109 SW 9th Street 2A
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1283

# 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 9:00 a.m., Monday, April 9, 2012 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 SW 9th St., 4th floor Conference Room, Topeka, 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) (Late)
Chad Voigt, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
Phil Barnes, Associate Professor, Water Quality, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, K-State Research and Extension
Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension

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

Greg Foley, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager
Max Foster, Public Service Executive
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Programs Manager
Don Jones, Water Quality Programs Manager
Steve Frost, Water Conservation Programs Manager
Rob Reschke, Riparian & Wetland / Buffer Coordinator
Donna Meader, Program Consultant
**Guests:**

Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
Herb Graves, State Association of Kansas Watersheds
*Jerry Eggleston, Miami County Resident
**Harrison McCallum, Vice – Chairman of the Miami County Conservation District
*Arrived at 9:30 a.m. and left at 10:25 a.m.
**Arrived at 9:45 a.m. and left at 10:30 a.m.

## 3. ADDITIONS, AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**a.** Deletion: 9. f. Watershed Dam Construction program funding recommendation for rehabilitation and inundation mapping for FY 2012.

**b.** Deletion: 9. g. Water Supply Restoration Program update.

**c.** Addition: 9. f. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grant Proposal.

**Motion by Andy Larson to amend the agenda as presented. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion Carried.**

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

**a.** Approve the January 17, 2012 minutes as mailed.

**Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the January 17, 2012 minutes as mailed. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

## 5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

**a.** Jerry Eggleston – Miami County Resident.

## 6. FINANCIAL REPORT:

**a.** Financial report update see Attachment A – Max Foster.

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**a.** Presentation of Outstanding Service Award to Rob Reschke – Rod Vorhees. Rob Reschke announced that he will be resigning effective April 13, 2012. Rob was presented a service award and was lauded for program implementation efforts and maximizing efforts with limited resources.

## 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**a.** Summary of 2012 Spring Workshops were reviewed see Attachment B – Scott Carlson.

**b.** Legislative update and review of FY 2013 budget – Greg Foley.

**i.** Legislature has not adopted a budget to this point. It appears the Budget numbers may end up close to the values that were reviewed at the Spring Workshops.

**c.** Review future SCC meeting dates see Attachment C – Scott Carlson.

**Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the May FY 2012 SCC meeting date and the FY 2013 meeting dates as outlined below. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

May 15, 2012, Tuesday, Topeka
July 29 & 30, 2012, Sunday & Monday, Fort Scott
September 20, 2012 Thursday, Hutchinson
November 18, 2012, Sunday, Wichita
January 22, 2013, Tuesday, Topeka
April 8, 2013, Monday, Topeka
May 14, 2013, Tuesday, Topeka

## 9. NEW BUSINESS:

**a.** Review FY 2013 program allocation scenarios see Attachment D – Don Jones.

**Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the Water Resource Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) and the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPSPCP) FY 2013 cost-share fund allocation recommendations within each program. County specific allocations will be recommended by staff at the May 15, 2012 SCC meeting. Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.**

**b.** Review FY 2013 WRCSP, NPSPCP, Buffer Initiative and Riparian and Wetland Protection Program (RWPP) program policy revisions see Attachment E – Don Jones and Rob Reschke.

**Motion by Andy Larson to approve the FY 2013 WRCSP, NPSPCP, Buffer Initiative, and RWPP policy revisions. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

**c.** Discuss luncheon speaker choices for the SCC luncheon at the 2012 Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Convention – Greg Foley. Greg was given direction to pursue a short list and bring to the May meeting.

**d.** Review cost-share encumbrance and cancellation policy recommendations see Attachment E – Staff.

**e.** Discuss FY 2013 cost-share cancellation/reallocation policy see Attachment E – Staff.

**f.** Discuss NRCS Field Office of the Future Initiative see Attachment F– Scott Carlson.

**g.** Update on a Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) CIG proposal regarding water conservation technology in Southwest Kansas. The grant will provide innovative irrigation monitoring, telemetry, and automation for 250 producers with an annual matching financial contribution from Division of Conservation (DOC) of $175,000 (for one to three years depending on available funds) see Attachment G – Steve Frost.

**Motion by Andy Larson to approve a $175,000 financial contribution in 2012 as a cooperating partner in the Southwest Groundwater Management #3 NRCS CIG project. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

If this Grant is awarded, SCC directed staff to pursue funding for the initiative through the Kansas Water Authority (KWA) and the Water Planning Process.

**10. REPORTS:**

**a.** Agency Reports:

**i.** NRCS Report see Attachment H – Eric Banks.

**ii.** Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE) – Dan Devlin. New Dean of Agriculture will be Jon Floros effective August 1, 2012.

**b.** Staff reports:

**i.** Watershed Restoration Program – Saadi. Greg, Hakim, City of Osage City officials and engineers from PEC of Topeka and Burns & McDonnell met in February, 2012. The City officials and the engineers reaffirmed their interest in pursuing the rehabilitation of Osage City reservoir dam (hydrologically inadequate) and the restoration of the lake – dredging at least 100,000 cy. The City lake dam was built in 1913 and modified in 1923 and in 1939. It was dredged and modified in 1959. The dam is a class C high hazard size 4 structure. It drains 4.7 square miles. The lake supplements the water supply of Osage City community and their whole sale customers.

**ii.** KACD –EO Area meetings – Donna Meader and Max Foster. Donna will be making a presentation at Area IV's meeting on May 2, 2012. Max Foster will be making presentations at Area III, April 24, 2012, Area I, May 2, 2012, and Area II, May 16, 2012.

**c.** Commissioner Reports - None

**11. ADJOURN:**

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. May 15, 2012 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 SW 9th Street, 4th floor Conference Room, Topeka, KS.

**Motion by Andy Larson to adjourn. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.**

Greg A. Foley.
Executive Director

**Attachment A**



# DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2012 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
## JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2012

| | PROGRAM/FUND | INDEX | Appropriation/ Allocation | Total Expenditures | % of Funds Expended | Funds Committed/ Encumbered-Contigent | UNCOMMITTED BALANCE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **STATE GENERAL FUND - 1000** | | | | | | |
| | a. Office Operations | 0053 | 552,381.00 | 425,254.80 | 77.0% | 1,983.00 | 125,143.20 |
| | **TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND** | | **$552,381.00** | **$425,254.80** | **77.0%** | **$1,983.00** | **$125,143.20** |
| 2. | **STATE WATER PLAN FUND - 1800** | | | | | | |
| | **a. Water Resources Cost-Share** | | | | | | |
| | (1) Office Operations | | 118,631.00 | 69,956.98 | 59.0% | 34,998.80 | 13,675.22 |
| | (2) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance | | 2,576,668.25 | 1,165,733.72 | 45.2% | 1,318,469.42 | 92,465.11 |
| | (3) Reserve Funds | | 14,099.65 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 14,099.65 |
| | **WR - TOTAL** | **1205** | **2,709,398.90** | **1,235,690.70** | **45.6%** | **1,353,468.22** | **120,239.98** |
| | **b. Non Point Source Pollution Control** | | | | | | |
| | (1) Office Operations | | 31,019.20 | 3,022.99 | 9.7% | 22,900.20 | 5,096.01 |
| | (2) NPS-Engineering Services | | 229,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 229,000.00 | 0.00 |
| | (3) NPS/TA-Conservation Technician Positions | | 200,000.00 | 155,813.81 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 44,186.19 |
| | (4) NPS/TA-No Till Conservtion Districts | | 25,000.00 | 15,807.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 9,193.00 |
| | (5) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance | | 2,348,943.54 | 1,033,220.53 | 44.0% | 1,178,940.53 | 136,782.48 |
| | (6) Revolving Loan Fund | | 263,810.65 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 263,810.65 |
| | **NPS - TOTAL** | **1210** | **3,097,773.39** | **1,207,864.33** | **39.0%** | **1,430,840.73** | **459,068.33** |
| | **c. Aid to Conservation Districts** | **1220** | **2,259,754.00** | **2,239,139.84** | **99.1%** | **0.00** | **20,614.16** |
| | **d. CREP/WTAP** | | | | | | |
| | (1) Office Operations | | 85,303.00 | 69,069.76 | 81.0% | 0.00 | 16,233.24 |
| | (2) WR/CREP CSIMS | | 238,427.80 | 147,963.00 | 0.0% | 90,464.80 | 0.00 |
| | (3) WRAP Projects | | 517,253.24 | 242,540.00 | 0.0% | 274,713.24 | 0.00 |
| | (4) Reserve Funds | | 1,159,745.88 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 1,159,745.88 |
| | **CREP/WTAP - TOTAL** | **1225** | **2,000,729.92** | **459,572.76** | **23.0%** | **365,178.04** | **1,175,979.12** |
| | **e. Watershed Dam Construction** | | | | | | |
| | (1) Watershed Dam Cost-Share Assistance | | 508,803.00 | 114,608.58 | 22.5% | 394,194.42 | 0.00 |
| | (2) Inundation Mapping | | 59,311.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 59,311.00 | 0.00 |
| | (3) Rehabilitation | | 126,383.00 | 24,663.96 | 0.0% | 98,063.00 | 3,656.04 |
| | (4) Reserve | | 1,642.57 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 1,642.57 |
| | **WATERSHED PROGRAM - TOTAL** | **1240** | **696,139.57** | **139,272.54** | **20.0%** | **551,568.42** | **5,298.61** |
| | **f. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative** | | | | | | |
| | (1) Office Operations | | 1,250.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 1,250.00 |
| | (2) CSIMS-KS Water Quality Buffer Projects | | 277,603.00 | (489.94) | 0.0% | 265,940.94 | 12,152.00 |
| | (3) Reserve | | 1,521.88 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 1,521.88 |
| | **BUF - TOTAL** | **1250** | **280,374.88** | **(489.94)** | **-0.2%** | **265,940.94** | **14,923.88** |
| | **g. Riparian and Wetland Protection** | | | | | | |
| | (1) Office Operations | | 6,530.00 | 517.82 | 0.0% | 4,800.00 | 1,212.18 |
| | (2) RW-Engineering Services | | 9,720.00 | 7,850.00 | 0.0% | 1,870.00 | 0.00 |
| | (3) CSIMS-Demonstration Projects | | 157,686.00 | 58,753.18 | 37.3% | 54,510.16 | 44,422.66 |
| | (4) Reserve Funds | | 125,475.46 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 125,475.46 |
| | **RW - TOTAL** | **1260** | **299,411.46** | **67,121.00** | **22.4%** | **61,180.16** | **171,110.30** |
| | **i. Lake Restoration-Water Supply Program** | **1275** | **257,668.00** | **0.00** | **0.0%** | 252,172.00 | **5,496.00** |
| | **TOTAL - STATE WATER PLAN FUND** | | **$11,601,250.12** | **$5,348,171.23** | **46.1%** | **$4,280,348.51** | **$1,972,730.38** |

# DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2012 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
## JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2012

| CASH CONTROL FUNDS PROGRAM | INDEX | Fee Deposit Accounts | Total Expenditures | % of Funds Expended | Funds Committed/ Encumbered-Contigent | Cash Flow |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. LAND RECLAMATION FEE FUND - 2542** | **2090** | **198,303.39** | **115,569.73** | **58.3%** | **1,670.00** | **81,063.66** |
| **2. KDWP-Buffer Partnership - 2517** | **2510** | **107,086.63** | **96,876.22** | **90.5%** | **10,210.19** | **0.22** |
| **3. KDHE/EPA - FEDERAL FUNDS - 3889** | (ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED to KDHE) | | | | REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST | |
| a. KDHE/Buffer Partnership | 3880 | 150,910.00 | 64,138.17 | 42.5% | 80,000.00 | 86,771.83 |
| b. KDHE/Buffer Indirect Funds | 3880 | 18,502.05 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 30,000.00 | 18,502.05 |
| c. KDHE/NPS/WRAPS | 3705 | 1,733.95 | 1,733.95 | 100.0% | 1,064.00 | 0.00 |
| d. KDHE/NPS Indirect Funds | 3705 | 4,500.00 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 4,500.00 | 4,500.00 |
| **TOTAL- FEDERAL FUNDS - 3915** | | **175,646.00** | **65,872.12** | **37.5%** | **115,564.00** | **109,773.88** |
| **4. NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS - 3715** | (ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REQUESTED FROM NRCS) | | | | REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST | |
| a. NRCS/NPS/WQ Conservation Tech | 3825 | 127,534.91 | 42,638.32 | 33.4% | 37,265.97 | 84,896.59 |
| b. NRCS/NPS/WQ No-Till Winter Conference/Targeted Plan | 3825 | 23,100.00 | 22,850.00 | 0.0% | 63,180.00 | 250.00 |
| c. NRCS/RW/WQ EQIP Projects | 3825 | 8,688.00 | 8,688.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| d. NRCS/RW//WQ SCCPersonnel Ind | 3825 | 8,013.34 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 8,013.34 |
| e. NRCS/RW/WQ Indirect Funds | 3825 | 48,124.16 | 0.00 | 0.0% | 0.00 | 48,124.16 |
| **TOTAL- NRCS FUNDS - 3917** | | **215,460.41** | **74,176.32** | **34.4%** | **100,445.97** | **141,284.09** |
| **5. HOSPITALITY FUND - 1000** | **0054** | **722.06** | **722.06** | **100.0%** | **0.00** | **0.00** |
| **6. CONVERSION FUND - 2429** | **2070** | **1,965.75** | **0.00** | **0.0%** | **0.00** | **1,965.75** |
| **7. MOTOR VEHICLE FUND - 6118** | **6000** | **29,668.58** | **24,059.61** | **81.1%** | **0.00** | **5,608.97** |
| | | | | | **TOTAL - CASH FLOW** | **$339,696.57** |

# AREA I SPRING WORKSHOP
# HAYS 3/6/2012

| County | District Manager | District Conservationist | Supervisor | Other | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cheyenne | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| **Decatur** | | | | | **0** | |
| Ellis | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Gove | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Graham | | | 4 | | 4 | |
| **Logan** | | | | | **0** | |
| Norton | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Osborne | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| **Phillips** | | | | | **0** | |
| **Rawlins** | | | | | **0** | |
| Rooks | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Russell | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | |
| **Sheridan** | | | | | **0** | |
| Sherman | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Smith | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Thomas | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
| Trego | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Wallace | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | |
| **Rush** | **1** | | | | **1** | **(from Area 2)** |
| KACD | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| NRCS | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| **TOTAL** | **12** | **0** | **9** | **2** | **23** | |

**DOC Staff: Greg, Scott, Don, Max & Donna**

**Decatur** **No one attended**
**Logan** **No one attended**
**Phillips** **No one attended**
**Rawlins** **No one attended**
**Sheridan** **No one attended**

# AREA II SPRING WORKSHOP
# GARDEN CITY 3/7/2012

| County | District Manager | District Conservationist | Supervisor | Other | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clark | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Comanche | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| **Edwards** | | | | | **0** | |
| Finney | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| Ford | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | |
| Grant | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Gray | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Greeley | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Hamilton | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | |
| Haskell | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Hodgeman | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Kearny | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 4 | |
| Kiowa | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | |
| Lane | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| Meade | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | |
| **Morton** | | | | | **0** | |
| Ness | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| **Pawnee** | | | | | **0** | **(Attended Area 3)** |
| **Rush** | | | | | **0** | **(Attended Area 1)** |
| Scott | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
| **Seward** | | | | | **0** | |
| Stanton | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
| Stevens | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Wichita | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| KACD | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| NRCS | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| **TOTAL** | **18** | **1** | **9** | **7** | **35** | |

**DOC Staff: Greg, Scott, Don, Max & Donna**

**Edwards** **No one attended**

**Morton** **No one attended**

**Seward** **No one attended**

# AREA III SPRING WORKSHOP
# SALINA 3/8/2012

| County | District Manager | District Conservationist | Supervisor | Other | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barber | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | |
| Barton | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Cloud | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Ellsworth | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Harper | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Harvey | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Jewell | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Kingman | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Lincoln | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| McPherson | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | |
| Mitchell | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Ottawa | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | |
| **Pratt** | | | | | **0** | |
| Reno | | | 2 | | 2 | |
| **Republic** | | | | | **0** | |
| Rice | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Saline | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 5 | |
| **Sedgwick** | | | | | **0** | |
| Stafford | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Sumner | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| **Clay** | | | **3** | | **3** | **(from Area 4)** |
| **Dickinson** | **1** | | | **1** | **2** | **(from Area 4)** |
| **Pawnee** | **1** | | | | **1** | **(from Area 2)** |
| **Washington** | **1** | | **1** | **1** | **3** | **(from Area 4)** |
| KACD | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| NRCS | | | | 3 | 3 | |
| **TOTAL** | **18** | **3** | **12** | **8** | **41** | |

**DOC Staff: Greg, Scott, Don, Max & Donna**

**Pratt** **No one attended**

**Republic** **No one attended**

**Sedgwick** **No one attended**

# AREA IV SPRING WORKSHOP
# TOPEKA 3/14/2012

| County | District Manager | District Conservationist | Supervisor | Other | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Atchison** | | | | | **0** | |
| Brown | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Clay | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
| **Dickinson** | | | | | **0** | **(Attended Area 3)** |
| Doniphan | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Douglas | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Franklin | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Geary | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Jackson | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Jefferson | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | |
| **Johnson** | | | | | **0** | |
| Leavenworth | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | |
| Marshall | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
| Miami | 1 | | 3 | | 4 | |
| Morris | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Nemaha | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | |
| Osage | | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | |
| Pottawatomie | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | |
| Riley | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Shawnee | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | |
| Wabaunsee | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| **Washington** | | | | | **0** | **(Attended Area 3)** |
| **Wyandotte** | | | | | **0** | |
| KACD | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| NRCS | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| **TOTAL** | **16** | **3** | **16** | **6** | **41** | |

**DOC Staff: Greg, Scott, Don, Max. Donna & Rob**

**Atchison** **No one attended**

**Johnson** **No one attended**

**Sedgwick** **No one attended**

# AREA V SPRING WORKSHOP
# IOLA 3/15/2012

| County | District Manager | District Conservationist | Supervisor | Other | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Allen | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Anderson | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Bourbon | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 5 |
| Butler | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Chase/Lyon | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| **Chautauqua/Elk** | | | | | **0** |
| Cherokee | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Coffey | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| **Cowley** | | | | | **0** |
| Crawford | 1 | | 2 | | 3 |
| Greenwood | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Labette | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Linn | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| **Marion** | | | | | **0** |
| Montgomery | 1 | | 1 | | 2 |
| Neosho | 1 | 1 | | | 2 |
| Wilson | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 |
| Woodson | 1 | | | | 1 |
| KACD | | | | 1 | 1 |
| NRCS | | | | 2 | 2 |
| **TOTAL** | **15** | **7** | **7** | **3** | **32** |

**DOC Staff: Greg, Scott, Don, Max & Donna**

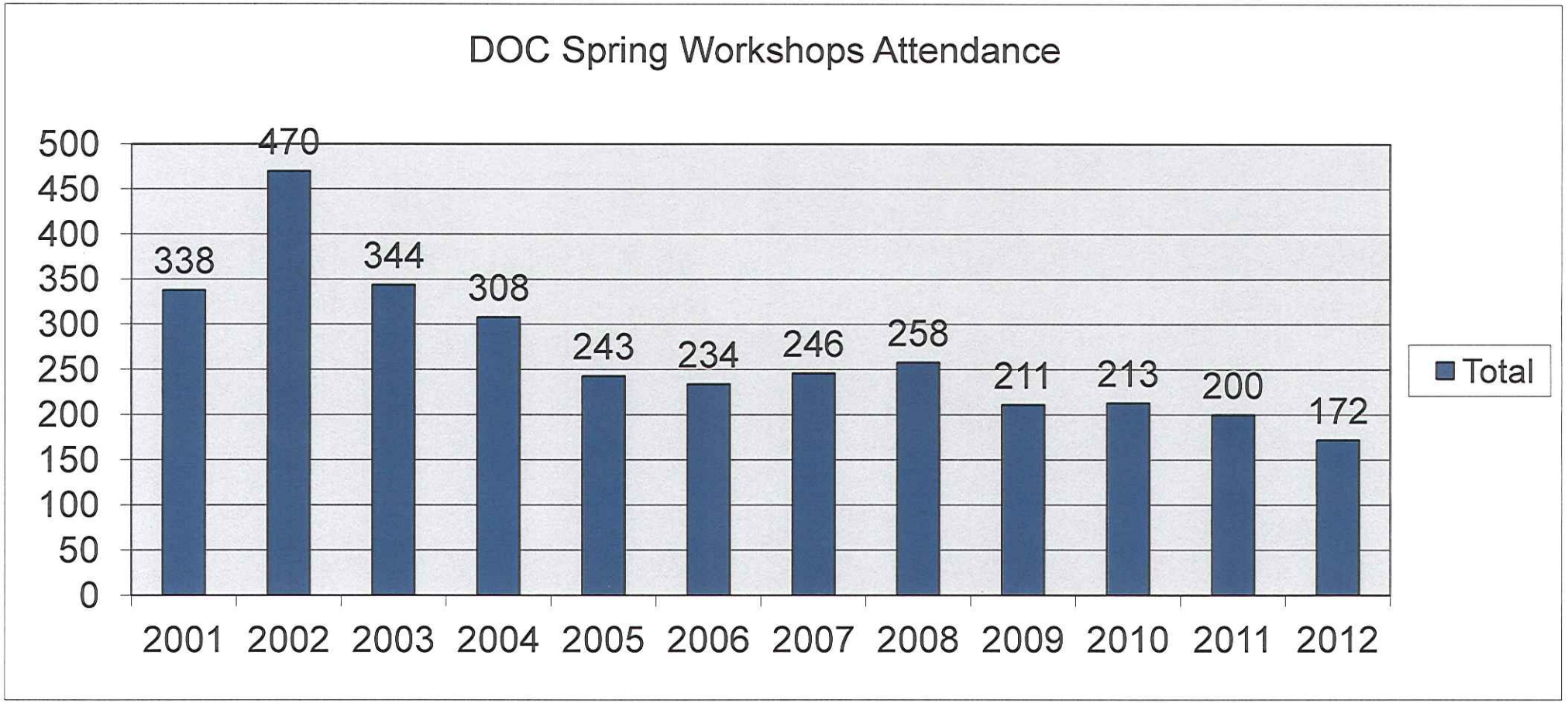
**Chautauqua/Elk** **No one attended**

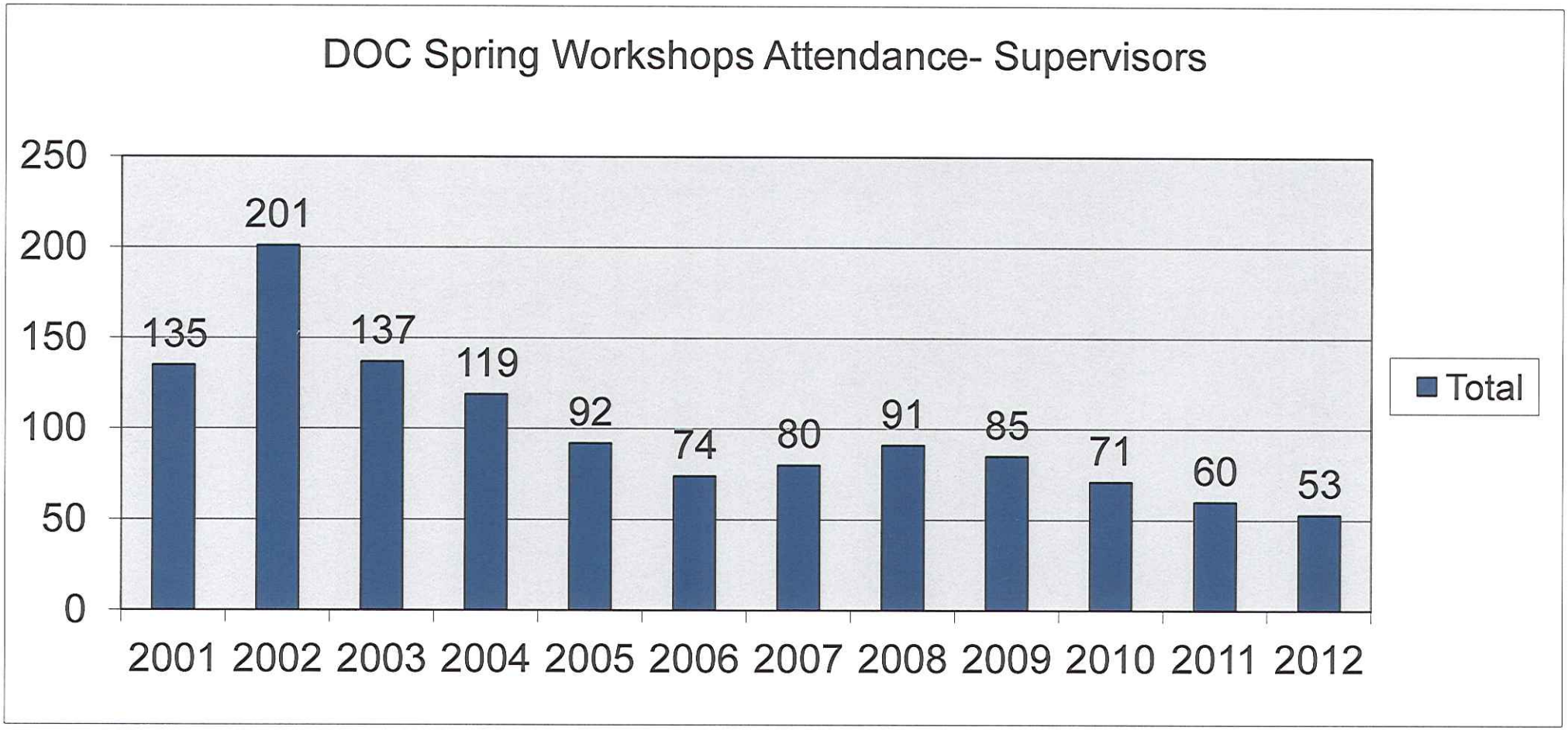
**Cowley** **No one attended**

**Marion** **No one attended**

# 2012 Spring Workshop Attendance Summary

| | District Manager | District Conservationist | Supervisor | Other | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Area I | 12 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 23 |
| Area II | 18 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 35 |
| Area III | 18 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 41 |
| Area IV | 16 | 3 | 16 | 6 | 41 |
| Area V | 15 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 32 |
| **Total** | **79** | **14** | **53** | **26** | **172** |


DOC Spring Workshops Attendance
500
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
338
470
344
308
243
234
246
258
211
213
200
172
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
Total


DOC Spring Workshops Attendance- Supervisors
250
200
150
100
50
0
135
201
137
119
92
74
80
91
85
71
60
53
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012
Total

# "What services do you need from the DOC?" - Area 1 Results

Keep up the good work lobbying for District Aid and programs.
Keep the partnership strong between DOC and NRCS at top levels as well as local.
Keep communication for questions that need answering.
Keep the training modules coming.
Checks and balance regarding making sure districts are getting requirements met.
More small group discussions.

Training manual for new district personnel.
Cost-share is processed very fast and efficient.
Training modules are great.
Send a newsletter to supervisors to explain programs and DOC's mission.
Training at KACD for supervisors and new district managers is great.
Buffer assistance.
Search option for the practices.
Statewide ranking worksheet.
Standard application for state cost-share.
Doing good at responding to district questions quickly.
Doing great at sending reminders.

Cost-share questions/issues - guidelines.
Visit board meetings per request for specific discussions.
Annual meeting attendance.
Loans for septic or leads to loans.
Board meeting attendance.
Printable training modules (small print less ink).

# "What services do you need from the DOC?" - Area 2 Results

Government - IRS - State changes/updates needed.
Accounting program.
Program training over tele-conference with DOC.
Help with marketing - PSA's.
Training support - in providing training assistance to employee and supervisors.
Leadership/support - programs.
Board meeting attendance.
Chairman training on how to stay on track.
Financial training for employees.
More break out training for all employees.
Need break out for job related training for all employees.

Make training for new employees a priority.
Continue with follow-up training.
On-line training module for new employees.
How to promote ideas to get more funds from our county commissioners.
Maybe a one or two day training for all new employees.

DOC technical support.
DOC knowledge base help with everyday tasks.
Training for new supervisors from DOC/KACD-EO surrounding district manager that has experience.
Training modules - reminders of what's due.
Acronyms - DOC & NRCS.
Stay with DOC district policies & guidelines for state cost-share programs rather than going more with NRCS specs where there are so many regulations. Easier to producers & less financial strain so they aren't having to have so much to do at one time.
Tank eligibility-supply & demand-how will it be justified on who gets $ when all will have same issues?
Where does EPA fall into this bill? How much cost-share will actually be dispersed throughout districts and what kind of funds would districts be looking at?

# "What services do you need from the DOC?" - Area 3 Results

Training for new employees (if not available, neighboring county or management unit).
Continue QuickBooks training - one-on-one or regional (net working at districts).
Cost-share guidance
Outlook calendars - check to see who's there (emails add to calendar)
Any legal issues - legislative, budgets, etc (assist tort claims, etc)

Continue with spring workshops - same format.
Continue with education on cost-share practices.
Identify a "mentor" for new employee orientation from a surrounding county.
DOC has a list of "specialists" in QuickBooks, cost-share, etc they could call.
Give DOC a "heads up" when mentors are giving training in case they have questions for DOC.
Emails of due dates approaching.
Encourage districts to use & review supervisor training modules - good for new employees too.
Thanks for being so "approachable."
QuickBooks training done regionally - to keep continuing maybe have just one facilitator.

Keep doing technical help (with new employees & with new programs).
Keeping us informed on what is going on in Topeka with legislature, budgets, commissioners, etc so we can pass it on to our areas.
Availability of staff to answer questions - we need the assistance available all the time.
Keep updating handbook regularly.

Day to day operations support.
Legislative updates.
Workshops - good for updates - hit or miss.

# "What services do you need from the DOC?" - Area 4 Results

Program support for cost-share programs.
WRAPS $ that could be possibly used for cost-share.
Basic training for new employees & continuing ed for seasoned employees.
More QuickBooks training and support.
More technical support.
Have more assistance for local policy for each conservation district.
Have more general policy to help guide supervisors and employees.

Funding
Ideas for dedicated funding.
Training for new employees, old employees and supervisors.
How to conduct operations of district when key people are absent.
Advice - useful advice - legal advice.
Informal meeting/conversation to promote understanding rather than having to take a formal stand at a formal meeting.
Facilitate information communication among partner agencies, other districts, supervisors and employees.
Possible mentoring program (related to facilitating information communication).

State aid to CD.
cost-share funds/more funds.
Different system for allocation cost-share money; with $500,000 uncommitted & many districts sitting with no money & projects waiting for money in other counties.
Cancel/reallocate earlier to allow more time to get projects done.
"Justification" to legislatures on how the $25,000 state aid is leveraged & used to do **so much more** than the cost-share program.
What is DOC 5-year plan?
More standardized new employee training!
Electronic reporting process for board reports/minutes.
Spring workshops - agency updates could be sent out electronically.
QuickBooks - don't get ahead of NRCS approved programs on CCE (computer system).
Keep agency websites up to date!  Post updates & news on a regular basis.

# "What services do you need from the DOC?" - Area 5 Results

QuickBooks assistance.
New employee training and follow-up before KACD Convention. (If new employee starts in January, won't get training until November.)
Cost-share details.
There should be breakouts at KACD Annual Convention.
Reminder of deadlines.
Attendance of DOC at annual meetings.

Training - employee & supervisor - new & old.
Operational guidelines.
Direct financial assistance.
Program and policy implementation.
Conservation district law.
Staffing for buffer coordinators/technicians.
Have an internal auditor to go around to districts instead of having an external audit.

Updated handbook - supervisors & employees
Training - accounting, fund, roles/duties & supervisors.
Cross training on programs - NRCS, FSA, Wildlife & Parks.
General information to help public better.
Provide topics on local issues at our area meetings.
State cost-share program training - as a DC going across county lines have same/similar project cost-share limits.

Technical - CSIMS, QuickBooks, Operation/Enterprise questions.
More clear instructions - financial training.
Software training - Excel, Publisher, Picture Manager, etc.
Moral support - bounce questions off of DOC.
General information - office operations.

Print out modules for supervisors.
More update on NRCS programs.
More inputs from board as to what producers need in the field.
Mailing lists - newsletters.
Most recent edition of platte map.

# "How can we decrease the uncommitted fund balance at the end of the fiscal year" - Area 1 Results

Monitoring and review cost-share ledgers at board meetings.
Figure a statewide rate
Consolidate program - more flexibility to slide funds.
Hard to compete with EQIP sometimes.
Ability to encumber.
Contractors
Look at deadlines - who needs money.

No encumbrances consistently.
Consolidate program funds as necessary.
Allocation/reallocation needs per individual counties as needed.

Combine WR & NPS funds.
Spend the money for the software to encumber contracts.
Make the returned money available statewide - send applications to DOC.

# "How can we decrease the uncommitted fund balance at the end of the fiscal year" - Area 2 Results

Combining funds.
Increasing county limits.
Flat rates.
Waiting list.
Marketing/training how to commit funds.
State mapping of CD's # contracts, limitations programs being used/not used per county.

Flexible landowner balance on high priority practices.
Consolidate programs (very good idea).
Trade with other counties (if one needs NPS/WR).
Extend deadlines from December to April - would help with terraces, windbreaks, OSW.
Raise percent of landowner limit.
Breakout session for all employee & supervisors for program delivery system.

Getting the work out better, newsletters or papers.
Keep on-going list of landowners to use money (letters to landowners).
Raise landowner limits.
Rank needed projects higher.
Setting deadlines for projects to get done faster.

Increase LWM project limits.
People needing money that can't be funded because they aren't in the TMDL area.
No landowners in TMDL area not needing assistance & dollars are set in one area (then funds can be used throughout county).
NRCS taking business from districts having same cost-share programs as NRCS & NRCS funds more money so everyone wants contracts thru NRCS instead of district, then district is left with uncommitted funds.
Setting increased landowner limits.
Setting your own county average costs instead of going with EQIP dollars - causing contractors not wanting to do business in your county.
Setting deadlines for projects to be completed.
If project is not completed by deadline, contract is cancelled & money is distributed to next highest ranked person for funding.

# "How can we decrease the uncommitted fund balance at the end of the fiscal year" - Area 3 Results

Change OSW eligibility - more than 500 feet from stream; any well not just domestic;
Offer all eligible projects - use ranking sheet (with criteria used for eligibility).
Allow adjacent fields for livestock water supply practices.
TMDL funds - not have or add to regular money so can be used if needed - ranking worksheet with a lot more points for TMDL areas.
LEPP funds.

June 1st deadline - establish reallocation.
LEPP funds.
OSW fund depend on other agencies.
Increase landowner limit.
Combine programs - lots of fault.
LWM - under funded.

Keep eligibility county wide - appreciate the flexibility.
Have decision on cost-share rates done locally by districts.
Consider raising the percentage of cost-share amount on the state level, but let each county set their rate due to competing with EQIP.
Be able to stack cost-share (WR & NPS) on one project - example some money left in one fund could be combined with the other fund.
Have additional sign-ups.
"Coffee shop" advertising funds; one-on-one supervisors, staff with neighbors, etc.
Ease up on criteria for OSW - lot of failing systems don't meet criteria.

Fiscal year and crop schedule conflict - projects are funded later in the year when the work cannot be done until the next fiscal year.
Reallocate to counties who use their initial funds - or at least have them committed.
Make it easier for ponds to be eligible for cost-share - change eligibility rules.
Increase percentage rates - the county can decide after that.

# "How can we decrease the uncommitted fund balance at the end of the fiscal year" - Area 4 Results

Loosen restrictions on work prior to signed contract.
Lack of contractors.
Flexibility for programs & geographic restrictions.
Income compensation for waterways.

Increase cost-share rate.
Change eligibility.
Continuous sign-up with shorter start time to give opportunity to others who are ready.
Allow transfer of funds from one program to other (WR to NPS).
Allow terraces to be built with NPS funds.
Assistance to promote programs (I&E) to commit funds.
More flexibility for committing funds.
Watering and fencing source for less than 40 acres.
Make search box available on buffer contracts in CSIMS.

Cancel uncommitted earlier to allow more time to complete new projects who receive reallocated money (April 1 cancel with June 1 completion deadline can be short time).
Allocate on a management unit basis.
Do away with cost-share % - truly go to a flat rate payment.
Allow counties to set minimum acreage requirements (<40 acre pasture rule) in E/NE 40 acres is harder to find but good projects can still get done on less than 40 acres.
Give CD's WRAPS $ & let districts get credit for the work we do (do away with WRAPS NPS/WR overlap).
Access to other county data in CSIMS to view only. Example cost list so counties within management units can view other county cost-share rate, etc. (similar to how we can pull employee report by state).
Quarterly cancellation of uncommitted funds…every county knows $ comes July 1st - **BE READY** have applications done so board can approve at July meeting.
October 1 cancel uncommitted funds; by this point you have had 3 months & 3 meetings to approve & set up contracts.

# "How can we decrease the uncommitted fund balance at the end of the fiscal year" - Area 5 Results

Change OSW eligibility.
Rename Pond Restoration - it's for pipe replacement no restoring a pond.
Should not increase $10,000 limit because of limited funds from farmer/ranchers.
LWM should be left as is with no increase.
No need for increase in cost-share percentage rate.
Don't change acreage requirements for water supply practices - it will just be recreational.
Don't consolidate programs because how would you distribute the funds.

Review contracts every 60-days to be extended.
Communicate with producers about their responsibilities.
Better supervisor training on program creation - enough technical support.
Merge NPS with WR.
Add previous years history to ranking.
Contractor education - they can sell the program.

Consolidate funds - WR & NPS.
Set a statewide cancellation date (July 1-December 1 and December 2-May 15)

Getting word out - email, facebook, newsletters.
State and national magazines - High Plains Journal, Grass & Grain, etc.
Survey from counties at annual meetings.
Deadline with penalty fee agreement.
Small contracts opposed to bigger contracts.
No increase needed to landowner limit.
Need help with contracts finished.
Getting word out and accountability of producers contracts.

# "What services do you need from the DOC?" - Summary Results

Training for new employees; current employees; supervisors; mentoring program, etc (19)
QuickBooks training (9)
Training modules (7)
Attendance at monthly board meetings and annual meetings (5)
Updates on legislative and budget issues (3)
Statewide ranking worksheet (2)
Handbooks updated on a regular basis (2)
Buffer assistance - coordinators/technician staffing (2)

# "How can we decrease the uncommitted fund balance at the end of the fiscal year" - Summary Results

Reallocation/allocation/cancellation of funds policy (9)
Consolidate NPS & WR programs into 1 cost-share program (8)
Modify eligibility criteria for OSW projects and PRM projects (6)
Increase landowner limit; project limits on LWM (5)
Do away with the TMDL fund source code; flexibility of funds (4)
Increase cost-share percentage rate (3)
Flat rate payment (3)
Capability to encumber contracts; pay to modify CSIMS (2)

**Attachment C**

# 2012

## January

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## Holidays and Observances (United States)

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan 01 | New Year's Day | Jan 16 | M L King Day | Feb 14 | Valentine's Day |
| Feb 20 | Presidents' Day | Apr 08 | Easter Sunday | May 13 | Mother's Day |
| May 28 | Memorial Day | Jun 17 | Father's Day | Jul 04 | Independence Day |
| Sep 03 | Labor Day | Oct 08 | Columbus Day | Oct 31 | Halloween |
| Nov 06 | Election Day | Nov 11 | Veterans Day | Nov 12 | Veterans Day Holiday |
| Nov 22 | Thanksgiving Day | Dec 25 | Christmas Day | | |

# 2013

| January | | | | | | |
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| Holidays and Observances (United States) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan 01 | New Year's Day | Jan 21 | M L King Day | Feb 14 | Valentine's Day |
| Feb 18 | Presidents' Day | Mar 29 | Good Friday | Mar 31 | Easter Sunday |
| May 12 | Mother's Day | May 27 | Memorial Day | Jun 16 | Father's Day |
| Jul 04 | Independence Day | Sep 02 | Labor Day | Oct 14 | Columbus Day |
| Oct 31 | Halloween | Nov 11 | Veterans Day | Nov 28 | Thanksgiving Day |
| Dec 25 | Christmas Day | | | | |

**Attachment D**

## Water Resources Cost-Share Program — FY 2013 Allocation - SCC Meeting April 9, 2012

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FY 2012 Appropriation: | 2,107,670 | |
| FY 2011 Carryover: | 0 | April 1, 2010 cancellation; |
| FY 2011 Reserve | 25,000 | |
| FY 2012 CSIMS | -25,000 | |
| FY 2012 Admin expenses: | -127,960 | 6% of appropriation proviso to assist with SGF shortfall |
| FY 2012 Total Cost-Share CD Allocation: | 1,979,710 | |
| | | |
| FY 2013 Appropriation: | 2,008,700 | |
| FY 2012 Carryover: | 0 | |
| FY 2012 Reserve: | 0 | *June 1 uncommitted FY 12 funds will be added to fall FY 2013 reallocation* |
| FY 2013 CSIMS | -15,000 | |
| FY 2013 Admin expenses: | -120,522 | 6% of appropriation proviso to assist with SGF shortfall |
| FY 2013 Total Cost-Share CD Allocation: | 1,873,178 | |

**ISSUES:**

1. NO TA Agreement with NRCS for FY 2013
2. Proviso to allow up to 6% of appropriation for contract TA and non-salary admin expenses.

**FY 2013 Cost-Share Allocations:**

| FY 2013 Cost-Share Allocations | | FY 2012 Allocations | | Increase/Decrease from FY 2012 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DNA | 1,592,202 | DNA | 1,691,403 | DNA | -99,201 |
| TMDL Allocation** | 280,976 | TMDL Allocation* | 288,307 | TMDL Allocation | -7,331 |
| | 1,873,178 | | 1,979,710 | | |

**TMDL amount (15% of available cost-share)

**Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Cost-Share Program FY 2013 Allocation Adjustments - SCC Meeting April 9, 2012**

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FY 2012 Appropriation: | $ 2,389,346 | | | | | | *FY 2013 Appropriation: | $ 2,008,691 | | |
| *FY 2011 Carryover: | | | | | | | FY 2012 Carryover: | $ - | | |
| FY 2012 Rescission Fund | $ - | | | | | | FY 2013 Rescission Fund | $ - | | |
| FY 2012 Total Allocation: | **$ 2,389,346** | | | | | | FY 2013 Total Allocation: | **$ 2,008,691** | | |

**Issues**

1. Funding for all 105 counties in FY 2013
2. Fund 11 Conservation Technician positions in 11 NRCS Management Units identified by the workload analysis with a Contribution Agreement with NRCS. NPS portion, $200,000. T/A Partnership: KDHE, KDWP, NRCS, SCC, Pheasants Forever, Playa Lakes Joint Venture.

**FY 2013 Allocation Option:**

| FY 2012 Allocations | | FY 2013 Allocations Projected | | Adjustment from FY 2012 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NPS Base | $ 1,505,935 | NPS Base | $ 1,224,691 | | $ (281,244) |
| T/A | $ 200,000 | T/A | $ 200,000 | | $ - |
| TMDL | $ 428,411 | TMDL | $ 214,000 | | $ (214,411) |
| Supplemental LWS | $ 60,000 | Supplemental LWS | $ 60,000 | | $ - |
| WRAPS Implementation | $ - | WRAPS Implementation | $ - | | $ - |
| CREP Well Plugging | $ - | CREP Well Plugging | $ - | | $ - |
| No-till Education | $ 25,000 | No-till Education | $ 25,000 | | $ - |
| NPS Operations | $ 20,000 | NPS Operations | $ 20,000 | | $ - |
| CSIMS | $ 25,000 | CSIMS | $ 15,000 | | $ (10,000) |
| KWPCRF* | $ 125,000 | KWPCRF | $ 250,000 | | $ 125,000 |
| Total | $ 2,389,346 | Total | $ 2,008,691 | Total | $ (380,655) |

**Funds cancelled December 1, 2012 may be used to fund Streambank and Livestock Waste Management projects in FY 2013.**

* Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (KWPCRF)

**Attachment E**

Kansas
Department of Agriculture
*Division of Conservation*

State Conservation Commission Meeting

April 9, 2012

**FY 2013 Program Policy Revisions Review:**

- Lined Waterway or Outlet – Code 468
  - Add to Water Resources program under the Erosion and Sediment Control project type.
- Add EQIP Co-Pay component to Streambank Protection Code 580 in NPS program.
  - EQIP payment rate of $14.35 will probably slow down EQIP implementation of streambank projects.
- Unpermitted Above Ground Fuel Storage Tank – Code 700
  - Wait for results from CD survey.
  - EQIP program in Oklahoma has a Spill Prevention Containment and Countermeasures Initiative.
    - SPCC CAP Plan - $2,160
    - Agricultural Secondary Containment Facility $9.50 per square foot

**Cost-share encumbrance and cancellation policy review:**

- Encumber Livestock Waste Management contracts not completed by June 1, 2012
  - 16 contracts - $144,212
- On June 1, 2012 cancel all other NPS and all WR contracts not completed except for Pest Management contracts for spraying sericea lespedeza that will be completed by June 19, 2012.
- Encumber NPS and WR contracts for FY 2013 that are not completed except for Well Decommissioning and Onsite Wastewater Systems.
  - Well Decommissioning and Onsite Wastewater Systems will have a June 1, 2013 completion date.
  - Encumberance pending DOA approval.
  - Encourage districts to get contracts completed in FY 2013.

**FY 2013 cost-share cancellation/reallocation policy review:**

- Cancel all NPS and WR contracts on the first Friday in December, 2012.
- Request projects from districts and reallocate WR funds to districts based on project needs and priority.
- Cancelled NPS funds will be used for Streambank Protection or Livestock Waste Management projects.

**Attachment F**

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

SUBJECT: Field Office of the Future

TO: NRCS State Conservationists
Presidents, State Soil and Water Conservation District Associations

We find ourselves in a time of change. The year 2012 brings with it an increasing demand on our field offices to deliver voluntary, incentive-based conservation on private lands throughout this great Nation. While the necessity for our work has never been higher, the pressure on our budgets (local, State, and National) has also escalated. This push and pull that we find ourselves in necessitates our taking a fresh, proactive look into the future to ensure that we control our own destiny as organizations and leaders in conservation. Therefore, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) are undertaking a unified effort to facilitate a locally-led process of evaluating the ability of our entire partnership, from top to bottom, to prepare to meet our mission now and in the years to come.

We must be proactive and own this improvement process. It is up to us to determine:

- How we can best meet the needs and expectations of our customers;
- How the field offices of the future should look and function;
- How we can focus our resources to get the most from our Nation's conservation investments;
- How we can design the most efficient and effective delivery system at a the local level; and
- How we can best prepare for any potential budget constraints.

Now is the time to identify our greatest efficiencies as conservation partners and build those into a strategy for the future. In doing so, we are requesting that you, our State leaders, develop an open, transparent, and inclusive process with your staff, partners, other stakeholders, and our customers to develop a plan that evaluates the organizational effectiveness of the field offices within your authority.

This plan must outline a vision of what your State's field offices of the future will look like including:

- A review of field offices co-located by NRCS and Conservation Districts;
- An identification of the types and levels of service to be provided in these "field offices of the future; and

- Opportunities for increased operational efficiencies and a contingency plan for potential budget constraints
  - Technology: how better use of the Web, video teleconferencing, and other technical advances can build service and improve cost efficiencies, accounting for ongoing improvement efforts such as the NRCS Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative,
  - Labor: division/coordination of duties between NRCS and conservation district staff,
  - Cost: identification of cost saving opportunities, i.e., relocating, merging, consolidating costs, closing out-of-date or unused office spaces, and partnering with other public agencies, and
  - Location: best able to serve the public.

  *Your plan needs to include those areas listed above, as well as preparation for office closure locations should budget reductions require such.

While this list provides areas we expect to see delineated in the final plans, it is by no means exhaustive and may miss areas you feel important to highlight. We anticipate you will develop your own methods and instruments for your plan. No one knows conservation at the local level like you do, which makes you the best, most qualified conservation professional to help create the "field office of the future."

We have been evolving since the Dust Bowl days, but some things remain continuing priorities, such as our accessibility to land users and landowners. Farmers and ranchers should not have to drive for hours to get to a field office, and we must ensure that our range conservationists, soil scientists, soil conservationists, engineers, and agronomists are able to spend time in the field working with them one-on-one.

We request that each State send the final plan to their NRCS Regional Conservationist and NACD by September 1, 2012.

Thanks in advance for your knowledge, forward-thinking ideas, and partnership now and in the years to come.

Dave White
Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Gene Schmidt
President
National Association of Conservation Districts

**Attachment G**

Kansas
Department of Agriculture
*Division of Conservation*

109 SW 9th Street, 2A
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1283

Phone: (785) 296-3600
Fax: (785) 296-6172
Email: doc@kda.ks.gov
www.ksda.gov/doc

Dale A. Rodman, Secretary
Greg A. Foley, Executive Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

April 6, 2012

Gregorio Cruz
National CIG Program Manager
Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890, Room 5227-S
Washington, D.C. 20013-2890

Re: Letter of Support and Statement of Financial Commitment;
Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District CIG Application

Dear Mr. Cruz:

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of support and statement of financial commitment regarding the CIG application being submitted herewith by the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #3 (GMD). The title of the referenced CIG project is "Demonstrating Field Sensors Accessed through a Telemetry System for Near Real Time Web-based Resource Management."

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC) is pleased to provide our sponsorship of this very innovative conservation project proposal. The project concept is addressing a real need in energy and water management in the State of Kansas, and we are of the opinion that there is a very realistic opportunity for successful adaptation which can be translated into greater savings and achievements as this technology is proven to be successful.

Due to the significant utility and transferability of the proposal's conservation objectives, the DOC is willing to financially facilitate the GMD's grant application as a partnering cooperator in the demonstration project. Upon approval of the CIG grant application by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, DOC will provide a $175,000 contribution to the GMD in 2012, and like amounts will be provided in 2013 and 2014 subject to the availability of our own funding, for a total financial contribution of $452,745 to be paid during the project grant period.

Thank You for your consideration of this very important endeavor. As always, we look forward to working with you in the future! Please write or call if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Greg A. Foley
Executive Director

PC: Dale Rodman, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture
Eric Banks, Kansas State Conservationist

# "Demonstrating Field Sensors Accessed through a Telemetry System for Near Real Time Web-based Resource Management"

- An NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) proposal being submitted by the Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District (GMD3) in Garden City

- A cooperative effort by GMD3, NRCS, KDA-DOC, and Adcon Telemetry in 4 phases - 1) producer meetings / applications; 2) establishment of network hubs / data housing; (3) installation of individual telemetry systems, and (4) data interpretation / reporting

- 250 participating producers in GMD3 will be granted access to equipment that would normally cost more than $8000 for only $500. These producers will be part of a telemetry network that will allow them to evaluate their field condition remotely and precisely evaluate irrigation demands - saving them the time, energy, and water

- Goals:
    1. Demonstrate improved usefulness of water applied using the information made available by the telemetry systems, including :
        a. reducing the amount of energy and water used on a field
        b. improving the crop yield per acre-foot of water applied to a field
    2. Demonstrate and quantify increases in available soil water holding capacity as a result of soil properties, management practices, and/or climate

- This project requires equipment for telemetry gateways, telemetry bridges, flow meter monitoring, weather stations, soil moisture monitoring, relays, technical tools, web server/hosting, and GPRS service:

    1. A752 addWAVE LE long range radio data logger
    2. 460 mA solar panel & Adcon 3m pole set
    3. 10 m sensor cable (for water meter)
    4. PA1 manometer (pressure sensor) with 10m cable
    5. RC20 or SA100 pulse transmitter for McCrometer Propeller Meter
    6. (Soil moisture probes will be installed by a vendor chosen by the producer

- ET measurement stations will be installed at a central location within each telemetry network (probably 5). These stations will measure rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and solar radiation

- The total project cost is expected to be $2,312,580. The federal grant amount requested is $1,000,000. DOC, GMD3, and Adcon Telemetry will provide the remainder of funding through cash and in-kind service (equipment, project coordination, data interpretation, distribution of information, and reporting)

| **Cash Contributions** | **Contribution Amount** |
|---|---|
| NRCS | $1,000,000 |
| DOC | $452,745 |
| GMD3 | $125,000 |
| **In-Kind Contributions** | **Contribution Amount** |
| GMD3 | $19,780 |
| Adcon Telemetry | $767,912.52 |

**Project Description:** Demonstrating field sensors accessed through a telemetry system for near real time web-based resource management

**Project Background:**

Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District Number 3 (GMD3) is a heavily developed groundwater use area of the Ogallala Aquifer region of the central United States. There are approximately 10,600 non-domestic wells located within the district, pumping about 2,133,000 acre-feet of water annually. Of the 10,600 non-domestic wells, more than 6,000 are active irrigation wells. Average annual recharge in the district is only about 96,000 acre-feet per year, resulting in significant groundwater declines. These declines have led to the need for producers to turn to irrigation technologies that both conserve water and maximize the economic impact of water application.

This project will allow for the installation of telemetry systems on wells that will provide producers access to on-farm data including water use, pipe pressure, weather data, and soil moisture from a PC or smart phone. These telemetry systems will also be linked to evapotranspiration (ET) measuring stations so that producers are provided a full suite of on-farm irrigation water use data. This system will greatly increase the amount and precision of information available to growers on important field parameters, allowing the producer to more efficiently schedule irrigation events, resulting in reduced energy use through fewer trips to the field and decreased water use. The user-friendly interface will allow producers to access and interpret the data in a timely manner. The soil moisture probes will provide 24-hour tracking of the soil moisture profile, allowing the producer to track water infiltration to the soil, irrigation water storage in the soil, and water uptake by plants. This will allow the producer to make irrigation decisions before going to the field or while in the field. Producers with electric-powered wells will have some control capabilities such as remotely shutting off the well and pivot in a rainfall event. The pipe pressure sensor will allow the producer to know the current state of his/her irrigation system(s).

This project will serve as a demonstration to irrigators in GMD3 and throughout the nation of the effectiveness of telemetry systems that include a suite of sensors including flowmeter data, soil moisture data, regional and site-specific weather data, pipe pressure data, and pivot location data on a shared network in improving on-farm irrigation water management, resulting in reduced energy consumption and water use. These systems will be used on a variety of fields with varying crop patterns, soil properties and management practices. The soil moisture data that is logged using the telemetry units will be used to provide a quantitative demonstration of the effect of the increase in available soil water holding capacity due to good farm management practices.

A study in Kansas found that telemetry-based irrigation scheduling reduced water use by 20% and resulted in a net gain of nearly $13 per acre[1]. Due to the slightly diminishing nature of a pumping rate over the growing season on a typical Ogallala Aquifer well in Kansas, a similar result should translate to an energy savings greater than 20%. A study in Nebraska found that telemetry-based systems reduced water applied on corn by 11% while improving yields by 3.5%[2].

This project will be a cooperative effort by GMD3, the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation (DOC), and Adcon Telemetry (Adcon). GMD3 will be responsible for some of the cash funding, as well as project coordination, data interpretation, distribution of information, and reporting. NRCS and DOC will be providing most of the cash funding.

**Project Objectives:**

The goals of this project are as follows:

1. Demonstrate improved usefulness of water applied using the information made available by the telemetry systems. Improved usefulness includes, but is not limited to:
    a. reducing the amount of energy and water used on a field.
    b. improving the crop yield per acre-foot of water applied to a field.
2. Demonstrate and quantify the effect of the increase in available soil water holding capacity as a result of soil properties, management practices, and/or climate.

The improved usefulness of water will be evaluated quantitatively by comparing the water use and yield to neighboring fields with similar crops and management techniques. It will also be evaluated quantitatively via surveys of participating producers.

The effects of the increase in soil water holding capacity due to management practices and soil properties will be demonstrated quantitatively using the data provided by the soil moisture probes, rain gages, flowmeters, and ET measuring stations, as well as information obtained from the field including a soil sample, cropping information, and management practices.

**Project Methods:**

This project will allow for the installation of up to 250 telemetry units and 5 ET measurement stations in GMD3. The project will be carried out in such a way that the telemetry units are organized into networks so that data transmission costs are greatly reduced and producers will have access to on-field data in 15 minute increments. In addition to providing on-field data to producers, this project will also serve as a demonstration of the relationship between soil water holding capacity and field management techniques, soil properties, and climate. In order for this project to be successful, the project needs to be aggressively advertised so that producer interest can be determined at an early stage. It is critical to have a large number of participants in close proximity to the network nodes and each other. This project will be broken down into 4 phases, including (1) producer meetings and applications, (2) establishment of network hubs and data housing, (3) installation of individual telemetry systems, and (4) data interpretation.

1. Producer Meetings and Applications

GMD3 will host a kick-off meeting with DOC and NRCS staff to discuss selection criteria, reporting criteria, and establish a contract. Producer meetings will be held to demonstrate the technology and encourage participation. All Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) eligible producers in GMD3 will be eligible to apply for the program. GMD3 will advertise the

producer meetings with radio announcements. This project requires a large number of participants to be located in somewhat close proximity, so project areas will be selected in locations where there are a large number of applicants as well as cellular service and topography conducive to the establishment of a telemetry network. If there are more than 250 applicants in areas that are feasible for the establishment of telemetry networks, applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. All applicants who are selected will be required to pay a $500 service fee to help cover the cost of the technology. There will be no fee for applicants who are not selected.

2. Establishment of Network Hubs, ET Measurement Stations, and Data Housing
ET measurement stations will be installed at a central location within each telemetry network. These stations will measure rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and solar radiation.

Network hubs will be installed by McCrometer at locations determined based upon local producer interest. Networks will be created at locations where the strongest producer interest exists. The project will allow for the installation of about 10 networks, but producer interest, topography, and available AC power supplies will dictate the total number of networks necessary to provide telemetry data at 250 well sites.

The staff at GMD3 lacks the equipment and training to adequately manage the data for a project of this size. McCrometer has experience housing telemetry network data and will house the data acquired from this project on a server in their office in Aurora, NE. All equipment necessary for data housing will be installed before installations begin. Before completion of the project, this data will be transitioned to servers at GMD3. This will allow GMD3 enough time to acquire the equipment, knowledge, and/or personnel to manage the networks moving forward beyond the life of the project. Keeping the data locally will ensure that the proposed system is viable and affordable into the foreseeable future without the need for continued subsidization by the federal government.

3. Installation of Individual Telemetry Systems

Installation of the telemetry units will begin as soon as network locations are established. Central network hubs using General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) technology to transmit data to the central server will be constructed, and installations closest to the hubs will be conducted before installations further from the hubs. This will ensure that there is good connectivity immediately upon installation. Installation will consist of:

1. A752 addWAVE LE long range radio data logger (6 analog, 2 pulse, 2 digital, & 40 SDI-12 channels)
2. 460 mA solar panel & Adcon 3 m pole set
3. 10 m sensor cable (for water meter)
4. PA1 manometer (pressure sensor) with 10 m cable
5. RC20 or SA100 pulse transmitter for McCrometer Propeller Meter

The soil moisture probes will be installed at a later date by the vendor that is chosen by the producer. Depending on the type of probe selected, the soil moisture probes may need to be removed from the field prior to harvest and returned after planting.

4. Data Interpretation

Data for this project will be collected by GMD3 staff through the telemetry network, on-site visits, and producer surveys. The telemetry data will include a log of pipe pressure, water quantity pumped, rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, and the soil moisture profile. The data collected from the on-site visits and producer surveys may include cropping pattern, past and present management practices, and a soil sample.

GMD3 will use the data collected to compare water use data with the telemetry system to historic water use and the water use on nearby fields with similar soil type, management practices, and crops so that water savings can be quantified. In addition to this quantitative analysis, producers will be surveyed so that any changes to their management that resulted in water and energy savings, perceived and/or actual, will be noted. This qualitative analysis is important due to the large number of variables in farm management and climate, as well as the short time frame of the project.

GMD3 will use the soil moisture and climate data compiled on the server in conjunction with soil property, cropping pattern, and management practice data compiled from the field to demonstrate the effect of the increase in available soil water holding capacity associated with improved management practices such as no-till farming and crop residue inputs. This will be done by using the soil moisture probes to establish the depth of the root zone and using the ET measurement stations, flowmeter, and rain gages to measure ET. Many producers in the project area currently employ crop consultants to help manage farm operations. Most of these consultants test the soils for nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, organic matter, and ph level for fertilizer recommendations. GMD3 will work with these producers and crop consultants to use these soil tests so that baseline soil properties can be established where possible. Runoff due to irrigation is illegal in the project area, so most of the producers have taken significant steps to ensure that they are using highly efficient irrigation systems. The lack of runoff, coupled with data from the rain gages, soil moisture probes, flowmeters, and ET measurement stations, should make it possible to record infiltration. The soil moisture probes should show how long the soil is retaining moisture. This is not really the same thing as identifying soil water holding capacity. However, soil water holding capacity could only truly be affected by changing crop management practices over a period of time much longer than the three year project period. This project will simply demonstrate the immediate benefits of improved infiltration and usable water in the soil profile as a result of improved management practices.

**Location and Size of the Project Area**

Any EQIP-eligible producer in GMD3 will be eligible to apply for participation in this project. GMD3 encompasses 8425 square miles in southwest Kansas and includes parts of 12 counties. The size of the district allows for multiple networks to be established on a variety of fields with different soil types, cropping patterns, and groundwater availability. See Figure 1 for a map of

the project area. This map includes 3 network hubs and circles to demonstrate network range as an example only. The actual network locations will be picked after applications have been submitted so that coverage can be maximized. Wells in the networks also do not have to fall within a 12 mile radius of the hub. The signal can be relayed well-to-well to reach the hub if a participating well is out of range.

*Insert Map here

**Producer Participation**

This project will involve 250 participating wells. Producers will be allowed to enroll multiple wells, so there will likely be less than 250 producers participating. Producers will be responsible for the day-to-day management of their field. They will also be required to report management techniques and cropping patterns to GMD3. GMD3 staff will have no say in the management techniques and cropping patterns that are used; they will only keep a log of data to use in conjunction with the telemetry data for reporting purposes. Producers will be required to read their flowmeters at least once per year to verify the accuracy of the data transmitted telemetrically. Producers will also be required to submit annual surveys so that GMD3 staff can qualitatively evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

**Project Action Plan and Timeline**

See Table 1 for a detailed action plan, organized by phase. The action plan also includes a timeline for program management.

Table 1. Project Action Plan and Timeline by Phase

| Actions/Milestones | Year 1 | | | | Year 2 | | | | Year 3 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Phase 1 – Producer Meetings and Applications | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Host kick-off meeting with NRCS staff | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hold producer meetings | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Run radio advertisements | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Accept Applications | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Determine ideal network hub locations | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Select participants and schedule installation dates | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phase 2 – Establishment of Network Hubs, ET Measurement Stations, and Data Housing | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Install Network Hubs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Install ET Measurement Stations | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Set up servers to house data at McCrometer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Transition data to servers at GMD3 to continue service | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| upon completion of project | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phase 3 – Installation of Individual Telemetry Systems | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Install telemetry systems and soil moisture probes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phase 4 – Data Interpretation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Compile on-field data, including soil properties, cropping patterns, and management practices | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Analyze telemetric data to determine water and energy savings | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Analyze telemetric data to determine the relationship of soil type, management practices, and climate with water availability | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Program Management | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project Evaluation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Semi-Annual Reporting | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Final Report | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Project Management**

GMD3 will act as the lead organization for project management, including organization of landowner meetings, accepting applications, selecting participants, selecting network locations, coordinating installations, and analyzing data. GMD3 will hire subcontractors to install the telemetry systems at the participating well sites. McCrometer will provide training for the installation of the telemetry systems.

Trevor Ahring is a civil engineer EIT at GMD3. He holds a master's degree in civil engineering from Kansas State University and has experience coordinating other projects using federal grant dollars. Mr. Ahring will be responsible for overall project oversight and analyzing the data. He will be responsible for quantifying water and energy savings as a result of the project as well as demonstrating the improved water holding capacity of soils as a function of soil type, climate, and management practices. Mr. Ahring will be responsible for submitting all reports to NRCS.

Mark Rude is the Executive Director of GMD3 and has 25 years of administrative experience at both GMD3 and the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources. He will be responsible for providing any payments by GMD3 necessary to complete the project. He will also be responsible for the organization of landowner meetings and the application process.

Steve Frost is the Water Conservation Programs Manager at DOC. He has 6 years of experience in his current position. He will be responsible for coordinating DOC participation and funding for the project. He will review all reports and attend producer meetings.

**Project Deliverables/Products**

This project will provide the following deliverables:

a. Semi-annual reports. GMD3 will provide NRCS with a semi-annual report every six months detailing project progress and budget information.
b. Supplemental narratives to explain and support payment requests.
c. Final report. GMD3 will provide NRCS with a final report upon completion of the project summarizing the project as a whole, including participation and budget. The final report will also include detailed analysis of the relationship between management practices, soil properties, climate, and soil water availability.
d. Performance items specific to the project that indicate progress. See Table 2, page x for a complete list.
e. Telemetry network fact sheet.
f. Participation in at least one NRCS CIG Showcase or comparable NRCS event.

**Benefits or Results Expected and Transferability**

This project will benefit participating producers, NRCS, and GMD3. It will also indirectly benefit all water users in GMD3.

Participating producers will be granted access to equipment that would normally cost more than $8000 for only $500. That price figure does not include the cost of weather stations and equipment for data housing, and transmission. These producers will be part of a telemetry network that will allow them to evaluate their field condition remotely, saving them the time and energy required to travel from field to field. This is a proven technology that has demonstrated water and energy savings. Other water users in GMD3, including irrigators, cattlemen, industrial and municipal suppliers, will benefit from this project because all water users in GMD3 are located above portions of the Ogallala Aquifer that have faced heavy declines. Any reduction in water use will extend the life of their water supply.

This project will benefit the NRCS by transferring the deliverables described above to the NRCS and demonstrating an innovative conservation technology that can be included in the next Farm Bill.

This project will benefit GMD3 by improving the management capabilities of the district. This project will lead to better climate, water use, and soils data and will enable GMD3 staff to give improved recommendations to producers on water use effectiveness and proper management practices. At the producers' permission, this network will also allow research on the Ogallala Aquifer in southwest Kansas with unprecedented ease. The telemetry systems will be able to utilize up to 4 sensors in addition to the soil moisture probe, pressure, flowmeter, and rain gage included in this project. This will allow a potential researcher to have near real-time data on any field property that can be accurately measured with a sensor.

**Project Evaluation**

Success of the project will be evaluated by producers, GMD3, and NRCS. Producers will submit surveys to evaluate the project from the standpoint of water and energy savings, crop yield, and water use effectiveness. GMD3 will compare water use data to water use data on fields with similar water rights, rainfall, soil type and crops. NRCS will receive semi-annual reports and a final report from GMD3 to evaluate the project for effectiveness and completeness.

Table 2: Summary of Performance Items Merit Criteria

| **Merit Criteria** | How the proposed project meets the criteria |
|---|---|
| **Purpose, Approach, and Goals** | |
| *Design and implementation of project based on sound methodology and demonstrated technology.* | All aspects of this project are based upon sound methodology and demonstrated technology. Soil moisture probes, rain gages, flowmeters, and even telemetry have been incorporated into farm operations, and all are proven technologies. |
| *Promotes environmental enhancement and protection in conjunction with agricultural production.* | This project will take place in a region that has seen massive aquifer declines greater than 130 ft in some areas. These declines have led to reduced streamflows, degraded water quality, and reduced water availability for irrigation. Reduced water consumption would reduce aquifer declines to the benefit of the environment.This project demonstrates a technology that has been shown to reduce water consumption while increasing crop production. |
| *Project outcome is clearly measurable.* | See page 4 for data interpretation methods, page 7 for project deliverables, and page 8 for project evaluation. |
| *Potential for successful completion.* | This project has a very high potential for success. Producers will be offered state-of-the art technology for a bargain price, ensuring participation. The project team has the expertise necessary to carry out all phases of the project |
| *Both beneficial and adverse impacts considered; acceptably significant improvement.* | See page x for environmental impact assessment. This project is expected to have no adverse impacts. Improvement will be modest, but if this technology were to be utilized throughout the Ogallala Aquifer region of the United States, improvement would be significant. |
| **Innovative Technology or Approach** | |
| *Project is innovative (national, regionally, and local in nature).* | This project is innovative because it marries several existing proven technologies into a network of telemetry systems that will allow producers to have access to a multitude of information pertinent to the management of their farm. The large scale of this project allows for radio transmission relayed well-to-well to a central GPRS hub to greatly reduce transmission costs, making the undertaking affordable for all involved. It will result in an unprecedented amount of data being made available to producers, GMD3, and the NRCS. |
| *Project conforms to description of innovative projects or* | This project demonstrates the use of immediate feedback devices such as smart meters and their effect on increasing |

| | |
|---|---|
| *activities in proposal request announcement.* | energy conservation and efficiency in the farming sector. It also demonstrates and quantifies the effect of the increase in soil water holding capacity as a result of improved management practices in terms of water availability as a function of soil properties, management practices, and/or climate. |
| **Project Management** | |
| *Timeline and milestones are clear and reasonable.* | See timeline on page x |
| *Project staff has technical expertise needed.* | The project team is qualified to perform the duties required to complete this project. See page x for summaries of qualification. |
| *Budget is adequately explained and justified.* | See the attached budget narrative. |
| *Experience and capacity to partner with and gain the support of other organizations, institutions, and agencies.* | GMD3 is currently participating in projects with NRCS and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation to great success. |
| **Transferability** | |
| *Potential for producers and landowners to use the innovative technologies or approaches.* | This project demonstrates a method of reducing energy demands while increasing production. It also covers the startup costs associated with creating a network at a few locations. It will be viable for producers located near network locations created by this project to purchase telemetry equipment and join the network at a much lower cost than they would otherwise have to face if they were to invest in their own monitoring network. This project demonstrates to those who are not near a network location what needs to be done to create a network through collaboration with neighbors. |
| *Potential to transfer the approach or technology to a broader audience.* | This project could be repeated anywhere where heavy groundwater use exists. It will serve as an excellent demonstration as a means of increasing production while reducing water and energy use, as well as the effects of water availability as a result of improved management practices, for water users across the nation. |
| *Potential for NRCS to successfully use the innovative approach.* | NRCS could implement this technology into the next Farm Bill. |
| *Project will result in the development of technical or related technology transfer materials.* | This project will result in the creation of technical materials related to the benefits of the telemetry system and improved soil health resulting from improved management practices. The project team will make sure that producers and management agencies are informed of the benefits demonstrated by this project. |

## Assessment of Environmental and Social Impacts

This project will result in no negative environmental impacts. The telemetry units will only be installed on existing fields.

This project will not directly result in great environmental benefits because it will only lead to the installation of 250 telemetry units. It does demonstrate a technology that, if widely adopted, will create numerous environmental benefits. The project area is located over a region of the Ogallala Aquifer that has seen declines in excess of 130 ft in some areas. These declines have led to reduced streamflows and degraded water quality in some areas. This project marries technologies that are proven to reduce water use while increasing productivity. Any reduced water use is highly beneficial to the region socially, economically, and environmentally. The technology in this project also enables producers to manage their farm irrigation water management remotely, so fuel consumption will be reduced. Energy is also conserved due to less water being pumped.

## Budget Narrative

The total project cost is expected to be $2,312,580. The federal grant amount requested is $1,000,000. GMD3, DOC, and McCrometer will provide the remainder of funding through cash and in-kind service. The project cash budget is broken down into cash contributions from NRCS, DOC, and GMD3, the cost of the telemetry equipment, the cost of installing the equipment, and NRCS designated travel costs. The project in-kind budget is broken down into the equipment discount provided by McCrometer and GMD3's contributions, including the work in creating this proposal, the amount of work necessary to complete all reporting obligations, the amount of work necessary to interpret the data generated by this project, and the cost of promotion and meetings associated with this project. Complete, itemized cash and in-kind budgets can be found at the end of the budget narrative.

### Project Funding

This project will be funded by cash contributions from NRCS, DOC, and GMD3. Those contributions are summarized below in Table 3.

Table 3: Cash Contributions

| Organization | Contribution Amount |
|---|---|
| NRCS | $1,000,000 |
| DOC | $452,745 |
| GMD3 | $125,000 |

The project will also be funded though in-kind contributions from GMD3 and McCrometer. Those contributions are summarized below in Table 4.

Table 4: In-Kind Contributions

| Organization | Contribution Amount |
|---|---|
| GMD3 | $19,780 |
| McCrometer | $767,912.52 |

### Equipment

This project requires equipment for telemetry gateways, telemetry bridges, flow meter monitoring, weather stations, soil moisture monitoring, relays, technical tools, web server/hosting, and GPRS service. Telemetry gateways are required to receive data and put it on the server. Telemetry bridges receive radio transmissions from the well sites and convert them to cellular transmissions. Flow meter monitoring equipment will be used to provide data in 15 minute intervals to producers including pumping quantity, pipe pressure, and rainfall. The weather stations will be placed strategically in the project area to provide rainfall, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, and solar radiation data so that ET can be measured. Soil moisture monitoring equipment will be installed at each site. This equipment will measure soil moisture at multiple depths to help the producer with irrigation scheduling. It will also provide data to GMD3 that will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of good management practices in terms of soil water availability. The relays are necessary to allow participants who are outside of range

from the network hub to participate in the project. They will relay telemetry data to the network hub. Technical tools include equipment necessary to provide feedback at installation sites so that proper installations can be ensured. The web server/hosting will enable producers and project partners to have access to the telemetry data from any pc or smart phone. The GPRS service includes the cellular transmission cost of transmitting the data every 15 minutes from each network hub. See Table 4 for an itemized equipment budget, with retail equipment costs. McCrometer will provide a total discount of $807,713 for this equipment. The table shows the retail cost of the equipment. The discount is applied at the total.

Table 4: Equipment Budget

| Description | Cost |
|---|---|
| A850 Telemetry Gateways | 8,060.00 |
| RA440 GPRS/UHF Bridge | 42,960.00 |
| GPRS to UHF Bridge | 7,120.00 |
| Flow Meter Monitoring | 967,350.00 |
| Weather Stations | 36,025.00 |
| Soil Moisture Monitoring | 1,013,687.50 |
| Relays | 52,260.00 |
| Technical Tools | 4,395.00 |
| Web Server/Hosting | 25,000.00 |
| GPRS Service | 10,800.00 |
| | |
| Subtotal | 2,167,657.50 |
| In-Kind Discount Provided by McCrometer | (767,912.52) |
| **Total** | **1,399,744.98** |

**Installation**

The budget includes $175,000 for installation of equipment. These installations will be provided by subcontractors selected by GMD3. McCrometer will provide installation training at no cost. The budget allows $350 per well site for the installation of the telemetry equipment. It also allows $350 per well site for the installation of the soil moisture probes.

**NRCS Designated Travel**

The budget includes $3,000 for NRCS designated travel.

Table 5: Total Project Cost

| Description | Amount |
|---|---|
| Equipment | $1,399,744.98 |
| Installation | $175,000.00 |
| NRCS Designated Travel | $3,000.00 |
| **Total** | **$1,577,744.98** |

# McCROMETER

## Configuration Sheet

### RemoteCONNECT Telemetry System Model RC52

**OVERVIEW**

The McCrometer RemoteCONNECT Telemetry System is a wireless data collection system designed to work with flowmeters and other agriculture water management sensors. The RemoteCONNECT is a valuable irrigation management tool and improves irrigation efficiency by delivering up-to-date crop data via the internet. The system is expandable. Users can connect their new or existing flowmeter to the RemoteCONNECT. The addition of other agricultural management sensors such as: soil moisture, water level, and rain gauges can be done at anytime. Data collected from this system can be used by farmers, state organizations, water conservancy districts, irrigators and researchers.

The RC52 system can also receive control commands from the RemoteCONNECT website to output control signals to connected systems such as pumps. Additionally, the system features alarm parameter options that can be set to notify a user of a particular event. With the RemoteCONNECT you will know how much water is being applied and when. Save time, fuel, and labor with the McCrometer RemoteCONNECT.

**INSTALLATION**

The RemoteCONNECT Telemetry System is a mast mounted system that is typically mounted within close proximity of the flowmeter or irrigation management sensors. The system is easy to install and retrofit onto existing flowmeters.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**Operating Modes**

**Timed Transmissions:** Sensor data values are reported at user programmable time intervals.

**Event Mode Transmissions:** Report of any digital input is generated upon a state change.

**Digital Input:** Event trigger or programmed as a pulse counter.

**Analog Sensor Inputs:** Features four configurable analog 0-5V, 0-1mA, 0-20mA, and 4-20mA. Signal conditioning is available for one channel to accommodate mV signals and battery voltage. One sensor input can be used for flow, leaving three remaining inputs for other agricultural management sensors. Additional analog inputs available as an option.

**Control Output:** Three controls available per SatCOM.

**Installation Locations:** Any location with an unobstructed view of the sky.

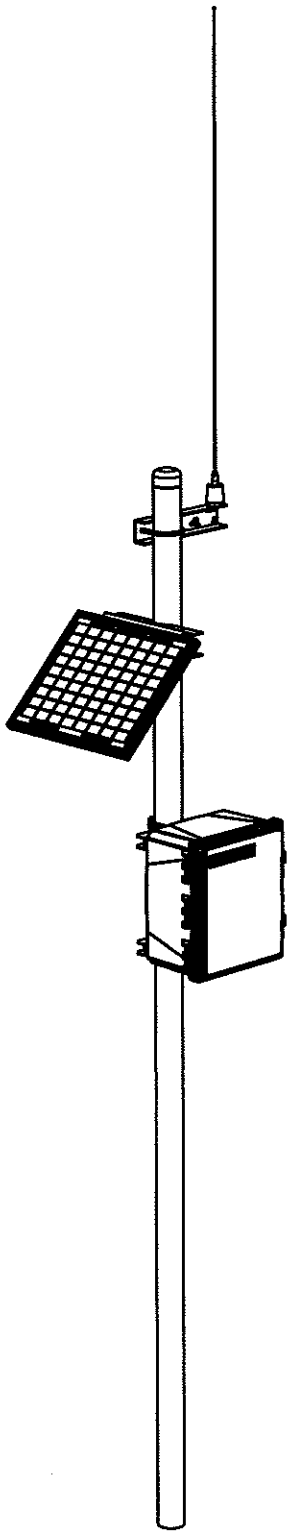
**Power Supply:** Solar or 110VAC supply, both with battery backup. Five year rechargeable battery life.

**Relative Humidity:** 0 to 100% non-condensing

**Operating Temperature Range:** -40° to 140° F (-40° to 60° C) - For cold climates, refer to cold weather package under Options section.

**Enclosure:** NEMA 4 with hinged door, polycarbonate.

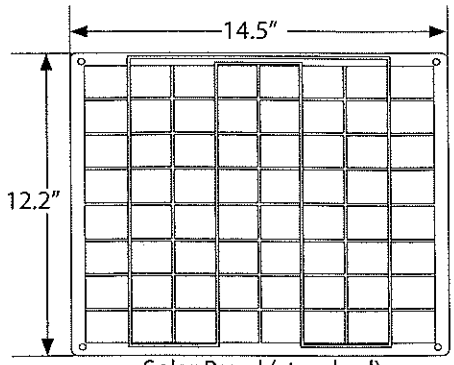
**Satellite:** Orbcom



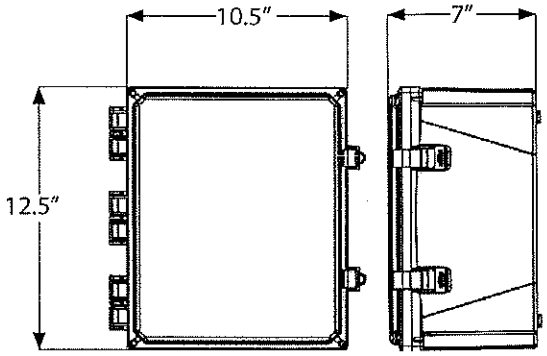
**RC52 SatCOM Telemetry System**

RemoteCONNECT™

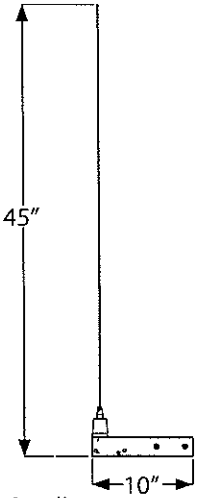
## Dimensions




Solar Panel (standard)
NOTE: Cold Weather Package uses a different solar panel.




Electronics Enclosure




Satellite Antenna

## RemoteCONNECT RC52

| Item No. | Description |
|---|---|
| **RC52** | **SatCOM Telemetry System** |
| | Solar Powered |
| | Powered by 110VAC with battery backup |

**Options**

| | |
|---|---|
| | Cold Weather Package: Recommended for cloudy locations where sun may not be present for a minimum of 2 weeks. (Consists of a larger solar panel and larger battery.) |
| **RC20** | Transmitter to interface with Mc Propeller meter |
| | Additional Analog Inputs |
| | Additional Control Outputs |
| | Ag Water Management Sensors |

McCROMETER 3255 WEST STETSON AVENUE • HEMET, CALIFORNIA 92545 USA www.mccrometer.com
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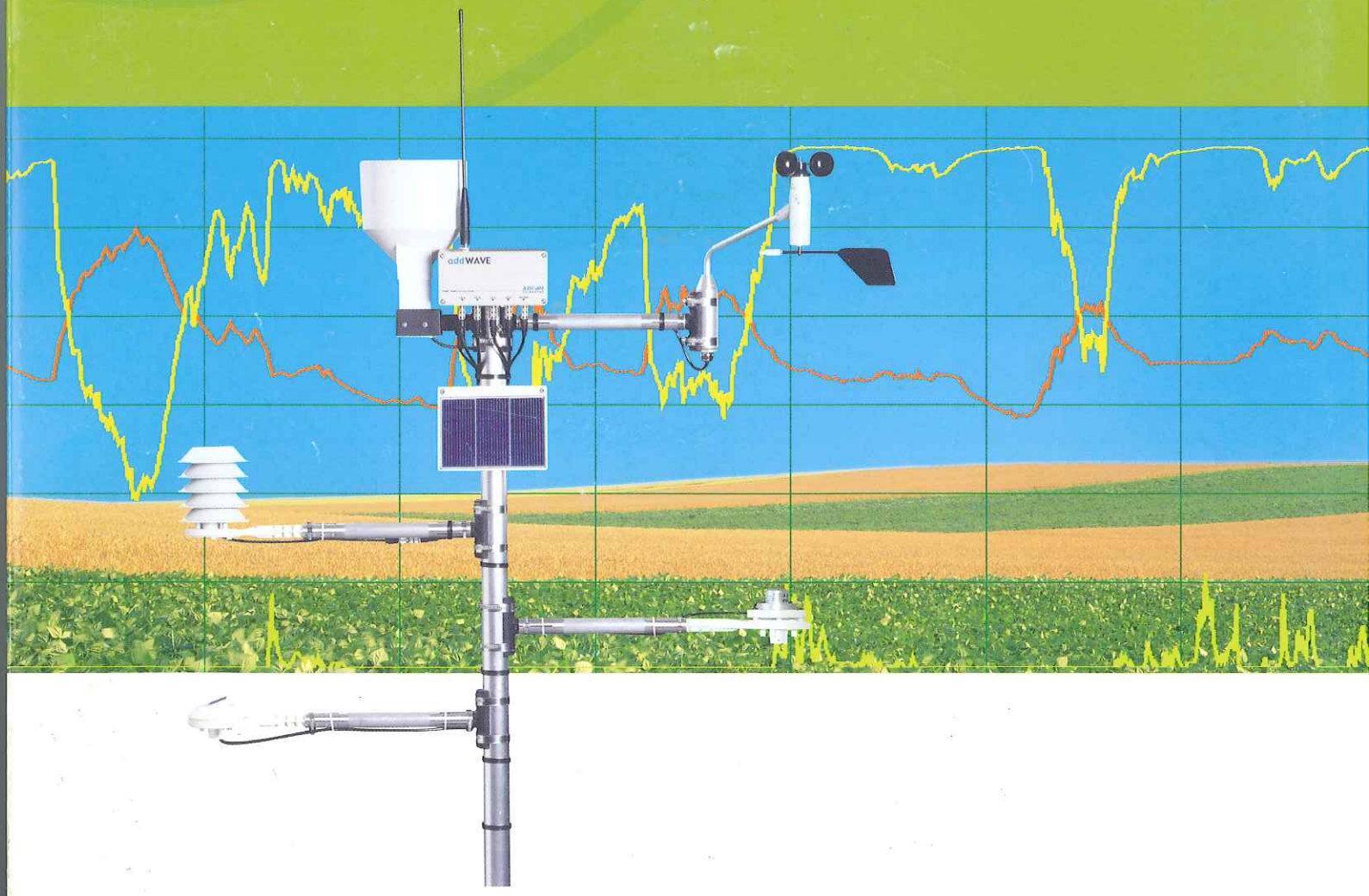
Agricultural Risk Management | Irrigation Management | Water Management | Environmental Monitoring

# Wireless communication with your crops!

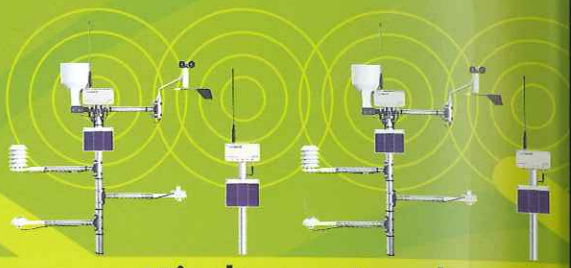
Integrated management solutions for agriculture




ADCON

# Save chemicals - get bet

Wind
Precipitation
Solar radiation
Temperature/ rel. humidity
Leaf wetness



## Remote Transmission Units

- Easily installed, right where you need it
- Collects and stores all necessary data
- Solar powered operation

## Wireless network

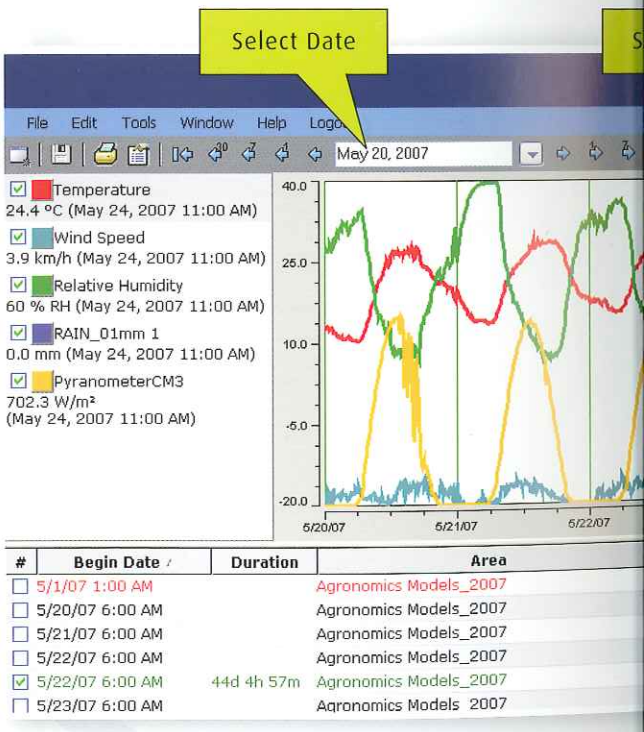
- Reliable data transfer via UHF radio or GSM/GPRS
- Relaying capability to extend transmission distance
- Low maintenance

## Growers benefit

- Get important information anytime, anywhere, even from remote locations
- Support the environment
- Only spray when it is really necessary – ***save 20% and more in agrochemicals***
- Custom chemical database, full treatment traceability
- Save energy, time and money
- Improve yield and quality

## What we provide

- Site specific weather information in near real-time
- Numerous methods for degree-day calculation
- Frost warnings via email/SMS
- Disease indexes and Treatment recommendations
- Statistical computations, like precipitation sums, temperature and humidity averages, etc.
- User definable thresholds to trigger alarms and events
- Customizable graphs – make them look the way you want!
- Multi-language user-interface
- Fully web enabled – work through a web browser, from any computer, from anywhere, at any time!
- WAP Interface for mobile data access




## Your personal agricultural risk managem

Adcon's comprehensive, flexible software addVANTAGE Pro to analyze your data by a multitude of available extensio

# ter and healthier crops!

**Data collection**

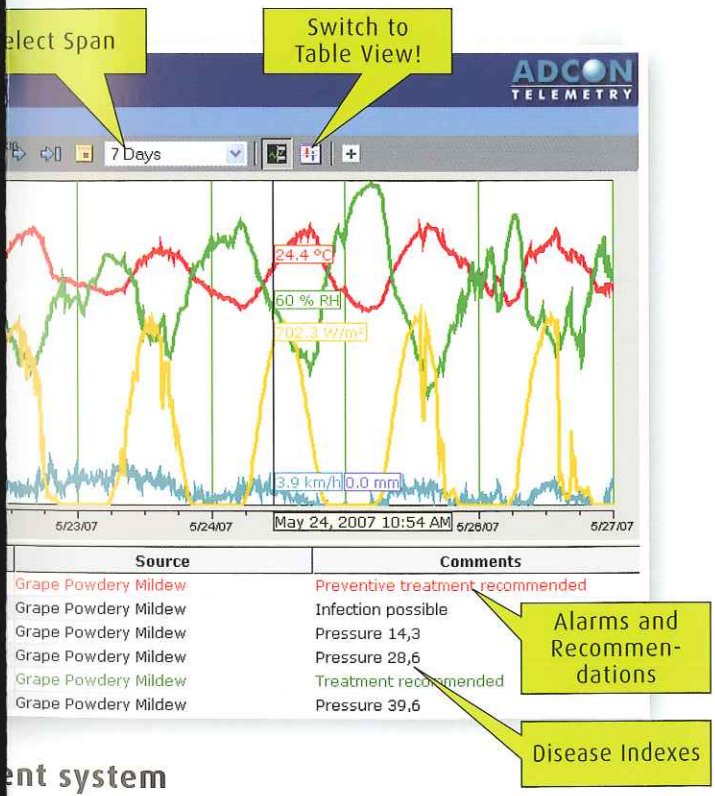
- Base Station controls up to 500 RTUs
- Accessible by Internet, LAN, Modem, GSM
- Remote Diagnostics

@ Internet

**Your office**

- State-of-the-art web-based consultancy software
- Near real-time availability of important data

**Increased profitability**




**ent system**

5 provides you with an efficient instrument
s ***specifically matched to your needs***.

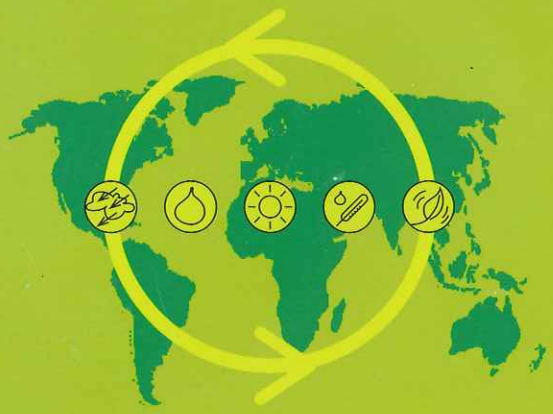
## Crop protection models for a wide range of crops

Leading plant and disease specialists from all over the world support the use of disease risk indexes, growing degree-day calculation and chilling hours. Reduce chemical usage during low disease pressure periods and optimize your spraying intervals during high-pressure periods. Our models give you accurate information for accurate management decisions.

**Models provided with addVANTAGE Pro 5 include:**

- Grape Powdery Mildew
- Grape Downy Mildew
- Grape Bunch Rot
- Apple Powdery Mildew
- Apple Scab
- Potato Late Blight
- Hop Downy Mildew
- DSV
- Growing Degree Days
- MaryBlyt (optional)

# ADCON - Equipment for Professionals



**The world's leading brands**, from wine makers to vegetable growers to banana farmers, many Universities, Governments, Researchers and Consultants, rely on Adcon weather stations to deliver timely and accurate data for their daily decisions. Because your crop is too valuable to put it at risk!

**More than 20.000 stations sold** make Adcon the leading manufacturer of weather stations. Adcon Telemetry – not the cheapest, but the best equipment to get the job done.

**If you want to know more** check out our website, contact your nearest dealer – or give us a call!

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**www.adcon.at**


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info-usa@adcon.at, www.adcon.at

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Tel. +61 8 8342 5343, Fax +61 8 8342 5363
info-aus@adcon.at, www.adcon.at


Local dealer

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

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

Phone: 785-823-4500
FAX: 785-823-4540
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

# NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES for the STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TOPEKA, KANSAS April 9, 2012

## PERSONNEL

Conversions: Stacey D. Domingue, Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist), to Soil Conservationist, Paola

New Hires: Kathryn D. Knox, Human Resources Manager, Salina State Office
Kyle F. Slifka, Soil Conservation Technician, Leoti

Reassignments and/or Promotions: Michael D. Clover, District Conservationist, Kingman, to Supervisory District Conservationist, Kingman
Nathan M. Lind, Engineering Technician (Civil), Elizabethtown, Kentucky, to District Conservationist, Johnson
Thomas F. McGuire, Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator, Emporia, to Soil Conservationist, Columbus
Gary L. Parks, Soil Scientist, Salina MLRA Soil Survey Office, to Soil Scientist, Hutchinson Area Office
James C. (Chad) Remley, Soil Survey Data Quality Specialist, Salina MLRA Office, to Soil Scientist, Salina State Office
Amber D. Sanko, Soil Conservationist, Jetmore, to District Conservationist, Cimarron
Bradley G. Schreck, Agricultural Engineer, St. Joseph, Missouri, to Agricultural Engineer, Hutchinson Area Office
David W. Snyder, Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator, to Budget Officer, Salina State Office
Mark E. Stacey, Agricultural Engineer, Hutchinson Area Office to Agricultural Engineer, Manhattan Area Office
Dustin H. Tacha, Rangeland Management Specialist, Winfield, to Rangeland Management Specialist, South Hutchinson
Clifford I. Thornton, Assistant State Conservationist, Englewood, Ohio, to Assistant State Conservationist, Emporia Area Office
Vanessa R. Walker, Soil Conservationist, El Dorado, to Soil Conservationist, Mound City
Robert C. Wimer, Supervisory District Conservationist, South Hutchinson, to Resource Conservationist, Hutchinson Area Office

Retirements: Steven E. Theel, Soil Conservation Technician, Alma

## OPERATIONS

A National Quality Assurance Compliance Review (QACR) and a National Civil Rights Compliance Review is being conducted the week of April 16. Kansas is one of ten states selected for review this year. Reviews of this type are being planned every five years. Kansas has had civil rights compliance reviews in the past, but has never had a National Quality Assurance Compliance Review as this is the first year for the National QACR process.

Goals negotiation with National Headquarters has been completed with similar key performance measure goals as last year with some minor variations. Field offices are required to have their negotiated goals into the system by April 15.

A meeting was held with FSA regarding future sharing of resources with many issues still to be resolved.

A meeting was held with all of the partners involved with the conservation partner employees to discuss challenges and progress.

The process of developing a plan to determine the "Field Office of the Future" has begun with a meeting of partners. A joint survey from the NRCS, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, and the State Conservation Commission will be sent separately to all conservation district boards and managers to gather their input for the "Field Office of the Future."

## PROGRAMS

- **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)**
  - The AWEP cutoff date for application ranking was March 3, 2012. We are in the process of obligating contracts with the $3.8 million of financial assistance we received.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)**
  - CStP Sign-up Period 2012-1 ended January 27, 2012. We received an initial allocation of 369,000 acres and are in the process of making preapprovals. Obligations are to be completed by June 1, 2012.

- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)**
  - Kansas recently received approximately $260,000 for two EWPP non-exigent projects that had been submitted to the NRCS National waitlist last fall. The city of Manhattan and the city of Beloit as sponsors have both confirmed a commitment to move forward with restoration activities. The projects will now have 220 days to complete design and installation of the conservation practices.
  - Kansas NRCS currently maintains an additional 10 non-exigent EWPP projects affecting six counties as a result of locally declared disasters since summer 2010.
  - The state office just received a new request from Lyon County and is in the process of conducting an initial site visit to determine program eligibility.

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**
  - Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)—An application period cutoff date has been set as April 6, 2012, for Forested Riparian Buffers and Windbreak Renovation concerns.

- Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative (LPCI)—$396,406 in EQIP funds were received for LPCI. The EQIP-LPCI sign-up ended February 24, 2012. Kansas received 66 applications that are in the process of funding.
- EQIP General funds are close to being 90 percent obligated. Kansas's allocation for fiscal year 2012 was approximately $16 million.

- **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**
  - Two FRPP easements were closed on since January, 2012, on 1,398 acres. There are still three active enrollments in prior year agreements to be closed on.
  - New proposals from cooperating entities for FY 2012 enrollments are due by April 6, 2012.

- **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)**
  - Kansas is set to begin the closing process for six out of seven FY 2011 GRP enrollments.
  - Once all of the FY 2011 easements are acquired, an additional 4,900 acres of native Kansas grasslands will be preserved in Pottawatomie and Greenwood Counties.
  - Kansas has tentatively approved 11 FY 2012 applications for GRP permanent easements in four counties covering approximately 4,600 acres.

- **Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities**
  - The Wakarusa Watershed District, Douglas County, started construction March 1, 2012, on a $1.2 million rehabilitation project for site #24.
  - Kansas is currently providing technical and financial assistance to three local watershed districts and conservation partners working on dam rehabilitation projects through the FY 2012 Watershed Rehabilitation Allocation.
  - The Spring Creek Watershed District in Sedgwick County was awarded $600,000 to complete rehabilitation of their R-1 Dam. The preliminary design for Spring Creek was sent to the field for review and comments in March. The final design is anticipated to be completed by June 2012.
  - Rehabilitation construction on Switzler Creek site R-7 Watershed in Osage County is now complete. NRCS continues to work with the watershed district to close the construction phase and prepare for implementing the mitigation tree-planting plan for the Switzler project this spring. Approximately 1350 trees will be planted on the 3.5 acres mitigation easement.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**
  - Kansas has closed on seven new easements since October 2011, protecting 380 acres of wetlands.
  - For FY 2012 funding, WRP applications that are submitted to the state office by February 22, 2012, that had preliminary reviews, site visits, and ranking worksheets completed, and the landowners have reviewed and returned the ranking worksheets, will be ranked for tentative approval. In addition, new applications that have a WRP ranking worksheet score of 50 or greater will be tentatively approved for WRP enrollment throughout the FY for as long as WRP funds remain available.

- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**
  Kansas did not receive any general WHIP funds this year. Existing WHIP applicants will receive letters informing them of this and other alternatives. WHIP funds are being used for "Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW)," and will be disbursed to seven initiatives in the United States, including the LPCI. Signup cutoff dates for WLFW-LPCI have been set for April 30, 2012, and May 30, 2012.

## TECHNOLOGY

- Division of Conservation (DOC) Streambank Agreements
  - Two more projects have been built.
  - Five projects are in construction or preparing for construction.
  - Five projects are in design and another six projects have already been designed and are awaiting permits.

- Architect and Engineer (A&E) Contracts
  - The designs have been completed on two animal waste management systems.
  - Waiting for the final design on one animal waste management system.
  - The preliminary designs have been completed on the four streambank protection projects.

## OUTREACH

- **150th USDA Anniversary**
  Seven Kansas U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies have joined together to celebrate the USDA's150th Anniversary: NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Risk Management Agency (RMA), Rural Development (RD), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and National Ag Statistical Service (NASS). USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will be speaking Tuesday, April 10, at 10:30 a.m. at the Landon Lecture, McCain Auditorium. In the afternoon he will stop at the ARS offices. FSA, RD, NRCS, and RMA worked with ARS to develop the agenda for the public celebration from 2 to 5 p.m. at 1515 College Avenue. The Wind Erosion Laboratory will be dedicated during this time. The seven agencies will provide exhibits and literature at a resource fair providing allowing the public to learn more about USDA and its agencies.

- **Working Lands for Wildlife**
  In early March, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced the Working Lands for Wildlife partnership that creates a $33 million partnership with farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to use innovative approaches to restore and protect the wildlife habitats for seven identified species in specific geographic areas. In Kansas the identified species is the lesser prairie-chicken. Thirty-six western Kansas counties are in the priority area. A cutoff date of **Monday, April 30**, has been set to rank eligible applications for funding in the first sign-up period. A partnership effort to seven species in the United States which includes the lesser prairie-chicken.

- **Earth Team Volunteers**
  Kansas Earth Team (ET) Volunteers received national recognition winning several awards for fiscal year 2011 (3,513 Kansas ET volunteers served a total of 37,038.75 hours). Read about the 2011 Volunteer awards at http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/about/earth_team/awards_2011.html

  - National Awards
    - Kansas again received the Chief's Cup for 2011 and also received the Chief's Cup in 2009 and 2005
    - ET Volunteer Coordinator Award—Jan Klaus, NRCS, Hays
    - ET Partnership Award Nomination—Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), Central Prairie RC&D Council, Great Bend

  - Kansas Awards
    - ET Group Volunteer Award—Neosho County People's Garden Group, Erie
    - ET Field Office Award—Howard Field Office, Howard
    - ET Employee Award—Alex Miller, Rangeland Management Specialist, Westmoreland
    - ET Individual Award—Samantha Wade, Erie
    - ET National Association of Conservation Districts Partnership Award—Wyandotte County Conservation District, Kansas City
    - ET Conservation District Manager—Tom Meek, Clay County Conservation District, Clay Center

- **Conservation Editions**
  Over 50 conservation editions were published in local newspapers from conservation districts. When the total count is done, probably 80 percent of the conservation districts will have published conservation editions.