



109 SW 9th Street 2A

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1283

MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner at 2:17 p.m., Sunday, November 18, 2012 at the DoubleTree By Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, 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)

Chad Voigt, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture
(KDA), Division of Water Resources (DWR)

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

Phil Barnes, Associate Professor, Water Quality, Biological and Agricultural Engineering,
K-State Research and Extension (late arrival)

Division of Conservation (DOC), KDA Staff:

Greg Foley, Executive Director

Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager

Max Foster, Public Service Executive

Don Jones, Water Quality Programs Manager

Hakim Saadi, Watershed Programs Manager

Steve Frost, Water Conservation Programs Manager

Dave Jones, Conservation District Coordinator

Donna Meader, Program Consultant

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Guests:

Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)

Joyce Bracken, Supervisor, Wilson County Conservation District

Harold Klaege, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Wetlands & Streams (KAWS)

Gail Harshaw, District Manager, Wilson County Conservation District

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Andy Larson to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion Carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the September 13, 2012 minutes as mailed. Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

a. Herb Graves, Executive Director, SAKW.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT:

a. Overview of the Fiscal Year 2013 first quarter financial report see Attachment A – Max Foster.

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the FY 2013 first quarter financial report. Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. Buffer/CREP – Currently suspended until reauthorized with a new Farm Bill.

b. Mill Levy Handout –1907(b) – see Attachment B.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Review the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Convention roles and responsibilities for Commissioners and Staff – Scott Carlson.

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- b. Update on Poultry Litter Nutrient Management Special Project in Southeast Kansas – Greg Foley and Don Jones.
- c. Update on Livestock Water Supply Drought Initiative and cost-share cancellation December 7, 2012 and reallocation overview for Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative see Attachment C– staff.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review the 2013 Spring Workshops dates and locations – Scott Carlson.

Area I - March 5 Hill City, Los Lagus Mexican Restaurant Cantina

Area II – March 6, KSU Experiment Station, Garden City

Area III – March 7, NRCS Conference Center, Salina

Area IV – March 13, Farm Bureau, Topeka

Area V – March 14, Fredonia

- b. Overview of the FY 2014 DOC budget see Attachment C – Max Foster and Greg Foley.
- c. Authorize Commissioner and staff travel – Greg Foley.

Motion by Brad Shogren to approve John Wunder, Andy Larson, Greg Foley and Scott Carlson to attend the 2013 National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas January 27th through January 30th, 2013. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

- d. Discuss policy on conservation district document submittal to the DOC – Greg Foley
- e. Approve 2012 Governor’s Mined Land Reclamation Program Annual Reclamation Award – Scott Carlson.

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approved Harshman Construction, LLC, Finerty Quarry to receive the 2012 Governor’s Mined Land Reclamation Award. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

- f. Discuss a Watershed Initiative – Harold Klaege, KAWS

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10. REPORTS:

a. Agency Reports:

- i. NRCS – Eric Banks. See Attachment D.
- ii. KDA, DWR – Chad Voigt – DWR has been working with the DOC in regards to Watershed funding on the Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative.

b. Staff reports:

- i. Greg Foley gave an update on the Vilsack Drought Meeting Report.

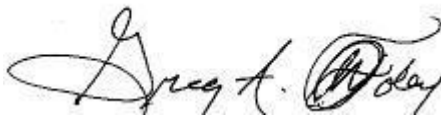
c. Commissioner Reports:

- i. Area III Commissioner Brad Shogren – Special access district is close to being functional.
- ii. Area IV Commissioner John Wunder – There has been a tremendous demand for pond clean outs.

11. ADJOURN:

The next regular Commission meeting is to be determined.

Motion by Brad Shogren to adjourn. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Greg A. Foley.
Executive Director

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2013 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

	PROGRAM/FUND	INDEX	Appropriation/ Allocation	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		UNCOMMITTED BALANCE
						Committed/ Encumbered-Contingent		
1.	STATE GENERAL FUND - 1000							
	a. Office Operations	0053	479,375.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		479,375.00
	TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND		\$479,375.00	\$0.00	0.0%	\$0.00		\$479,375.00
2.	STATE WATER PLAN FUND - 1800							
	a. Water Resources Cost-Share							
	(1) Office Operations		137,998.00	18,768.91	13.6%	16,418.05		102,811.04
	(2) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		2,524,977.11	298,150.84	11.8%	1,848,321.85		378,504.42
	(3) Reserve Funds		(2,470.30)	0.00	0.0%	0.00		(2,470.30)
	WR - TOTAL	1205	2,660,504.81	316,919.75	11.9%	1,864,739.90		478,845.16
	b. Non Point Source Pollution Control							
	(1) Office Operations		16,087.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		16,087.00
	(2) NPS-Engineering Services		250,000.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		250,000.00
	(3) NPS/TA-Conservation Technician Positions		181,524.00	63,991.50	0.0%	30,026.88		87,505.62
	(4) NPS/TA-No Till Conservation Districts		25,000.00	4,269.00	0.0%	0.00		20,731.00
	(5) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		1,692,665.97	212,294.67	12.5%	1,032,169.19		448,202.11
	(6) Revolving Loan Fund		37,389.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		37,389.00
	NPS - TOTAL	1210	2,202,665.97	280,555.17	12.7%	1,062,196.07		859,914.73
	c. Aid to Conservation Districts	1220	2,260,000.00	1,965,464.55	87.0%	0.00		294,535.45
	d. CREP/WTAP							
	(1) Office Operations		88,267.00	19,492.64	22.1%	0.00		68,774.36
	(2) WR/CREP CSIMS		8,103.40	0.00	0.0%	8,103.40		0.00
	(3) WRAP Projects		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	(4) Reserve Funds		705,210.87	0.00	0.0%	0.00		705,210.87
	CREP/WTAP - TOTAL	1225	801,581.27	19,492.64	2.4%	8,103.40		773,985.23
	e. Watershed Dam Construction							
	(1) Watershed Dam Cost-Share Assistance		506,737.00	87,621.68	17.3%	419,115.32		0.00
	(2) Inundation Mapping		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	(3) Rehabilitation		123,561.61	0.00	0.0%	123,561.61		0.00
	(4) Reserve		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	WATERSHED PROGRAM - TOTAL	1240	630,298.61	87,621.68	13.9%	542,676.93		0.00
	f. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative							
	(1) Office Operations		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	(2) CSIMS-KS Water Quality Buffer Projects		282,958.79	0.00	0.0%	261,751.37		21,207.42
	(3) Reserve		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	BUF - TOTAL	1250	282,958.79	0.00	0.0%	261,751.37		21,509.71
	g. Riparian and Wetland Protection							
	(1) Office Operations		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	(2) RW-Engineering Services		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	(3) CSIMS-Demonstration Projects		165,000.00	0.00	0.0%	24,496.59		140,503.41
	(4) Reserve Funds		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	RW - TOTAL	1260	165,000.00	0.00	0.0%	24,496.59		140,503.41
	i. Lake Restoration-Water Supply Program	1275	195,496.00	0.00	0.0%	195,496.00		0.00
	TOTAL - STATE WATER PLAN FUND		\$9,198,505.45	\$2,670,053.79	29.0%	\$3,959,460.26		\$2,569,293.69

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2013 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

REVENUE PROGRAM FUNDS	INDEX	Fee Deposit Accounts	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		Cash Flow
					Committed/ Encumbered-Contigent		
1. LAND RECLAMATION FEE FUND - 2542	2090	124,947.12	37,910.03	30.3%	0.00	87,037.09	
2. KDWP-Buffer Partnership - 2517	2510	81,059.35	0.00	0.0%	58,558.99	81,059.35	
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 Coordinators	3880	64,271.83	0.00	0.0%	90,000.00	64,271.83	
c. KDHE/NPS Conservation Tech	3880	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
b. KDHE/Buffer Indirect Funds	3705	18,502.05	0.00	0.0%	30,000.00	18,502.05	
c. KDHE/NPS Indirect Funds	3705	4,500.00	0.00	0.0%	4,500.00	4,500.00	
TOTAL- FEDERAL FUNDS - 3915		87,273.88	0.00	0.0%	124,500.00	87,273.88	
4. NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS - 3715	(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REQUESTED FROM NRCS)				REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST		
a. NRCS/NPS Conservation Tech	3825	70,892.98	0.00	0.0%	0.00	70,892.98	
b. NRCS/NPS No-Till	3825	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
c. NRCS/WQ Engineering	3825	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
d. NRCS/WQ SCCPersonnel Ind	3825	17,889.10	0.00	0.0%	0.00	17,889.10	
e. NRCS/WQ Indirect Funds	3825	53,065.04	0.00	0.0%	0.00	53,065.04	
TOTAL- NRCS FUNDS - 3917		141,847.12	0.00	0.0%	0.00	141,847.12	
5. MOTOR VEHICLE FUND - 6118	6000	3,447.92	2,360.55	68.5%	0.00	1,087.37	
6. WR WSD DROUGHT PROGRAM - 7305	7000	90,000.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	90,000.00	
TOTAL - CASH FLOW						\$488,304.81	
1. *HOSPITALITY FUND - 1000	0054	110.63	110.63	0.0%	0.00	0.00	

*Paid under KDA Budget

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- **2-1907b: Finance of operation of conservation district; moneys from county general fund; tax levies; use of moneys.** The board of county commissioners, upon request of the board of supervisors of the conservation district, may pay to the district moneys from the county general fund for the supervisors to carry out their duties under this act. **In addition to moneys from the county general fund, the board of county commissioners may levy an annual tax against the taxable tangible property within the district, not to exceed 2 mills or \$55,000 whichever is less, to provide additional moneys for the operation of the conservation district.** The levy shall be sufficient to pay a portion of the principal and interest on bonds issued under the authority of [K.S.A. 12-1774](#), and amendments thereto, by cities located in the county, which levy may be in addition to all other tax levies authorized by law and not subject to or within any tax levy limit or aggregate tax levy limit prescribed by law. Funds appropriated or allocated under the provisions of this section and [K.S.A. 2-1907c](#), and amendments thereto, shall be used to carry out the activities and functions of the district including cost of travel and expenses of supervisors and employees of the district, educational materials, conservation awards, annual meeting expenses, excluding meals, and membership dues to conservation related organizations. Such funds shall not be used for prizes, or incentives for achievements or attendance at meetings or for travel or expenses for anyone other than supervisors and employees of the district.

History: L. 1953, ch. 6, § 1; L. 1959, ch. 5, § 2; L. 1963, ch. 7, § 1; L. 1969, ch. 8, § 1; L. 1972, ch. 5, § 5; L. 1976, ch. 7, § 4; L. 1979, ch. 7, § 1; L. 1979, ch. 8, § 1; L. 1981, ch. 9, § 1; L. 1985, ch. 11, § 1; L. 1987, ch. 9, § 1; L. 1989, ch. 5, § 3; L. 1994, ch. 45, § 2; July 1.

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- **2-1907c: Same; amount of moneys provided by county, certification to state; state financial assistance; budget request, limitation; disbursement and distribution.** On or before September 1 of each year, each conservation district shall submit to the state conservation commission a certification of the amount of money to be furnished by the county commissioners for conservation district activities for the ensuing calendar year. Such amount shall be the same as authorized for such purposes in each approved county budget. For the purpose of providing state financial assistance to conservation districts, the state conservation commission in the regular budget request, as a line item for the forthcoming fiscal year, shall submit a special request for an amount equal to the sum of the allocations of each county to each conservation district, but in no event to exceed the sum of \$25,000 per district. This \$25,000 limitation shall be applicable for fiscal year 2008, and thereafter, subject to appropriations therefor. The state conservation commission as soon as practicable after July 1 of the following year shall disburse such moneys as may be appropriated by the state for this purpose to each conservation district to match funds allocated by the commissioners of each county. Distribution shall be prorated in proportion to county allocations in the event that appropriations are insufficient for complete matching of funds. Municipal accounting procedures shall be used in the distribution of and in the expenditure of all funds.

History: L. 1963, ch. 7, § 2; L. 1969, ch. 8, § 2; L. 1972, ch. 5, § 6; L. 1979, ch. 7, § 2; L. 1994, ch. 45, § 3; L. 2007, ch. 84, § 1; July 1.

Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative

<u>AS OF 9/19/2012</u>	<u>Total Applications Received</u>	<u>Total Dollars Requested</u>
Area 1 –(Northwest Kansas)	260	\$624,455
Area 2 – (Southwest Kansas)	129	\$404,889
Area 3 –(Central Kansas)	508	\$1,265,396
Area 4 –(Northeast Kansas)	1308	\$3,528,994
Area 5 – (Southeast Kansas)	<u>1039</u>	<u>\$2,250,000</u>
Total -	3244	\$8,073,734

INITIAL ALLOCATION

<u>AS OF 10/3/2012</u>	<u>Dollars Allocated</u>
Area 1 –(Northwest Kansas)	\$121,800
Area 2 – (Southwest Kansas)	\$123,086
Area 3 –(Central Kansas)	\$119,494
Area 4 –(Northeast Kansas)	\$121,750
Area 5 – (Southeast Kansas)	<u>\$124,000</u>
Total -	\$610,130

DWR FUNDS ALLOCATION

<u>AS OF 10/3/2012</u>	<u>Dollars Allocated</u>
Area 1 –(Northwest Kansas)	\$29,447
Area 2 – (Southwest Kansas)	\$13,590
Area 3 –(Central Kansas)	\$61,736
Area 4 –(Northeast Kansas)	\$66,460
Area 5 – (Southeast Kansas)	<u>\$48,000</u>
Total -	\$219,233

WATERSHED DISTRICT ALLOCATION

<u>AS OF 11/15/2012</u>	<u>Dollars Allocated</u>
Cedar Creek #97	\$30,000
Cherry Plum #17	\$10,000
South Fork #76	\$30,000
Diamond Creek #61	\$30,000
(d) Mill Creek #85	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total -	\$150,000

Watershed District Commitments

Pottawattomie Creek #90	\$40,000
Otter Creek #83	\$50,000
Turkey Creek #109	\$20,000
Total -	\$110,000

DISTRICT FUNDS USED (NPS/WR) - \$83,964

TOTAL FUNDING FOR ENTIRE PROJECT = \$1,173,327

UNFUNDED APPLICATIONS

AS OF 11/15/2012

Area 1 –(Northwest Kansas)	157	\$363,930
Area 2 – (Southwest Kansas)	71	\$229,450
Area 3 –(Central Kansas)	401	\$982,374
Area 4 –(Northeast Kansas)	1129	\$3,066,511
Area 5 – (Southeast Kansas)	<u>882</u>	<u>\$1,904,000</u>

Total -	2640	\$6,546,265
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Applications that declined cost-share or were Not Eligible upon Field Visit

<u>Applications</u>	<u>Dollars Requested</u>
179	\$436,621



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
WICHITA, KANSAS
November 18, 2012**

PERSONNEL

New Hires: Kelly L. Bartholic, Office Assistant, Manhattan Area Office

Reassignments

and/or Promotions: SanJanette (Sandi) B. Harrell, NRCS Business Management Leadership Program Intern, Monroe, Georgia, to Administrative Program Specialist, Salina (duty station—Monroe, Georgia)
John C. Warner, Soil Survey Data Quality Specialist, Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Region Office (MO5), Salina, to Soil Survey Data Quality Specialist, Great Plains Soil Survey Region 5 (MO5), Denver, Colorado (duty station—Salina)
Cleveland E. Watts, State Soil Scientist/MO Leader, Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Region Office (MO5), Salina, to Soil Survey Regional Director, Great Plains Soil Survey Region 5 (MO5), Denver, Colorado (duty station—Salina)
William (Bill) A. Wehmueller, Senior Regional Soil Scientist, Major Land Resource Area Soil Survey Region Office (MO5), Salina, to Senior Regional Soil Scientist, Great Plains Soil Survey Region 5 (MO5), Denver, Colorado (duty station—Salina)
Bradley J. Younker, Agricultural Engineer, Hays Area Office, to Agricultural Engineer, Hutchinson, Area Office (duty station—La Crosse)

Resignation: Jody L. Gienger, Soil Scientist, Salina MLRA SSO

Retirement: Arthur C. Boltz, District Conservationist, Syracuse

OPERATIONS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) continues to coordinate with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) on a memorandum to share vehicles, copiers, postage, and other items. A draft agreement has been agreed upon and is at National Headquarters for review and approval.

The annual Supervisory District Conservationist (SDC) meeting was held in October. The two day event included training and motivation to the SDCs and Management Team.

A plan for Program Support Specialists (PSS) was developed to assist in program contract management. Many conservation district employees are currently providing this assistance through the Local Operating Agreement. This new process is part of the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI) process. The PSS will be responsible for certain steps in the application, contract, and implementation phases of NRCS program contracts. The PSS assistance will be coordinated by the administrative assistant in each area office. The area assistants will also provide back-up assistance should someone be on leave or unavailable. Currently there are 8 Ultima employees scattered across the state that are assisting with part of these functions. There are no current plans to make any changes to the Ultima employee arrangement. The PSS strategy will be implemented over the next 12 months.

The performance goals for the state and management units will not be initiated until a budget is received by NRCS. Business plans for the management units, areas, and state office have been developed and are being implemented.

PROGRAMS

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) and Conservation Security Program (CSP)**
 - Funds have been received to begin making payments on Conservation Stewardship and Conservation Security Programs.
 - CStP cutoff date for consideration for fiscal year (FY) 2013 funding is January 18, 2013.
- **NRCS Easement Programs**
 - NRCS authority to accept new applications for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) expired with the current farm bill. NRCS easement staff is working to complete enrollment of previous year applications and restoration work on prior year WRP easements.
 - The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is not impacted by this and we will be processing new applications as normal in FY 2013.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)**
 - Kansas NRCS has been working since March 2012 on two EWPP non-exigent projects. The city of Beloit, Chautauqua Park Project, involving a Streambank Protection restoration began construction in mid-September. The City has completed work on 2 of 3 sites and is working through local contract to have the last site completed by the end of November. Project completion will allow the park to be reopened for the Annual Isle of Lights activities. Total construction cost is currently estimated at \$71,660. An authorized Performance Time Extension has been received for this project.
 - The city of Manhattan, Wildcat Creek Project, is also a Streambank Protection restoration effort. Design has been completed with the project currently out for permit review and approvals. The city is working on required land rights assurances. NRCS is currently working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate stream channel and threatened and endangered (T&E) species impact. The estimated construction costs may exceed \$250,000. This project recently received Kansas NRCS authorized Performance Time Extensions.
 - Kansas NRCS still maintains an additional 10 non-exigent EWPP projects on the National EWP Wait list for funding. The projects affect five counties and are a result of locally declared disasters since summer 2010.

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**
 - The General EQIP application deadline was November 16, 2012.
 - The adjusted gross income (AGI) limitation for all programs under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) expired at the end of FY 2012. Effective October 1 and until further notice, participants of FY 2013 contracts will not be subject to the AGI limits.
 - Cutoff for EQIP–On-Farm Energy Initiative, EQIP–Organic Initiative, and EQIP–Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative for FY 2013 funding is January 18, 2013.
 1. Remember that applications for EQIP, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), or CStP can be taken at any time. Cutoff dates are set to make funding decisions. Should funds not be expended, additional cutoff dates may be set.
 - Kansas will be part of the EQIP–Ogallala Initiative, WHIP–Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW)–Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative, and WHIP–WLFW–Black Footed Ferret Initiative. Cutoff dates have **not** been set for these initiatives. We are waiting on additional information before we can proceed.

- **Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities**
 - Kansas NRCS began FY 2013 providing technical and financial assistance to two local watershed districts and conservation partners working on dam rehabilitation projects.
 - The Wakarusa Watershed District, Douglas County, began construction in March 2012 on the Yankee Tank (site #24) dam rehabilitation. The \$1.3 million project was completed more than a month ahead of schedule. Final checkout was completed on November 13, 2012.
 - The Spring Creek Watershed District in Sedgwick County is still working towards rehabilitation of their R-1 Dam southwest of Garden Plain, Kansas. The final design is complete. Permits have been acquired and the project agreement is ready for approval once land rights have been assured. The construction cost estimate exceeds \$300,000.
 - Kansas NRCS has also submitted 6 watershed dams for Rehabilitation Planning Assistance funding for FY13.

TECHNOLOGY

Light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data is in the process of being acquired for the following 10 counties: Anderson, Allen, Neosho, Labette, Woodson, Wilson, Montgomery, Greenwood, Elk, and Chautauqua. There is the possibility that Barber County will be added.

- **National Resources Inventory (NRI)**
 - A Local Data Collection is planned for 2013. The data collection will involve field office personnel collecting cropping history, program participation information and erosion data on 8,478 points scattered throughout the state. The data collection is slated to start in January and should be completed by April 2013.
 - Another round of the Grazing Lands On-Site Study data collection is planned to for this summer. Data collectors will be collecting data on approximately 174 points located in 41 Kansas counties.

OUTREACH

- **News Releases**

- Three news releases announced the EQIP cutoff date of November 16. The news releases emphasized the general signup, Opportunities for Rangeland Concerns, and Assistance for Poultry Litter Application and/or Storage in Southeast Kansas. Corey Nelson, Resource Conservationist, Programs Staff, followed up with a radio interview on Kansas State Radio, KKSU, aired on KFRM.
- David Kraft, State Rangeland Management Specialist, contributed to an article for Kansas Livestock Association and published in Kansas Stockman.
- The Kansas Nature Conservancy published an article featuring several FRPP easements—Lindquist, Walker, and Peterson—in the Ellsworth and Lincoln Counties area.

- **Conservation Editions**

Articles for conservation editions are in the process of being edited and will be published by December 1 for the conservation districts to use in their upcoming conservation editions. NRCS personnel and partners contributed the articles. The articles cover a variety of subjects such as practice maintenance, cover crops, rangeland, drought, and forestry.

- **Soil Health**

- Kansas NRCS is working on a Soil Health Strategic Plan which will be presented to the State Conservationist in January. Those working on the plan include Public Affairs, Resources, Soils, and representatives from each area office. Many aspects of Soil Health are already promoted in Kansas and will continue to be strongly promoted.
- The NRCS national headquarters (NHQ) kicked off the Soil Health educational effort on September 11. Many of the national office products can be viewed by going to the Kansas homepage www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov and clicking on Soil Health.

- **Dust Bowl Documentary**

Information was sent to all field offices, conservation districts, and the Kansas Technical Committee about the Dust Bowl documentary by Ken Burns. It airs on PBS TV stations in Kansas on November 18 and 19, 7 and 9 p.m. CT. The Kansas NRCS homepage links to NHQ's information on the Dust Bowl.

- **Hispanic and Women Farmers and Ranchers Claims Process**

The Farm Service Agency leads the effort in Kansas. Information meetings in Paola and Hutchinson were held for Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers about the claims process. NRCS, FSA, National Ag Statistics Service, and Rural Development participated in the meetings.

- **2012 Ag Census**

USDA will mail 2012 Ag Census forms in late December. Information, brochures and posters, will be provided to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Centers to help promote the importance of the census. The census is taken every 5 years. Those not returning the census form will be contacted.