fencing, grass seeding, windbreaks and obstruction removal.

Following is additional program guidance on the Kansas Wildfire Cost Share Initiative:

- There will be a 30 day sign-up period ending on October 18th.
- Districts should take applications using your normal application forms.
- Eligible areas will be the same as the NRCS EQIP 2017 Kansas Wildfire Initiative and the NRCS EQIP Anderson Creek Wildfire Initiative. These eligible areas are located in the following Kansas counties:

- Barber
- Clark
- Comanche
- Ellis
- Ellsworth
- Ford
- Hodgeman
- Lane
- Lincoln
- McPherson
- Meade
- Ness
- Reno
- Rice

- Rooks
- Russell
- Seward
- Smith

- The DOC recommends that you submit applications as they are received.
- Projects utilizing existing practice codes, will follow the districts program as far as project limits, landowner limits, county average costs and cost-share percentage.
- The DOC will approve projects until all funds are allocated or the end of the sign-up period. Additional sign-up periods may be added if funds are available.
- Districts will need to accept and forward applications to the DOC for the full 30 day sign-up period so the DOC will have an accurate inventory of the need for wildfire related practices.
- The DOC will try and approve applications on a daily basis so landowners can start projects as soon as possible.
- Projects that have been started but not completed prior to the landowner making application will be eligible for cost-share assistance provided they are following an approved NRCS design(if required).

- **Practice Code 500 Obstruction Removal is only available for this initiative and will have a statewide county average cost of \$4,000 with a cost-share percentage of 50% for total cost-share of up to \$2,000 per project. Landowners will be eligible for up to \$2,000 or landowner actual cost, whichever is less. There will be a landowner limit of \$4,000. Landowners that have an actual cost of \$2,000 or less will be reimbursed 100% of their actual cost.**

- **Practice Code 382t Temporary Electric Fence is only available for this initiative and will have a statewide county average cost of \$1.50 per linear foot with a cost-share percentage of 50%. There will be a landowner limit of \$4,000 for this practice.**

Attached is a spreadsheet that you can use to submit applications for the Kansas Wildfire Cost Share Initiative. Please submit the applications via email to David.Jones@ks.gov .

If you have any questions on the Kansas Wildfire Cost Share Initiative, contact Dave Jones with our office at 785-564-6623.

RR:daj

cc: NRCS State Office

NRCS Area Offices

SCC Commissioners

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL (Code 500)

WR/NPS

1. DEFINITION

Removal and disposal of buildings, structures, other works of improvement, vegetation, debris or other materials.

2. PURPOSE

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate the planned land use.

3. CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On any land affected by wildfire where existing obstructions interfere with planned land use development, public safety, or infrastructure. This standard is not intended for the removal of obstructions from aquatic environments.

4. COMPONENTS

- a. The following components are authorized for cost-share:
(When applicable, include labor when calculating county average cost.)

i. Earthwork (each)

(1) Include all earthwork required to meet specifications to include plowing and disking.

(2) County average cost is to be figured by the site.

TEMPORARY ELECTRIC FENCING (Code 382t)

WR/NPS

1. DEFINITION

Dividing an area of land with a suitable temporary structure that acts as a barrier to livestock.

2. PURPOSE

To subdivide grazing land to permit use of grazing systems and utilize grazing management strategies to enhance grass conditions in areas affected by wildfire damage.

3. CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Where practice is utilized:

- a. As a cross-fence when implementing a planned grazing system.

4. COMPONENTS

- a. County average cost is to be figured per linear foot. The following components are authorized for cost-sharing:
(When applicable, include labor when calculating county average cost.)

- i. Fencing (per linear foot)

- (1) Temporary Electric Fence.
Includes wire, posts, bracing, fence fasteners, and labor.

5. POLICIES

- a. In order to be eligible for cost-share for temporary electric fencing, the following conditions shall be met:
 - i. A legal perimeter fence such as a barbwire or similar fence shall be in place around the pasture to receive the temporary electric fence.

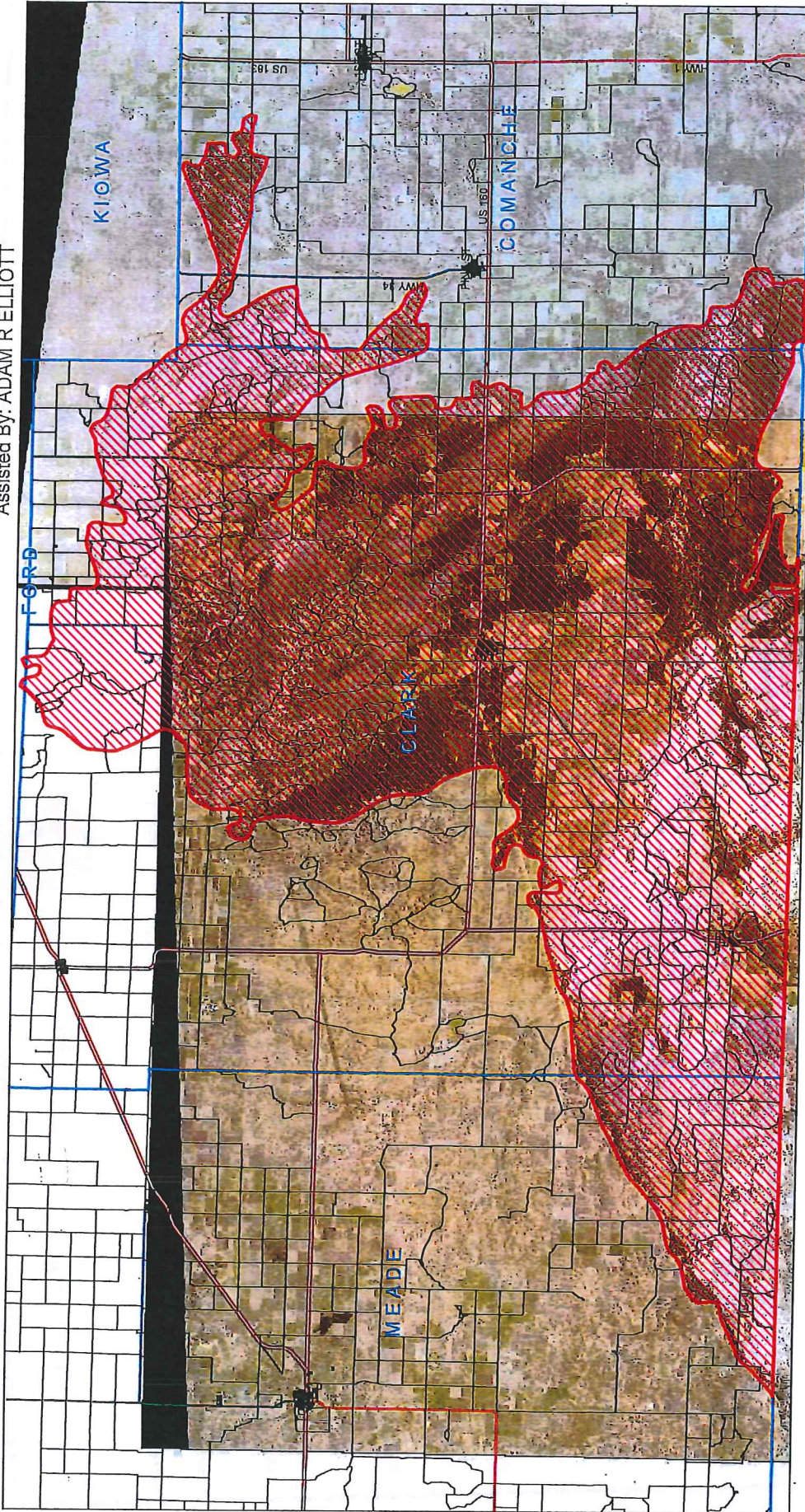
6. LIMITATIONS

- a. Cost-sharing is not authorized for:
 - i. Perimeter fencing.

Starbuck Fire Planning Map

Customer(s): CLARK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
District: CLARK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Legal Description:

Date: 9/6/2017
Field Office: ASHLAND SERVICE CENTER
Agency: USDA/NRCS
Assisted By: ADAM R ELLIOTT



Legend



KansasHistoricFires03242017



Soil data has been compiled to National Map Accuracy Standards of 1:12,000 scale, use of this data at larger scales may introduce the appearance of inaccurate line placement.

State Cost-Share Cancellation Deposit Policy Review

September 2017

Issue: Some conservation districts are requiring deposit fee, or penalty fee, agreements on state cost-share contracts as a method to discourage landowners from allowing them to expire without a good faith effort or a justifiable extension.

Districts have adopted this deposit fee requirement as a deterrent to landowners who repeatedly sign up for cost-share contracts but never complete them, for various reasons. The districts' concerns are that these funds could have been allocated to other landowners for projects which, even though they might rank lower, would still have been completed and provided a conservation benefit on the ground. This approach may also be more preferable than allocations being unnecessarily carried forward from year to year.

If the deposit fee is forfeited by the landowner for an uncompleted contract, the districts use these funds to offset their administrative costs and/or to supplement other program revenues. Since the original source of the money is state appropriation funding, an issue exists as to 1) whether the practice is allowed by state law and 2) if so, the legal purpose for which these collected deposit fees can be used.

Audience: Initially - DOC Staff, SCC Commissioners
Later - Conservation Districts

Current Policy: DOC currently has no state-wide policy which adequately addresses this issue.

Legal Authority: In K.S.A. 2-1908, our conservation district law provides that districts are authorized, as follows:

(d) to cooperate, or enter into agreements with, and within the limitations of appropriations duly made available to it by law, to furnish financial or other aid to, any agency, governmental or otherwise, or any occupier of lands within the district, in the carrying on of erosion-control flood prevention and water management operations within the district, **subject to such conditions as the supervisors may deem necessary to advance the purposes of this act;** and

(j) as a condition to the extending of any benefits under this act, to or the performance of work upon, any lands not owned or controlled by this state or any of its agencies, the supervisors may require contributions in money, services, materials, or otherwise to any operations conferring such benefits, and may require land occupiers to enter into and perform such agreements or covenants as to the permanent use of such lands as will tend to prevent or control erosion thereon.

*Legal authority for other municipalities with deposit fees are specifically set forth in state statutes with implementing rules, but do not seem to apply to this issue – i.e. deposits for municipal utilities (these deposits and their rules are specifically laid out in statute), and for Kansas Open Records Act requests (where agencies can collect a fee in advance, but they are charging for actual work as allowed by statute). However, neither example is very applicable because both acts have specific rules in place for how to make charges and how to deposit the money after it is collected.

Discussion / History:

1. Should there be a policy implemented to maintain statewide consistency and to insure legality for districts which choose to require and collect cost-share contract deposit fees?
2. KDA's Chief Legal Counsel has provided the following evaluation and recommendations in regard to how this deposit fee issue currently comports with conservation district law:

I think subsection (d) on its own probably allows the deposit because it has such an obvious benefit in advancing conservation purposes. However, I do have a few concerns. I'm not sure (d) envisioned the collection of fees like this because it doesn't mention money nor does the conservation law provide any guidance on what to do with money collected in this way. (The concern is someone might accuse the local district of actually assessing a penalty, which they aren't authorized to do or otherwise spending money that they aren't authorized to spend on something.) I am comfortable making a legal argument to justify the deposit as it is set up now, but if you could get the local districts to make the changes outlined below, I believe we could easily rely on both (d) and (j) to justify the collection of the deposit and the forfeiture of the deposit if no work is done. The way it is done now, I don't think we could rely on (j) because it's not clear the money was for the project. I'd propose that:

1) Every local district should call these the same thing. "Contract Deposit" is fine with me.

2) The language that each local district uses about the forfeiture of funds should be the same, and I believe would be made stronger if an explanation of how the forfeit money would be used in relation to the work already related to the project was included (to provide support that (j) also gives use authority to do this):

"If the conservation work is not completed, the deposit shall be forfeited by the applicant and used to pay all costs incurred by the Conservation District related to this project, and otherwise for the advancement of the purposes of the Conservation Districts Law." (related costs could justifiably include all administrative costs on the abandoned project and in selecting a new applicant for the funds, etc.)

This may require a further conversation about the appropriate % or set fee based on actual costs.

Fiscal Impact: There is no anticipated negative fiscal impact to DOC of implementing a statewide policy regarding district deposit fees for cancelled cost-share contracts – a positive impact may be realized from carry forward of unspent funds being minimized.

There is no anticipated negative fiscal impact to conservation districts requiring these deposit fees insofar as the funds being collected are being used to reimburse costs relevant to state cost-share contract administration. (Districts may act separately in regard to cost-share contracts originating from county appropriation funding).

There is an anticipated negative fiscal impact to landowners who do not complete approved cost-share contracts. Other landowners who later receive the benefit from implementation of a deterrent policy of this type may be affected positively by acquiring more cost-share dollars than they would have otherwise.

Unintended Effects: Some landowners might be deterred from applying for cost-share contracts.

Feasibility / Equity / Political Considerations: Implementation of a standardized policy framework for administration of state dollars should be viewed favorably as a good business practice.

Supporting Documents: Thomas & Cherokee counties CD cost-share cancellation agreements

Outcome Examples:

SCC Policy Statement

“It is the policy of the State Conservation Commission that if conservation work is not completed under the terms of a state cost-share contract within acceptable guidelines as established by the local board of supervisors, a deposit shall be forfeited by the applicant and used to pay all costs incurred by the conservation district related to the project, and otherwise for the advancement of the purposes of Kansas conservation district law. Every conservation district adopting such a landowner contract to ensure the implementation of approved state-cost share funds in a timely manner shall utilize the term “contract cancellation fee deposit” to describe the agreement.

Text for Kansas Conservation District Handbook, Chapter 5 (Financial Management)

Special Revenue Funds – to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted by law or administrative action to expenditure for specific purposes, e.g. a grant.

State Cost-Contract Termination Fee Agreements:

Districts may enter into agreements with landowners for the approval of state cost-share contracts which involve the collection of deposits and charging of a contract termination fee under the following guidelines:

1. Districts are not authorized to assess an after-the-fact penalty for uncompleted projects, but they may accept deposits to be held in trust for the landowner to secure final completion of the project in accord with the terms of the cost-share contract;
2. A deposit not to exceed **10%** of the total amount allocated for the project may be required upon the approval of a contract. The board may implement other total dollar minimum and maximum deposit limits;
3. Contract termination fees should be deposited to a special revenue fund and if the deposit fee is returned after successful completion of a contract, the reimbursement should be made out of the same account;
4. All deposit funds collected for termination of contracts should be accounted for as a special revenue source and may only be expended by a district to offset its costs incurred from the administration of processing the contract;
5. The board of supervisors should establish a profile of acceptable reasons and conditions for which the termination fee will be waived, e.g.
 - a. extensions requested and granted prior to the contract expiration date;
 - b. the landowner voluntarily requests a contract cancellation within **60 days** of the expiration date; and
 - c. an error by the district requires the termination of a contract; and
6. Before terminating any state cost-share contract, the Board of Supervisors will review the reason for termination and a deposit fee should only be retained after a formal action of the board of supervisors.

*The Thomas County Conservation Districts current policy for
Water Resource and Non-Point Source Pollution Control Programs
are to include:*

1. Cost Share Limitations and Rates:

- The cost share payment limitation is \$7500.00 per landowner.*

2. Expiration Date:

- The funding for all contracts will begin on the date the contract is approved by Thomas County Conservation District and Division of Conservation and will expire January 31, 2018. The cost share practices must be completed and all bills submitted to the Thomas County Conservation District prior to January 31, 2018.*

3. Cost Share Extension:

- If an applicant is unable to complete the work prior to the expiration date, then an extension can be submitted to the Thomas County Conservation District.*
- The extension will be effective until June 1st, 2018.*

4. Contract Deposit:

- All applicants are required to submit a 10% deposit of the cost share amount to the Thomas County Conservation District. Upon completion of the project and final payment approval from the Division of Conservation, the Conservation District will refund the 10% deposit. If the conservation work is not completed, the deposit becomes the property of the Conservation District.*

I hereby agree to all policies listed above.

APPLICANT: _____

CONTRACT # _____ *DEPOSIT \$* _____

SIGNATURE _____ *DATE:* _____

**Cherokee County Conservation District
Water Resources Cost-Share Program
Contract Termination Fee Agreement**

In an effort to better utilize its Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) fund annual allocation, the Cherokee County Conservation District (CCCD) has adopted a policy to charge a Contract Termination Fee to landowners who do not complete their project(s) before its expiration date.

Before terminating any WRCSP contract, the CCCD's Board of Supervisors will review the reason(s) each is being terminated. If the board determines that the contract is being terminated due to one of the "accepted reasons" listed below, the fee will be waived. Otherwise, a **Contract Termination Fee of 10% of the total amount allocated for the project, not to exceed \$350.00, but not less than \$100.00 per contract** will be charged. The primary landowner, as designated by the property owner(s) when applying for cost-share assistance, will be held responsible for the collection and payment of this fee.

Accepted reasons in which the Contract Termination Fee will be waived:

- The primary landowner requests and is granted an extension by the CCCD's District Manager prior to their project's expiration date.
- The primary landowner decides to construct a different practice or the same practice in a different location and contacts the CCCD's District Manager and requests a contract cancellation, prior to their project's expiration date.
- The primary landowner decides not to construct the practice(s) and contacts the CCCD's District Manager and requests a contract cancellation, prior to their project's expiration date.
- The contractor scheduled to construct the practice(s) is unavailable and another contractor cannot be found to complete the work before the project's expiration date and primary landowner contacts the CCCD's District Manager and requests a contract cancellation, prior to their project's expiration date.
- The landowner(s) have an unexpected financial or personal hardship that prevents the project for being started and the primary landowner contacts the CCCD's District Manager and requests a contract cancellation, prior to their project's expiration date.
- The property is sold and/or the landowner(s) lose control of the property and the primary landowner contacts the CCCD's District Manager and requests a contract cancellation, prior to their project's expiration date.
- An error by the CCCD's District Manager requires the termination of a contract.

To appeal the Contract Termination Fee, the primary landowner must notify the CCCD's District Manager stating he/she wishes to appeal the fee within thirty days of the date of the Contract Termination Fee Billing Notice, or the fee will stand.

This agreement is entered into between the Cherokee County Conservation District (CCCD) and the undersigned primary landowner. By signing below, the primary landowner understands and agrees to the terms of the agreement. Furthermore, this agreement becomes effective the date it is signed and is valid until the project is completed or the contract reaches its expiration date.

The undersigned primary landowner, as designated by the property owner(s) when applying for cost-share assistance, will be held responsible for the collection and payment of this fee.

Primary Landowner

Date

Maintenance Grazing On CRP

WHERE AS burning, light discing, and grazing are all approved maintenance practices for Conservation Reserve Program contract acres.

WHERE AS burning and light discing must be done prior to April 15 and grazing can only occur after July 15 to avoid the bird nesting season.

WHERE AS burning removes all residue from the ground leaving the soil exposed to the sun causing moisture evaporation, exposed to rain causing water erosion, exposed to the wind causing wind erosion and moisture evaporation, and destroying wildlife habitat. Burning does however remove the dead residue and thatch, destroys some weed seed, and promotes faster grass regeneration and faster green up because the soil warms up quicker.

WHERE AS light discing knocks down the dead residue, brakes up the top of the soil allowing rain to infiltrate quicker, opens up the grass canopy allowing forbs and weeds to sprout and grow which in turn can aid in soil health because of the nutrients some forbs put back and store in the soil. And opening up the grass canopy allowing the nesting birds hatchlings to be able to move about and find food easier.

WHERE AS grazing knocks down the dead residue, opens up the grass canopy allowing forbs and weeds to sprout and grow which in turn can aid in soil health because of the nutrients some forbs put back and store in the soil. Grazing helps to distribute grass seed throughout the field because the grazing animal eats the seed and deposits the seed through the manure. Grazing helps to fertilize the soil from the nutrients found in the animal manure that is deposited and broken down in the soil which promotes soil health. Insects and worms are also promoted due to their attraction and interaction with manure which also promotes soil health by braking down the manure so the nutrients can be absorbed in the soil more readily. And the influx of insects aids in the feeding of nesting birds hatchlings. Grazing opens up the grass canopy allowing the nesting birds hatchlings to be able to move about and find food easier.

WHERE AS there is no scientific evidence that proves that grazing is less affective than burning or light discing as a maintenance practice. But on the contrary is a practice that benefits grass regeneration, soil health, wildlife, and wildlife habitat as much as or more than burning or light discing. And there is no scientific evidence that proves grazing prior to the bird nesting season has any detrimental effect on the soil or wildlife.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kansas Association Of Conservation Districts recommends to the Natural Resource Conservation Service and to the USDA- Farm Service Agency to review and change their technical guide lines and maintenance agreements to allow grazing as a maintenance practice on all Conservation Reserve Program contracts where burning and light discing are an approved maintenance

practice. And to allow grazing during the period before and or after the bird nesting season (April 15 – July 15).

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Association Of Conservation Districts introduce this resolution at the National Association Of Conservation Districts annual convention so that the national association can also advocate for this change in the maintenance practice guide lines and maintenance agreement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the USDA-Farm Service Agency.

Water Conservation Through Xeriscape Practices

Xeriscape (zîr'î-skâp'): A landscaping method that employs drought-resistant plants in an effort to conserve resources, especially water.

WHERE AS using native habitat vegetation can reduce water usage in rural and urban areas by as much as 50% to 75%. Over 50% of most residential water is used on lawn and landscape.

WHERE AS Native grasses, shrubs, trees, or other "drought-resistant plants" can reduce soil erosion because they are better suited to their climate and will spread with more vigor while using less resources.

WHERE AS the use of Xeriscape practices will eliminate the over applications of pesticides, such as weed control chemicals, grass control chemicals and insecticide chemicals because they are already adapted to the local ecosystem.

WHERE AS the use of native vegetation can improve the local ecosystem by providing food and shelter to organisms suited to their local environment while discouraging foreign pests that rely on out of area plants to survive.

WHERE AS over applying fertilizers and chemicals is harmful to the ground water. Native plants will require little or no fertilizer because they are already suited to their soil profile, and less chemical because their vigor can choke out unwanted weeds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the DOC recommends to the Natural Resource Conservation Service to adopt Xeriscaping practices as a cost share program to conserve water resources and prevent pollution in drought or non-drought afflicted areas.

Add Practice 327 (Conservation Cover) to Eligible Cost-Share Practice List

Whereas, vegetative cover of soil reduces ground and surface water quality degradation by nutrients and surface water quality degradation by sediment as well as enhancing wildlife, pollinator, and beneficial organism habitat, improve soil health and reduce emissions of particulate matter and greenhouse gasses; and

Whereas, urban areas need vegetative cover on land not in agriculture production; and

Whereas, there is an existing Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) payment on Practice 327 Conservation Cover; and

Whereas, the conservation cover practice meets a need that other practices do not address; and

Whereas, it encourages owners of small parcels of land to provide permanent herbaceous cover; and

Whereas, instead of the sole focus being on farming and ranching practices, it draws attention to the problems caused by urban and suburban development;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourage the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation to add practice 327 (Conservation Cover) to the appropriate eligible cost-share practice list(s).

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

CONSERVATION COVER

(Acre)

CODE 327

DEFINITION

Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover.

PURPOSE

This practice is applied to support one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce sheet, rill, and wind erosion and sedimentation.
- Reduce ground and surface water quality degradation by nutrients and surface water quality degradation by sediment.
- Reduce emissions of particulate matter (PM), PM precursors, and greenhouse gases.
- Enhance wildlife, pollinator, and beneficial organism habitat.
- Improve soil health.

CONDITION WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all lands needing permanent herbaceous vegetative cover. This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings. This practice can be applied on a portion of the field.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Select species that are adapted to the soil, ecological sites, and climatic conditions that are suitable for the planned purpose and site conditions. Permit periodic removal of some products such as high value trees, medicinal herbs, nuts, and fruits; provided the conservation purpose is not compromised by the loss of vegetation or harvesting disturbance.

Inoculate legumes at planting time.

Choose seeding rates and planting methods that will be adequate to accomplish the planned purpose.

Use planting dates, planting methods, care in handling and planting of the seed or planting stock, to ensure that planted materials have an acceptable rate of survival.

Prepare the site by establishing a consistent seeding depth. Eliminate weeds that would impede the establishment and growth of selected species.

Base the timing and equipment selection on the site and soil conditions.

Apply nutrients as needed to ensure establishment and planned growth occur.

Additional Criteria to Reduce Sheet, Rill, and Wind Erosion and Sedimentation

Determine and maintain the amount of plant biomass and cover needed to reduce wind and water erosion to the planned soil loss objective by using the current approved wind and/or water erosion prediction technology.

Additional Criteria to Reduce Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM), PM Precursors, and Greenhouse Gases

In perennial crop systems such as orchards, vineyards, berries, and nursery stock; establish vegetation to provide full ground coverage in the alleyway during mowing and harvest operations to minimize generation of particulate matter.

Additional Criteria to Enhance Wildlife, Pollinator, and Beneficial Organism Habitat

Plant a diverse mixture of grasses and forbs species to promote bio-diversity and meet the needs of the targeted species using approved habitat appraisal guides, evaluation tools, and appraisal worksheets for the respective state.

Locate habitat plantings to reduce pesticide exposures that could harm wildlife, pollinators, and other beneficial organisms.

Additional Criteria to Improve Soil Health

To maintain or improve soil organic matter, select plants that will produce high volumes of organic material. Use the current soil conditioning index procedure to determine the amount of biomass needed.

CONSIDERATIONS

Promote the conservation of wildlife species in general, including threatened and endangered species.

Use certified seed and planting stock that is adapted to the site when it is available.

Mow when necessary during the establishment period to reduce competition from weeds.

On sites where annual grasses are expected to present a weed problem, postpone nitrogen fertilizer application until the planted species are well established.

Where applicable, use this practice to conserve and stabilize archeological and historic sites.

Consider rotating management and maintenance activities (e.g., mow only one-fourth or one-third of the area each year) throughout the managed area to maximize spatial and temporal diversity.

Where wildlife habitat development or enhancement is an objective, use a habitat evaluation procedure to aid in selecting plant species and identify other habitat requirements. Encourage plant species diversity (e.g. establish multiple structural levels of vegetation) that maximize wildlife use.

Where pollinator and wildlife habitat are primary purposes, consider using a seeding rate that is less dense, as long as soil loss is within tolerable soil loss limits.

To provide habitat for natural enemies of crop pests, select a mix of plant species that provide year round habitat and food (accessible pollen or nectar) for the beneficial species. Consider the habitat requirements of predatory and parasitic insects, spiders, insectivorous birds and bats, raptors, and terrestrial rodent predators. Consult Land Grant University Integrated Pest Management recommendations for beneficial habitat plantings to manage the target pest species.

Use a diverse mix of cover plant species that come into bloom at different times and provide a sequence of bloom throughout the year (e.g., plant at least three flowering species from each of the three bloom periods (spring, summer, and fall).

Where practical, use native species that are appropriate for the identified resource concern and management objective. Consider trying to re-establish the native plant community for the site.

If a native cover (other than what was planted) establishes, and this cover meets the intended purpose, and the landowner's objectives, consider the cover adequate.

During vegetation establishment, use natural mulches, such as wood products or hay to conserve soil moisture, support beneficial soil life, and suppress competing vegetation.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

At a minimum, prepare the following plans and specifications:

- recommended species
- seeding rates and dates
- establishment procedures
- management actions needed to insure an adequate stand

Document specifications and operation and maintenance of this practice on appropriate forms.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

When mowing and performing harvest operations in a perennial crop system such as orchards, vineyards, berries, and nursery stock; implement in a manner that minimizes the generation of particulate matter.

If wildlife habitat enhancement is a purpose, use maintenance practices and activities that do not disturb cover during the reproductive period for the desired species. Allow exceptions for periodic burning or mowing when necessary to maintain the health of the plant community.

Control noxious weeds and other invasive species.

Mow when needed during the establishment period to reduce competition from weeds.

Spot spray or use other control methods of noxious weeds to protect forbs and legumes that benefit native pollinators and other wildlife.

Re-vegetate bare spots.

REFERENCES

Renard, K.G., G.R. Foster, G.A. Weesies, D.K. McCool and D.C. Yoder. 1997. Predicting Soil Erosion by Water: A Guide to Conservation Planning with the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE), Agricultural Handbook Number 703

Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation Version 2 (RUSLE2) Web site

Wind Erosion Prediction System (WEPS) Web site

Preventing or Mitigating Potential Negative Impacts of Pesticides on Pollinators Using IPM and Other Conservation Practices, Agronomy Technical Note No. 9



United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the meeting of the
KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Upstairs Meeting Room 1, Pride of Kansas Building
Kansas State Fair Grounds, Hutchinson, Kansas
September 14, 2017

MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

- Appears that we will be operating under a Fiscal Year 2018 continuing resolutions through at least December 8, 2017

PROGRAMS

- We are 95% obligated on the Kansas Wildfire Initiative approved applications
- NRCS is working with FSA on Emergency Conservation Program replacement fence checkout in Clark County
- Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs will be Kris R. Ethridge through December 2017.
- All eligible CSP 2017-1 General Signup applications will be funded. This has resulted in 163 obligated contracts worth \$2,794,518 and covering 366,578 acres so far for sign up 2017-1 in KS. An additional 33 applications covering 71,411 acres and worth \$492,491 will be obligated by end of the FY.
- Kansas received an additional \$7.7 million dollars of EQIP FA in early August.
- EQIP in 2017 to-date we have obligated \$32.3 million dollars across all fund pools and allocation sources in FY17.
- Two Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposals that were initially selected have now successfully submitted their full proposal's for consideration. Decisions will be made mid-December.
- Kansas has four approved Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) for approximately \$200,000 that are on schedule to commence at beginning of FY18.

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

- Have closed on one of the five FY 2016 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). The remaining four should be closed in 30 days.
- Made easement and contract offers on 23 FY 2017 WRE applications with all landowners accepting the offers for enrollment. Expect to close on these in the spring/summer of 2018 with restoration to follow. Largest number of WRE enrollments in a single fiscal year for in the history of wetland easement program.
- FY17 easement monitoring is close to 80% complete.
- Ducks Unlimited RCPP project will be starting by the first of October. Purpose of the project is to work with landowners to enroll eligible lands into the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) program.

Watershed Operations

A total of 13 proposals were received from 6 WSD's involving 8 existing Authorized Work Plans. There was one new request for PL-566 funding. The proposals totaled \$12,676,900 with \$5.7 million for work plan and environmental updates or new WSD Planning. An additional \$6,976,000 was for design and construction projects associated with 12 backlog, NRCS Priority sites, planned in authorized work plans but not yet built.

Proposals include:

1. North Black Vermillion WP Site 201
2. Doyle Creek WP Site 11
3. South Fork Wolf WP 12-26
4. Middle Creek WP Site 11
5. Elk Creek WP Site 4
6. Elk Creek WP Site 12
7. Squaw Creek Wolf WP site 5-8
8. Squaw Creek Wolf WP Site 5-9
9. Upper Black Vermillion WP Site 14
10. North-Middle Forks Wolf WP Site 15-4
11. North-Middle Forks Wolf WP Site 15-5
12. North-Middle Forks Wolf WP Site 19-8
13. Pawnee Watershed "New Project Request for 5 Work Plans involving 17 Dams"

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

- Recovery work has now been completed on three (3) EWP projects including: Marion County streambank stabilization, Wabaunsee Township streambank project, and the 9 tornado debris removal project sites in Dickinson County.
- Construction work is nearly completed on the Doniphan County watershed restoration project.
- Design is nearing completion for the Upper Verdigris emergency spillway repair with construction expected in the next 60-75 days.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities

- Kansas has FY 2017 funds to complete designs for three dams that have completed rehabilitation planning. Additionally, Kansas received funding to complete one dam assessment in Walnut Creek watershed which is now under contract. Agreements with the Watershed Districts are currently being amended for the design projects.
- The Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment has been completed on Upper Walnut sites 6 & 21. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) still needs to be posted, then we can proceed into the design phase of the project.
- The draft Watershed Project Plan Supplement No. 2 and Environmental Evaluation for the Little Walnut-Hickory Watershed Joint District No. 18 and public comment period has been completed. Comments have been submitted for consideration and inclusion in the final plan. NRCS and the sponsors are working with contractor to complete the Final Supplement and planning phase prior to initiating design phase for site 19.
- Watershed planning continues for Muddy Creek Watershed site 4-6 and Rock Creek Watershed site 2. Additional alternatives are currently being considered by the watershed districts for selection of a preferred alternative for each project.

OUTREACH

Outreach

- Senator Moran has scheduled the 12th Annual 2017 Kansas Conservation Tour for Thursday, September 21st. The tour consists of five stops around Manhattan. Each stop will focus on a resource concern and the conservation practices employed to address those concerns.

The tour stops are:

1. Colbert Hills Golf Course (reducing pollutant runoff)
2. Sustainable Rivers Program (balancing water consumption with river ecology)
3. EQIP Drip Irrigation Project (benefits of NRCS programs)
4. Moyer Ranch (benefits of agricultural easements)
5. Downey Ranch (benefits of burning for weed control and preservation of the Flint Hills ecosystem)

