



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 9:04 a.m., Monday, September 15, 2016, at the Pride of Kansas 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, Natural Resources Conservation Service (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
Chad Bontrager, Deputy Secretary
Josh Roe, Assistant Secretary
Susan Metzger, Assistant Secretary
Rob Reschke, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Steve Frost, Water Conservation Programs Manager
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Cindy Woolfer, Administrative Specialist

Guests:

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Tracy Streeeter, Director, Kansas Water Office (KWO)
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watershed (SAKW)
Jim Krueger, 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:

a. No additions or corrections were made to the agenda.

A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the agenda as presented or amended. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the August 8, 2016, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

Tracy Streeeter, KWO – Key to success is the Re-Engagement Process. With the Water Vision and enthusiasm there are huge opportunities.

Herb Graves, SAKW – Herb had no comments to share.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Board engagement and interaction with other KDA advisory boards. – Metzger
- b. Governor's Luncheon at the State Fair - the luncheon was moved to an inside location due to the weather
- c. District employee retirements, resignations and new employees.
 - Montgomery Co. – Robert Morgan, District Manager, employment date 6-13-16, DOC trained date 6-21-16
 - Edwards Co. – Kelsie Klenke, District Manager, employment date 7-1-16, DOC trained date 8-16-16
 - Smith Co. – James Sweat, District Manager, employment date 7-5-16, DOC trained date 8-24-16
 - Finney Co. – Connie Richmeier, District Manager – retired 7-29-16

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- Finney Co. - Carmen Rhodes, previous District Employee promoted to District Manager, start date 8-1-16, DOC trained date 9-7-16
- Clay Co. – Tom Meek, District Manager – status change to Program Coordinator – will be working with the Milford WRAPS Program
- Clay Co. – Alison Wohler, District Manager – start date 8-10-16, DOC trained date scheduled for 9-20-16

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. DOC Goals and Objectives Priority – Metzger/Reschke (Attachment A)

Susan Metzger –The Goals and Objectives are great – very focused on Communication and Outreach. These are actually discussed at each staff meeting.

Susan asked the SCC Commissioners the following:

Are the priorities on the Objectives sheet what they feel are important?

Did they feel that the priorities needed to be re-organized?

What is the #1 category to deliver to Kansans?

Do your dollars follow where your priorities go?

Responses to Susan’s comments and questions:

Brad Shogren – Districts need to show what their contributors do – will possibly help to have leverage to get more federal aid. Suggested adding CSIMS to the Objectives list.

John Wunder – Districts are the key – locally led, volunteers getting conservation on the ground, we need to educate/inform others. Talked highly about all the great things his District Manager.

Rod Vorhees – This is not a new vision; just one we need to refocus on. He would like to see more Conservation District support to Watershed District – they need help and leadership. He feels that we also need to focus on the identity of DOC and SCC more.

Herb Graves – Need to prioritize objectives within the Watershed Districts and sustain board members and rejuvenate activity.

Rob Reschke – Watershed Districts – funding is there but Districts need help administering those funds. The objects are in order because they’ve been there – we can adjust them and make them more flexible. Aid to Conservation Districts should be re-worded to show more importance.

Susan Metzger – Water Resources cost-share and District Aid – big opportunity to do better on outreach and marketing. What can we do as a whole within KDA to market and reach out? An intern will be gathering information to figure out exactly where Conservation District dollars are going. The goal is to figure out a better way how to market those funds.

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Peter Tomlinson – In looking at the big picture, overall water quality is most important in his opinion.

Dave Jones – Hears that Conservation Districts want more technical assistance. Possibility of eventually increasing matching funds?

- b. Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for rehabilitation FY 2017 – Reschke (Attachment B)

Rob presented Hakim's report – he said that if money was made available, then 8-14 more projects would be ready to go.

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve funding recommendations for the Watershed Dam Rehabilitation as outlined in the attachment. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

- c. Budget updates for the 2018 fiscal year – Reschke/Frost

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Steve Frost presented the Financial Report and shared a copy with each Commissioner. He said that the form was simplified and more understandable, but it is still a work in progress; he is open to suggestions. The big spreadsheet was just a snapshot of the programs that are most important to the SCC. He mentioned the large expenditure for the implementation of the Land Rec/Ag Lime data base. Cindy Woofter explained the data base automation process.

Peter Tomlinson asked if there is a bond issue and, from a Risk Management perspective, do bond amounts need to be raised to help with the finances?

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review and assign commissioner 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 speakers' introduction: Rod Vorhees and John Wunder
 - iv. Governors Recognition award winners during banquet: 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. Review Commissioner and staff travel – Chairman Vorhees.

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- i. Terry Medley and Hakim Saadi will be attending the dam safety conference in Philadelphia, PA, September 11 through September 15.
- ii. Dave Jones, Donna Meader, Katie Burke, and Cindy Woofter will be attending NASCA in Branson, MO, September 25-28

Lunch break 11:35 – 1:30

KACD Board joined the meeting after lunch

- c. Discussion on resolutions for the KACD convention – Chairman Vorhees (Attachment D)

Scott Carlson explained that the DOC will use an analysis template when reviewing the proposed resolutions and finishing them up. Research and analysis will be performed by DOC staff. Some resolutions presented are similar and will be combined. In regards to the Audit resolution, DOC will need to review this and look more in-depth into it.

The Xeriscape was questioned on how it fits into conservation – is it feasible, a financial burden, etc.?

Jim Krueger made a request to the DOC and SCC to provide information on statistical and historical information for an Annual Report. He wants to be able to present this report to legislators. A grant from the Endowment Committee may possibly be provided to cover the cost of printing these reports for the KACD convention.

10. REPORTS:

- a. Agency Reports:
 - i. NRCS – Eric Banks – Eric passed out a handout on the updates on NRCS programs (Attachment E)
 - ii. KCARE – Dan Devlin – A Technology Field Day was held in southwest Kansas, which was very successful and well-attended.
 - iii. KSU – Peter Tomlinson – Will discuss with K-State the possibility of becoming part of the partnership and will let the SCC know.
- b. Staff Reports:
 - i. Jackie McClaskey welcomed and thanked all for attending the meetings at the State Fair. She expressed her appreciation to Rob Reschke and Steve Frost for all their leadership on the budget work. August 24, 2017, is the tentative date for next year's Ag Summit. From the Land of Kansas will be at the KACD Convention in November. The American Royal BBQ is in Kansas City, Kansas, the last weekend of October.

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- ii. Susan Metzger mentioned the day being exciting because all the advisory boards are meeting and she would be visiting every meeting possible. December will be the same format – the Executive Team will be able to spend more time at the December meetings. She would like suggestions for what can make their experience at the meetings more rewarding and engaging.
- c. Commissioner reports:
 - i. Area I – Ted Nighswonger – provided an update on his area.
 - ii. Area II – Andy Larson – provided an update on his area.
 - iii. Area III – Brad Shogren – provided an update on his area.
 - iv. Area IV – John Wunder – provided an update on his area.
 - v. Area V – Rod Vorhees – provided an update on his area.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

The next scheduled SCC meeting will be held Sunday, November 20, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, Kansas.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.



Rob Reschke
Executive Director



2016 Division of Conservation Objectives and Goals

KDA Current Agency Priorities: In order to achieve the mission and maintain an achievable focus, the following objectives are considered top priority:

- *Customers:* Improving customer service and compliance education for all customers and licensees;
- *Efficiency:* Streamlining and automating internal and external systems and continuing to identify opportunities for program and agency efficiencies in daily business activities;
- *Daily:* Perform daily responsibilities effectively and efficiently with a focus on customers served and cross training when appropriate;
- *Structure:* Evaluating and adjusting program, division and agency structure to achieve highest effectiveness and efficiency;
- *Eliminate:* Eliminate unnecessary and outdated regulations and/or agency activities;
- *Communicate:* Enhancing internal communications and a professional development for agency staff;
- *Employees:* Recruit and retain high quality employees - the right people, doing the right thing, with the right attitude;
- *Policy:* Continuing to build upon a common sense policy and regulatory agenda and influencing federal policy issues;
- *Grow:* Growing agriculture in the state, eliminating barriers to growth, developing workforce and building marketing activities in-state, out-of-state and globally; and
- *K-State:* Developing strategic partnerships with Kansas State University and other potential partners to better serve Kansans and the agriculture industry; and
- *Outreach:* Advocating for agriculture at all levels and provide industry outreach.

Program Focus:

- Objective: Overall accomplishment desired by program or division (each objective should reflect one or more agency priorities)
- Goal: Specific targets within each objective
- Indicators: Actions and deliverables used to demonstrate success

Objectives:

- Objective: **Provide enhanced level of support for conservation districts – supervisors, managers, and landowners**
(CUSTOMERS)
 - Goal: Conduct conservation district office / annual meeting visits (start tracking #'s)
 - Indicator: compare 2014-2015 office / annual meeting contacts
 - Goal: Increase financial management training to supervisors (start tracking #'s)
 - Indicator: compare 2014-2015 training contacts
 - Goal: Conduct new employee training on a timely basis (start tracking #'s)
 - Indicator: compare hire / training visit dates

- Objective: **Provide enhanced level of support for watershed districts – directors, contracting officers/managers, and landowners**
(CUSTOMERS; COMMUNICATE, DAILY, QUARTERLY, EFFICIENCY)
 - Goal: Provide fair and equitable assistance to all Watershed, Drainage Districts and sponsors:
 - Indicator: Daily district/sponsors administration by email, phone or visits
 - Indicator: Provide technical assistance: O&M inspections, applications for state cost-share assistance.
 - Indicator: Positive relationship with Districts/sponsors
 - Indicator: Districts/sponsors satisfaction.
 - Goal: Conduct district office / annual or quarterly meeting visits
 - Indicator: Attend 10 annual and 10 quarterly meetings
 - Goal: Reengage “inactive” districts along with the Watershed Partnership
 - Indicator: three districts per year or as identified by the Partnership
 - Goal: Assist district with Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Inspections
 - Indicator: three districts per year or as identified by the Partnership
 - Indicator: safe and sound flood control structures
 - Goal: Conduct O&M Inspections workshops along with DWR, NRCS and SAKW
 - Indicator: three workshops per two year or as identified by the Partnership
 - Indicator: Conduct construction inspections in coordination with DWR for all Watershed District construction and or rehabilitation projects.
 - Goal: Interact with state and federal groups to help direct common sense policies related to flood control management and flood hazard risk reduction.
 - Indicator: Attend Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team, SAKW, COE and other partnership meetings

- Objective: **Complete and implement the land rec / ag lime automation systems**
(CUSTOMERS; EFFICIENCY)
 - Goal: Improve license procedures and access to related information for producers
 - Indicator: document first year on-line response from licensing users
 - Goal: Reduce staff time and improve efficiency in administrative processes / materials
 - Indicator: DOC supervisor awareness
 - Indicator: count / estimate / summarize paperwork reduction

- Objective: **Redirect the buffer and repromote water conservation programs**
(STRUCTURE)
 - Goal: Redefine water quality buffer initiative program into a CREP
 - provide higher incentives in more focused target areas and achieve higher results.
 - Indicator: new I/E materials, local meetings (1 new brochure, 3 meetings)
 - Indicator: count new enrollments in new target area / compare
 - Goal: Refresh and re-promote WTAP and CREP programs
 - Indicator: new I/E materials, local meetings (1 new brochure, 3 meetings)
 - Indicator: count new enrollments in target areas / compare

- Objective: **Develop and utilize existing programs that will implement the Governor’s 50 Year Water Vision**
(POLICY)
 - Goal: Conduct feedback sessions at SCC Spring Workshops on policy proposals
 - Indicator: increased public input at meetings
 - communicate feedback with KDA PIO
 - Goal: Solicit more innovative practices into cost-share and incentive opportunities

- Indicator: new practices developed - count
 - Indicator: new tax incentives offered – count
 - Goal: Promote / adopt / implement appropriate legislation
 - Indicator: List new bills passed in each session
 - Goal: Adopt a CREP statute with general authorities which can implement water quality and water quantity components under separate rule and regulation developments
 - Indicator: FSA MOA adopted

- Objective: **Utilize Manhattan logistics and engage KSU in SCC, DOC Watershed and Conservation District programs & initiatives**
(K-STATE)
 - Goal: Fully engage SCC ex-officio members in policy development and implementation
 - Indicator: increased input / proposals at meetings – compare 2014-2015
 - count occurrences of SCC interaction with other areas of KDA
 - Goal: Engage KSRE & KCARE in research projects when warranted
 - Indicator: increased project interaction – compare 2014-2015
 - Goal: Engage KSRE & KCARE in research projects when warranted
 - Indicator: increased project interaction – compare 2014-2015
 - Goal: Engage KFS on more technical services with improved results
 - Indicator: increased project inspections – compare 2014-2015
 - Indicator: increased contract awards – compare 2014-2015

- Objective: **Improve SCC, DOC Watershed and Conservation District programs and initiatives, CD & KACD advocacy for agriculture**
(GROW; OUTREACH)
 - Goal: Communicate with KDA PIO, CDs, SCC and KACD on initiatives
 - Indicator: spring & fall workshop agenda – entity feedback
 - 1x per quarter: news releases of things we are doing
 - Goal: Place staff in strategic leadership of state / national ag & natural resources associations
 - Indicator: increased presence – compare 2014-2015
 - NASCA, NACD, KACD, ADSOA, WSWC
 - Goal: Interact with state & federal agencies for more KDA / DOC input
 - Indicator: increased meetings attendance – start meeting count in 2015
 - FSA, NRCS, KWO, KFS
 - Goal: Obtain more fund source grant / partnership opportunities
 - Indicator: RCPP or other grant approvals – compare 2014-2015
 - CIG
 - Goal: Integrate information / education strategy with KDA communications / marketing
 - Indicator: coordinated “Agriland” presence at 2015 state fair
 - Indicator: enhanced SCC / KACD / CD policies / activities promoted
 - Assist CD’s with I and E Initiatives relating to the 50 Year Vision

- Objective: **Improve efficiency / cost effectiveness of staff / office functions**
(EFFICIENCY; DAILY; STRUCTURE; ELIMINATE; COMMUNICATE; EMPLOYEES)
 - Goal: Develop an internal communication plan
 - Indicator: conduct a minimum of bi-weekly staff meetings - count
 - Goal: Re-configure, streamline fiscal, CD oversight duties, riparian coordination
 - Indicator: additional resource planner – confirm
 - Water Quality Forester funded by KFS
 - Indicator: DOC supervisor awareness

- Goal: Cross train employees
 - Indicator: DOC supervisor awareness
- Goal: Follow a professional development plan
 - Indicator: staff attend field tours / visit agency field offices – count
 - Indicator: staff attend two professional meetings each year – count
 - Indicator: employ conservation technicians – count
 - Indicator: promote flex-time/ telecommuting opportunities – count
 - Indicator: staff attend national NACD and NASCA meetings - count

Division of Conservation

Objectives:

- Provide enhanced level of support for conservation districts — supervisors, managers and landowners.
- Provide enhanced level of support for watershed districts — directors, contracting officers/managers and landowners.
- Complete and implement the land rec/ag lime automation systems.
- Redirect the buffer and re-promote water conservation programs.
- Develop and utilize existing programs that will implement the Governor's 50-Year Water Vision.
- Utilize Manhattan logistics and engage KSU in SCC, DOC Watershed and Conservation District programs & initiatives.
- Improve SCC, DOC Watershed and Conservation District programs and initiatives, CD & KACD advocacy for agriculture.
- Improve efficiency/cost effectiveness of staff/office functions.

Package Name	Priority	Required?	Statutory Basis	Purpose: Expected Benefits	How will this be accomplished	Consequences of not funding	Alternatives	Other	Performance Measures
Water Conservation Programs (WTAP and CREP)	1	No	KSA 2-1901–1918	Retirement of privately held water rights to reduce the "Historic Consumptive Water Use" which can result in significant water conservation benefits to the state's rivers, streams and aquifers.	Provide additional incentives to the USDA CRP financial incentives to permanently retire water rights in the Upper Arkansas River Basin. Retire water rights permanently by purchasing through a bid in the Rattlesnake Creek, Prairie Dog Creek and six high priority areas in GMD #4. Staffing: Partial time of one program manager.	Could result in reducing the sustainability of aquifers used for irrigation that support a multi-billion dollar agriculture industry in Kansas.	None	None	Indicator: Statutory limits for enrollment met within five years.
Non-Point Source Pollution Control Cost-Share Program	2	No	KSA 2-1901–1918	Water quality protection through reduction in bacteria in streams. A reduced level of nutrients, pesticides, dissolved oxygen and bacteria in streams, lakes and underground sources of water.	Provide cost-share to landowners to implement best management practices such as livestock water supplies, streambank stabilization, riparian area protection, pasture management, livestock waste management and home septic systems. Staffing: Partial duties to 3 program coordinators.	The state water supplies would be more susceptible to contamination and sedimentation. Reduced amount of technical assistance in high workload areas of the state.	None	None	Indicator: Complete distribution of available funds based on pollutant priorities.
Water Resources Cost-Share Program	3	No	KSA 2-1901–1918	Reduces sedimentation, nutrient and pesticide runoff, as well as fecal coliform bacteria loading in targeted water supplies. Reduces soil erosion on cropland and grazing lands. Sustains irrigation groundwater supplies.	Implement cost-share practices such as terraces, waterways, ponds, grass plantings and pasture and rangeland management and irrigation scheduling through local county conservation districts. Staffing: Partial duties to 3 program coordinators.	The state water supplies would be more susceptible to contamination and sedimentation. Loss of protection for rangeland and cropland.	None	None	Indicator: Complete distribution of available funds based on pollutant priorities.
Aid to Conservation Districts	4	Yes	KSA 2-1901–1918	Incentivizes county commissions to match a state contribution allowing conservation districts to deliver local, state and federal natural resources programs.	The state will match up to \$25,000 in matching funds to a county conservation district. These funds are used to hire administrative and technical staff, maintain an office and carry out educational programs. Staffing: Program manager or coordinator partial time.	Conservation districts may have to dissolve or consolidate without state financial assistance. This could result in not only losing program assistance from local and state funded programs but federal NRCS as well.	None	None	Indicator: 100% of county commissions contributing at least \$25,000.
Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative	5	No	KSA 2-1901–1918	Protects streamways from excessive erosion and reduces the amount of nutrients, pesticides and other contaminants from entering the streamways. Increases wildlife habitat.	State financial incentives are provided to supplement federal Conservation Reserve Program funds to encourage establishment of riparian forest buffers and vegetative filter strips. Staffing: Program manager partial time.	The state water supplies would be more susceptible to contamination and sedimentation.	None	None	Indicator: Program redirected within CREP and statutory deadlines met.
Riparian and Wetland Protection Cost-Share Program	6	No	KSA 2-1901–1918	Protects, enhances and restores riparian areas, wetlands and associated habitats. Reduces sedimentation to downstream water supply reservoirs and preserves prime farmland.	Use a multi-state agency approach to implement streambank stabilization projects in high priority watersheds above public water supply reservoirs. Staffing: One program coordinator, part of DOC admin. manager.	The state water supplies would be more susceptible to contamination and sedimentation.	None	None	Indicator: Complete distribution of available funds based on watershed priority.
Watershed Dam Construction Program	7	No	KSA 2-1901–1918	Constructing and maintaining flood control structures protects infrastructure such as roads, bridges and farmland and protects lives. Inundation mapping contributes to planning efficiency and safety of downstream residents.	Provide financial assistance to local entities to construct detention dams, restore degraded structures and provide funding assistance for inundation mapping. Staffing: Partial time of one program manager.	Loss of life, infrastructure and farmland could occur by not addressing flood mitigation needs through dam construction/ rehabilitation or by failing to use inundation mapping of dam breach areas in planning.	None	None	Indicator: Complete distribution of available funds based on watershed priority.
Water Supply Restoration Program	8	No	KSA 2-1901–1918	The restoration and protection of public water supplies and infrastructure investments are essential to maintain viable and liveable communities.	Provide financial assistance funds to communities for restoration activities, e.g. lake dredging, repairing existing dams, pursuing alternative public water supply sources.	Communities would not be able to afford water supply restoration resulting in the continued degradation, capacity and usefulness of their water supplies.	None	Administration of water rights with regulation and enforcement by DWR.	Indicator: Complete distribution of available funds based on watershed priority.
Multipurpose Small Lakes Program	9	No	KSA 2-1901–1918	Develops a site that is planned for flood control and water supply and/or recreation and also renovates existing lakes that have potential to provide long-term flood control, water supply and recreation benefits.	Facilitate, coordinate and provide funding for a specific lake structure developed locally and when appropriations are made by the legislature for the lake. Financially assist municipalities and other entities in renovating existing lakes. Staffing: Partial duty for one program manager.	Kansas communities could be deprived of recreational opportunities, reliable water supplies and flood control benefits.	None	None	Indicator: Complete distribution of available funds based on watershed priority.
Surface Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Program	10	Yes	KSA 2-1901–1918	Reclaims and returns mined land (except coal) to productive cropland, housing development, pastureland, wildlife habitat and recreational hunting and fishing.	Require producers who mine aggregate, industrial materials and minerals to be licensed. Monitor registration of mines, filing of reclamation plans, submission of reclamation bonds, and reclamation of mines upon completion. Staffing: Half-time duties of one admin. specialist, one program coordinator.	Many acres of mined land could not be reclaimed resulting in a perpetual state of unproductivity and unsightliness.	None	None	Indicator: Acres of reclaimed land to productive use.
Kansas Agricultural Liming Materials Act	11	Yes	KSA 2-1901–1918	Provides ag lime producers with an annual analysis from an independent testing source (KDA and KSU Soils Lab) providing statewide consistency of analysis. This provides purchasers with a standard product analysis. Requires standardized labeling on retail packaging.	Field sample all bulk ag lime facilities in the state that sell ag lime. Register all sellers of ag lime in the state. Process annual site registration fees and tonnage fees used to implement the program. Staffing: Program coordinator partial time.	Could result in misrepresentation of the quality of ag lime products through faulty sampling and analysis or improper labeling which may cost the buyer unnecessarily.	None	None	Indicator: 100% of facilities tested and inspected annually

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION: REHABILITATION

FY 2017

	Watershed District	Site	Cost-Share		
			Requested	Approved	Cumul Apprvd
	Delaware WJD 10 (Sup)	A-1	\$17,620.86	\$17,620.86	\$17,620.86
	UMDC WJD 101 (Sup)	108	\$45,036.70	\$45,036.70	\$62,657.56
1	Pawnee WJD 81	5-3A	\$75,280.00	\$75,280.00	\$137,937.56
2	Marais des Cygnes DD 1	M-9	\$96,000.00	\$96,000.00	\$233,937.56
3	Wet Walnut WJD 58	143	\$81,064.00	\$81,064.00	\$315,001.56
4	Delaware WJD 10	C-88	\$22,527.00	\$22,527.00	\$337,528.56
5	LDM WJD 5	4	\$52,368.00	\$52,368.00	\$389,896.56
6	Long-Scott WD 93	1-33	\$112,911.00	\$112,911.00	\$502,807.56
7	Vermillion Creek WD 70, Revised (*)	SC-1	\$120,000.00	\$73,626.44	\$576,434.00
8	Delaware WJD 10	A-35	\$56,000.00	\$0.00	\$576,434.00
9	Nemaha-Brown WJD 7	12-2	\$59,600.00	\$0.00	\$576,434.00
10	Pawnee WJD 81	5-11	\$120,000.00	\$0.00	\$576,434.00
11	Delaware WJD 10	A-36	\$52,800.00	\$0.00	\$576,434.00
12	LDM WJD 5	25	\$36,044.80	\$0.00	\$576,434.00
13	Switzler Creek WD 63	3	\$120,000.00	\$0.00	\$576,434.00
14	Vermillion Creek WD 70, Revised	SC-3	\$120,000.00	\$0.00	\$576,434.00

Total =	\$1,187,252.36	\$576,434.00
		49%

(*) partially funded, still need: **(\$46,373.56)**

Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation

Attachment C

SCC FY2016 Financial Report – September 15, 2016

SWP Funds	FY2016 Actuals	FY2017 Appropriations	FY2017 Allocation w CF	Expenditures	Balance	[Commitments]
Administration	\$122,737		\$127,359	\$10,211	\$117,147	
Aid to Conservation Districts	\$2,101,294	\$2,092,637	\$2,092,637	\$1,790,891	\$301,746	\$2,092,660
Water Resources						
Cost-Share			\$1,720,614	\$10,313	\$1,710,301	\$1,082,737
TMDLs			\$210,000	\$0	\$210,000	\$71,113
A.S.K. Orders			\$94,000	\$0	\$94,000	\$94,000
Paybacks			\$367	\$0	\$367	\$308
Total WR	\$1,930,834	\$1,948,289	\$2,024,981	\$10,313	\$2,014,668	\$1,248,158
Non-Point Source						
Cost-Share			\$1,356,592	\$71,095	\$1,285,497	\$709,235
TMDLs			\$90,000	\$2,702	\$87,298	\$22,710
A.S.K. Orders			\$94,000	\$0	\$94,000	\$94,000
Conservation Techs			\$210,000	\$456	\$209,544	\$83,053
NOTOP / Soil Health			\$52,500	\$701	\$51,799	\$2,404
SBPP			\$138,615	\$0	\$0	\$0
Paybacks / Other			\$52,958	\$0	\$0	\$700
Total NPS	\$2,035,689	\$1,858,350	\$1,994,665	\$74,954	\$1,728,138	\$912,102
Watershed Dam Const.	\$619,463	\$576,434	\$576,434	\$0	\$576,434	\$0
Water Supply Restoration	\$235,000	\$258,156	\$281,312	\$0	\$281,312	\$0
WQ Buffer Initiative	\$201,419	\$249,792	\$356,901	\$306	\$356,595	\$199,765
Riparian & Wetland	\$154,827	\$152,651	\$159,095	\$150	\$158,945	\$0
WTAP / CREP	\$465,380	\$0	\$149,619	\$0	\$149,619	\$58,840
TOTAL	\$7,743,906	\$7,136,309	\$7,833,395	\$1,916,930	\$5,654,499	\$4,511,525

Fee Funds	FY2016 Actuals	FY2017 Cash Balance	Deposits	Expenditures	Balance	[Commitments]
Land Reclamation		\$84,819	\$1,068	\$24,343	\$61,544	[\$127,600]
Ag Liming		\$33,122	\$24,306	\$2,130	\$55,297	
TOTAL		\$117,941	\$25,374	\$25,473	\$116,841	

Fiscal Notes:

- The Mined Land Reclamation Program receives its annual revenues of approximately \$123,000 from a combination of
 - license fees totaling about \$9,000 which are collected in the October – December time frame; and
 - site registration & tonnage fees totaling about \$114,000 which are collected April - May.
- The Agricultural Liming Materials Program receives its annual revenues of approximately \$33,000 from site registration & tonnage fees collected in the June – July time frame.

Land Reclamation

Annual Mine Report & Site Registration Renewal – due April 1
 Tons sold/consumed per year x \$.003 + \$45 per new acre affected OR
 \$45 minimum

License to Mine – due December 1
 License fee is dependent on tonnage reported on the Annual Mine Report

0-9,999 tons = \$25.00
 10,000-99,999 tons = \$50
 100,000-499,999 = \$100
 500,000 + = \$150

Ag Lime

Quarry Registration Renewal – June 30
 \$25 per quarry

Annual Tonnage Report & Inspection – July 31
 \$.05 per ton

Kansas Department of Agriculture

Division of Conservation

FY2016 – FY2019 Funding

SWP Funds	FY2016 Actuals	FY2017 Appropriations	FY2017 Adjusted w/ carryforward	FY2018 “No Cuts”	FY2018 Proposed	FY2019 Proposed
Water Resources Cost-Share	\$1,930,834	\$1,948,289	\$2,122,665	\$1,948,289	\$1,727,387	\$1,948,289
Non-Point Cost-Share	\$2,035,689	\$1,858,350	\$1,994,665	\$1,858,350	\$1,503,015	\$1,858,350
Aid to Conservation Districts	\$2,101,294	\$2,092,637	\$2,092,637	\$2,092,637	\$2,000,000	\$2,092,637
Watershed Dam Const.	\$619,463	\$576,434	\$576,434	\$576,434	\$511,076	\$550,000
Water Quality Buffer Initiative	\$201,419	\$249,792	\$356,901	\$100,000	\$88,662	\$200,000
Riparian & Wetland	\$154,827	\$152,651	\$159,095	\$152,651	\$135,343	\$152,651
Water Supply Restoration	\$235,000	\$258,156	\$281,312	\$0	\$0	\$0
WTAP / CREP	\$465,380	\$0	\$249,686	\$200,000	\$177,324	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$7,743,906	\$7,136,309	\$7,833,395	\$6,928,361	\$6,142,807	\$7,001,927

DOC is looking at a \$785,554 (11%) reduction from FY2018 “No Cuts” to FY2018 Proposed. One option was to take an “across-the-board” 11% cut. We did not want our Water Resources cost-share to drop below the 11% cut and we were hoping to keep State Aid as level as possible. This resulted in Non-Point taking the bulk of the cut.

A further necessary reduction in State Aid allocation from \$2,092,637 to \$2,000,000 will result in an overall 4% decrease in the State Aid allocation for FY2018. This amount will result in a shared reduction of \$882 per conservation district for next year.

The Non Point allocation will change from \$1,410,378 back to \$1,503,015, which still results in an overall 19% reduction in the Non Point allocation in FY2018. FY2019 allocations roughly remain at roughly the FY2017 levels. These numbers could change based on revenue reductions OR on an increase in revenues.

RESOLUTION #1

NRCS Policy Change and Land Use for High Tunnels

WHEREAS, high tunnels are only on land classified as agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, the loss of agricultural land is thousands of acres each year by urban encroachment; and

WHEREAS, non-agricultural land can be reclassified as agricultural land through a process with the Farm Service Agency; and

WHEREAS, agricultural land has to have cropping history and urban land has not cropping history; and

Whereas, placing high tunnels in urban settings can be more beneficial to more people;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts recommend to the Natural Resources Conservation Service that they amend policy so high tunnels can be used on suitable urban or rural land.

RESOLUTION #2

Cost Share for Xeriscape

WHEREAS, xeriscape is the practice of landscaping and gardening that eliminates the need for irrigation and other inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides; and

WHEREAS, xeriscape would significantly decrease pollution through contaminated runoff and leaching in urban and rural settings; and

WHEREAS, xeriscape would aid in restoring natural ecosystems;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of the Conservation Districts recommends to the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation to implement cost share for xeriscaping.

RESOLUTION #3

Policy Change for Rental Rate on CRP

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been and continues to be one of the best conservation tools to protect the soil from wind and water erosion, and to promote soil health; and

WHEREAS, CRP is an excellent practice to enhance wildlife habitat for upland birds, water fowl, deer predators, threatened and endangered species and numerous other fauna and flora; and

WHEREAS, CRP can be used to plant pollinator plant species to help promote pollinator insects including the monarch butterfly; and

WHEREAS, CRP is being broke out and farmed, including the most erodible ground, at an alarming rate and new enrollment into CRP seems to have stalled; and

WHEREAS, the highest erodible ground should be the target for CRP because it is the most susceptible to wind and water erosion and is the most in need of soil health improvement; and

WHEREAS, the higher the erodibility index, the higher the payment rate; and

WHEREAS, we encourage higher enhancement and higher diversity of the higher erodibility index soils to benefit wildlife; and

WHEREAS, enrolling the highly erodible ground with a diverse mix of species would address the most resource concerns; and

WHEREAS, an enhancement and encouragement to keep and enroll the most highly erodible ground in CRP, the rental rate structure should be revised to pay the highest rate for the most highly erodible ground and the lowest rate for the least erodible ground;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts highly recommend and lobby the United States Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency to change the payment structure so that applications with higher erodibility index receive higher rental rates.

RESOLUTION 4

Policy Change for Equitable Renewal on CRP

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been and continues to be one of the best conservation tools to protect the soil from wind and water erosion, and to promote soil health; and

WHEREAS, CRP is an excellent practice to enhance wildlife habitat for upland birds, water fowl, deer predators, threatened and endangered species and numerous other fauna and flora; and

WHEREAS, CRP can be used to plant pollinator plant species to help promote pollinator insects including the monarch butterfly; and

WHEREAS, CRP is being broke out and farmed, including the most erodible ground, at an alarming rate and new enrollment into CRP seems to have stalled; and

WHEREAS, the highest erodible ground should be the target for CRP because it is the most susceptible to wind and water erosion and is the most in need of soil health improvement; and

WHEREAS, the higher the erodibility index, the higher the payment rate; and

WHEREAS, we encourage higher enhancement and higher diversity of the higher erodibility index soils to benefit wildlife; and

WHEREAS, enrolling the highly erodible ground with a diverse mix of species would address the most resource concerns; and

WHEREAS, an enhancement and encouragement to keep, enroll and renew the most highly erodible ground in CRP, the rental rate structure should be revised to pay the highest rate for the most highly erodible ground and the lowest rate for the least erodible ground;

WHEREAS, CRP promotes air quality by increasing the amount of carbon storage in soils;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts highly recommend and lobby the United States Department of Agriculture-Farm Service Agency to change the payment structure so that applications with higher erodibility index receive higher rental rate. Ranking consideration with renewal contracts be given priority.

Furthermore be it resolved, that wind and water erosion be given equal consideration in comparison to priority wildlife areas.

RESOLUTION #5

USDA to Enroll More Acres in CRP

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has been and continues to be one of the best tools to protect the soil from wind and water erosion; and

WHEREAS, CRP is an excellent practice to enhance wildlife habitat for upland birds, water fowl, deer predators, threatened and endangered species and numerous other fauna and flora, as well as insect pollinators; and

WHEREAS, CRP is being broken out and farmed, including the most erodible ground, at an alarming rate and new enrollment seems to have stalled due to acreage caps and visions of the 2014 Farm Bill;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts highly recommend to the National Association of Conservation Districts that they encourage Congress to increase more acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that this increased acreage has priority as Native Grassland Plantings.

RESOLUTION #6

Increasing Nationwide Caps on Conservation Reserve Program Acreage

WHEREAS, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) helps to reduce soil erosion, benefits water quality and benefit wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, CRP is a proven program already in place with a need greater than the current acreage cap; and

WHEREAS, the State of Kansas recognizes the importance of the CRP program by supplementing federal dollars with state funds; and

WHEREAS, government funds have already been expended in establishing current CRP acreages and without funding continuation landowners may put sensitive land back into production;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts urge the Kansas Congressional delegation to support the increase of acreage cap on the Conservation Reserve Program.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation District request the National Association of Conservation Districts urges the United States Department of Agriculture and Congress to increase the acreage cap to 36 million acres in the Conservation Reserve Program.

RESOLUTION #7

Windbreak Practice Eligibility

WHEREAS, windbreaks are needed in Kansas to reduce wind-induced soil erosion, protect livestock, shelter farmsteads and provide wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, landowners request cost-share funds to assist with the expenses associated with the establishment of windbreaks; and

WHEREAS, the windbreak practice is only eligible to be placed on cropland in federal cost-share programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourages all federal and state agencies to use the same windbreak practice eligibility criteria so that windbreaks can be planted on any land use in order to protect cropland, livestock and farmsteads.

RESOLUTION #8

**KACD Support for Governor's Water Vision, or
KACD Support for Governor's Vision 50**

Whereas, water is one of Kansas' most important resource; and

Whereas, the governor has recognized the importance of this resource and implemented a process, Long Term Vision for the Future of Water Supply in Kansas, Vision 50, for addressing water resources in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision has identified financial and technical assistance needs in high priority watersheds and;

WHEREAS, through the process area, regional and state work groups have identified water resource concerns, and now fourteen regional planning areas were established and now are in the process of compiling strategies, goals and funding sources;

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

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

WHEREAS, the Governors Water Vision has identified a need for a water management plan in forecasted water short areas that includes adopting water saving practices that improve the sustainability of the Ogallala Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts have established the effectiveness of cost-share incentives to address resource concerns; and

WHEREAS, the conservation provisions of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) have increased the demand for conservation technical assistance; and

RESOLUTION #8

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

WHEREAS, conservation districts and watershed districts are responsible for carrying out conservation and have been successful in implementation of watershed programs locally with local leadership and conservation partners; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the Governors Water Vision, Vision 50, and in addition, supports the Vision utilizing the locally led structure of conservation and watershed districts in the implementation phases of the Vision.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourage the Kansas legislature to utilize the effective mechanism of the county conservation districts and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation as the agency to distribute and implement the local on land practices of the Vision 50 plan.

Further, be it also resolved that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts will continue to educate and promote the successes that conservation districts have had in putting cost share monies into completed projects on locally privately held lands.

RESOLUTION #9

District Annual Audit Requirement

WHEREAS, the Kansas Conservation District Act requires an annual audit of conservation districts; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts desire to be fully accountable and improve audit efficiency and accuracy; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts want consistency of this audit process in a cost effective way statewide;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts request the State Conservation Commission and the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation implement a more comprehensive cost effective audit procedure.

APPROVED

RESOLUTION #10

Protection of County Cost Share Funds

WHEREAS, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts develops educational programs for conservation districts to work with the Kansas legislature, Kansas Water Authority and Regional Advisory Committees on the necessity of funding conservation districts to continue to carry out their goals; and

WHEREAS, conservation districts continue to implement the goals and objectives as outlined in the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts' Strategic Plan and statutory responsibilities mandated by the Kansas Legislature through the Kansas Conservation District Act,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts lead a special initiative to encourage membership to develop a plan to educate decision makers at the county, state and federal level of the benefits of conservation funding and conservation districts to their constituents.

RESOLUTION #11

Relax Crop Insurance Rules for Companion
Cover Crops

WHEREAS, cover crops are proven to improve soil health;
and

WHEREAS, cover crops are becoming a more common
conservation practice; and

WHEREAS, current crop insurance rules restrict the use of
companion crops;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas
Association of Conservation Districts will ask the United
States Department of Agriculture-Risk Management Agency
to allow companion cropping in Kansas.

RESOLUTION #12

Change State Cost Share Rates to Flat Rates

WHEREAS, State cost share payment rates have been paid as a percentage of county average costs for best management practices since the establishment of the State Conservation Committee in 1937; and

WHEREAS, it can be confusing to landowners to have conservation districts pay a percentage of their county average costs; and

WHEREAS, a county flat rate would be much easier for landowners to understand; and

WHEREAS, a county flat rate would be more efficient for the conservation districts to implement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts ask the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation to amend Kansas State Statute 2-1915 to change state cost share rates to county flat rates per State of Kansas fiscal year.

RESOLUTION #13

Lagoon Added to Practice 110A (Elimination of Abandoned On-Site Wastewater System)

Whereas a lagoon may have been a better choice than other on-site wastewater treatment systems when first installed; and

Whereas the site may now require an upgrade to a different on-site wastewater treatment system or closing due to improper construction or the abandonment of a home site; and

Whereas there is existing cost share on closing other failing wastewater systems, "seepage pits (rat holes), cesspools, drainage pits and septic systems as a result of system renovation to meet standards or the abandonment of a home site;" and

Whereas proper closing would ensure the elimination of possible groundwater contamination; and

Whereas an abandoned lagoon septic system is a safety hazard; and

Whereas proper closure would eliminate future problems with structural integrity for construction at or near the site; and

Whereas it would ensure proper closure by requiring a local county sanitarian inspection;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Kansas Association Of Conservation Districts encourage the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation to add "Lagoon" to practice 110A (Elimination of Abandoned On-Site Wastewater System).

NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the meeting of the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS
September 15, 2016

MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

- The following personnel changes have been made within the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supervisory positions:
 - Gerald W. Gray, District Conservationist, Clay Center, was selected as the supervisory district conservationist for the Iola Management Unit, effective July 24, 2016.
 - Barry N. Barber, Supervisory District Conservationist, Winfield, retired September 2, 2016.
 - Michael T. O'Connor, District Conservationist, Fort Scott, retired September 2, 2016.
- Work continues on filling vacancies.
- The Supervisory District Conservationists' (SDC) Annual Meeting will be October 12 and 13. This meeting focuses on leadership with speakers on supervising, understanding generational differences, and dealing with active threats.
- We hope to receive fiscal year (FY) 2017 allocations in early October, depending on Congressional actions.

PROGRAMS

Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

State and area staff will be attending 2017 Conservation Stewardship Program training the first week of October. Field office training will take place the last two weeks of October.

Easement Programs

Annual easement monitoring is approximately 91 percent complete for FY2016.

- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program–Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program–Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)**
 - All 13 FY2014 ACEP-WRE enrollments have now been acquired and these easements are in the restoration phase. Wetland restoration has been completed on 3 of the 2014 enrollments. FY2015 ACEP-WRE enrollments are in the closing process.
 - FY2016 ACEP-WRE applications: Offers were extended to five landowners for enrollment. All five have accepted the offer and NRCS is now working with the landowners to complete the boundary surveys.
 - We have two FY2014 and two FY2015 ACEP-ALE easements that are in the acquisition phase. One of the cooperating entity partners has closed on one of these easement parcels

and NRCS expects to work with all cooperating entity partners to close on the remaining three enrollments in FY2017.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

Restoration work is being completed on the remaining five WRP easements that will restore or protect 760 acres of wetlands.

- **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**

Now that all FRPP easements are closed, annual monitoring will be completed by the entity that acquired the easement, with NRCS being provided an annual report.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

- Kansas NRCS continues to assist the City of Sedgwick with a Sand Creek streambank stabilization and debris removal project. Funds have been obligated and design completed for the restoration construction project. The City currently has the project out for bids. Construction is expected to begin last week of September. NRCS will be providing up to 75 percent of the \$82,300 estimated total project cost.
- NRCS processed requests for EWP assistance from Dickinson and Ottawa counties to assist with the May 25 tornado debris removal in stream reaches above county bridges. Twelve sites have been determined eligible and NRCS has submitted the projects to National Headquarters (NHQ) for funding consideration
- Requests for EWP assistance have also been received from Wabaunsee and Marion counties related to flooding damages that are threatening township and county roads and levees. Site visits were completed and rough cost estimates provided for the local sponsors to consider the 25 percent local match requirements.
- Recent heavy rains and flooding events have resulted in Electronic Disaster Reports being submitted to NHQ involving a dozen Northcentral and Southcentral Kansas counties.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

An RCPP Agreement with The Nature Conservancy was signed August 26, 2016, for Native Grazing Lands Protection in the Great Plains.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities

- Rehabilitation planning for five watershed dams in Butler County continues with supplements to the NRCS Work Plans currently being drafted and reviewed. All four watershed districts selected their preferred alternatives which are federal alternatives. Public meetings to review the Watershed Planning Supplements will be conducted during the next few months with projects completed by spring of 2017.
- Kansas has awarded a contract for doing seven Dam Assessments in Kansas—three in Brown County and four in Chautauqua County. Performance time commenced on September 6, 2016, and runs through February 21, 2017.

TECHNOLOGY

Engineering

- An Area Engineer Specialists Meeting was held in Salina on September 12, 2016. Topics discussed included engineering practice standards updates, engineering aspects of the FY17

program payment schedule, changes to rainfall data in Kansas, breach routings for hazard classification of watershed dams, and LiDAR. A presentation on turf reinforcement mat (TRM) and Flexamat (with Q&A) was also given by a sales representative from ASP Enterprises, Wichita.

- Ten new Rugby 810 laser levels have been ordered for use throughout several field offices. Also, new software for survey-grade GPS units is in the process of being ordered. This software will assist with stakeout and checkout of conservation practices.

Resources

- Kansas now has statewide acquisition of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) elevation data. The final 15 counties in western Kansas were acquired in winter of 2015-16 through partnership funding (including NRCS, U.S. Geological Survey, and Kansas Water Office) and will be available sometime around February 2017. LiDAR is available free of charge to the public through the Kansas Data Access and Support Center (DASC), the state geospatial data clearinghouse.
- NRCS will be upgrading the agency-wide conservation planning tool know as Customer Service Toolkit (Toolkit) to version 9 in October 2016. Upgrades include integration with other resource tools used in service centers and additional support for Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) and easement planning and tracking of practice implementation. Kansas NRCS will provide 12 training sessions throughout the state in late August and through the month of September.
- Resource staff have been involved with a statewide pollinator stakeholder group evaluating the status of pollinator information, science, and conservation across Kansas.

Soils

Soils 101 training was given to many new employees on August 9-11, 2016. The training consisted of both classroom and field training. NRCS soil scientists, engineers, resource specialists, and others provided the training.

OUTREACH

- Kansas NRCS staff are working several shifts for the Kansas Conservation Partnership at the State Fair Agriland.
- The annual Feds Feed Families food drive was June 1 through August 31. Seven offices reported non-perishable food donations of 1,957 lbs. For the 6th year in a row, the Smith Center Service Center collected over 1,000 lbs. This year's collection was 1,689 lbs and qualifies them for the group gold level Hall of Fame.
- Kansas NRCS will have a booth at the upcoming 3I Show, October 13-15, in Dodge City.
- Users for Client Gateway have increased seven times in the last month; however, we are still far short from the numbers in surrounding states. We have provided fact sheets and other information to field offices, and will be demonstrating the products at future events.
- The Kansas Land Trust is holding an easements dedication event October 14 at the Reading Community Building, 613 East First Street, Reading, Kansas. Eric Banks is one of several speakers at the event to which the public is invited.

- **News Releases:**

- **Top Three Time-Saving Advantages Using NRCS' Conservation Client Gateway**

Farmers put in long days. Driving to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office every time paperwork needs to be signed is not always productive. With Conservation Client Gateway, a producer can do most of their business with NRCS online.

- *Advantage 1–Sign documents electronically*
- *Advantage 2–Keep track of payments*
- *Advantage 3–Request conservation practice certification or technical assistance*