



109 SW 9<sup>th</sup> 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 8:10 a.m., Thursday, September 13, 2012 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 1400 N. Lorraine Street, Hutchinson, Kansas.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

**Elected Commissioners:**

Ted Nighswonger, Area I Commissioner  
Andy Larson, Area II Commissioner  
Brad Shogren, Area III Commissioner  
John Wunder, Area IV Commissioner  
Rod Vorhees, Area V Commissioner

**Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:**

Chad Voigt, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture,  
Division of Water Resources  
Eric Banks, State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(NRCS)  
Phil Barnes, Associate Professor, Water Quality, Biological and Agricultural Engineering,  
K-State Research and Extension

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

Greg Foley, Executive Director  
Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager  
Don Jones, Water Quality Programs Manager  
Dave Jones, Conservation District Program Coordinator (left at 8:45 a.m.)  
Donna Meader, Program Consultant (left at 8:45 a.m.)

**Guests:**

Herb Graves, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)

## **SCC MEETING MINUTES**

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

**a. Addition:**

- i.** 8.c.vi. Authorization to allow Division of Conservation (DOC) to grant exemptions to policy for livestock water supply.
  
- ii.** 8.c.vii. Authorization for DOC to expend FY 2013 uncommitted cancellation, December 1, of cost-share funds in the Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) and the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPSPCP) on Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative (EDLWSI) and Livestock Waste Management Systems.

**Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion Carried.**

### **4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

- a.** Approve the July 30, 2012 minutes as mailed.

**Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the July 30, 2012 minutes as mailed. Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.**

### **5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:**

- a.** Herb Graves, SAKW – Reported the SAKW support of the EDLSWI. Constituents of SAKW have been notified that information regarding this issue has been distributed to its members. Watershed Districts are beginning to participate in this initiative.

### **6. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- a.** Dave Jones introduction.

### **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a.** FY 2014 Kansas Water Authority (KWA) final budget recommendations and the DOC budget see Attachment A– Greg Foley.
- i.** Allocations from Division of Budget – outlook identifies a budget near or slightly above current services.
  
  - ii.** Enhancements – the DOC will submit only one enhancement request for the EDLWSI in the amount that remains unfunded.

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- iii. Kansas Water Authority – an overview of the new procedure was given outlining that the KWA recommendation will be submitted as a recommendation to the Governor through the Kansas Water Office budget.
- b. Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for rehabilitation FY 2013 see Attachment B – Greg Foley.

**Motion by Brad Shogren to authorize funding in the amount of \$123,561.61 from the FY 2013 Watershed Dam Construction Program (WDCP) for three rehabilitation applications outlined in the attachment identified. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

### 8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review and assign Commissioners for the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Annual Meeting – Chairman Vorhees.
  - i. Preside at Monday SCC luncheon – Rod Vorhees.
  - ii. Give invocation at Monday luncheon – Andy Larson.
  - iii. Guest luncheon speaker introduction – Rod Vorhees
  - iv. Governors Recognition award winners during banquet – All Commissioners.
  - v. Presentation of 20 year awards during banquet – All Commissioners.
  - vi. Hold elections at area meetings for the following:
    - (a) KACD areas I, III, and V.
    - (b) SCC areas II and IV.
- b. Authorize Commissioner and staff travel – Greg Foley - None.
- c. Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative (EDLWSI) update – current status handout was provided that outlined the request & funding by area and source see Attachment C – Greg Foley.
  - i. Initial allocation \$609,000.

**Motion by Andy Larson to approve a Supplement of \$109,000 of WRCSP and NPSPCP funding for the EDLWSI. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

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- ii. Authorization to allow conservation districts to use FY 2013 uncommitted funds in the WRCSP and NPSPCP Programs for EDLWSI.

**Motion by Ted Nighswonger for retroactive approval to authorize conservation districts to use uncommitted funds in the FY 2013 WRCSP and NPSPCP Programs for the EDLWSI. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.**

- iii. Supplemental allocation of \$219,000 from the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Division of Water Resources (DWR) into WRCSP fund.

**Motion by Andy Larson for retroactive approval to receipt and expends funds received from KDA, DWR for the EDLWSI in the amount of \$219,000. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

- iv. Watershed District partnership pilot project update.

**Motion by Andy Larson to receipt and expend funds received from Watershed Districts for the EDLWSI. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

- v. Pond Restoration, EDLWSI, Supplement to Code 378 D see Attachment D.

**Motion by Ted Nighswonger for retroactive approval to approve Pond Restoration, EDLWSI, Supplement to Code No. 378D. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

- vi. Authorization to allow DOC to grant exemptions to policy to allow landowners that have started a livestock water supply practice under the EDLWSI, prior to approval of the contract, eligible for cost-share assistance as long as the project was not completed prior to the landowner making initial application to the Conservation District.

**Motion by Andy Larson for retroactive approval to authorize DOC to grant exemptions to policy to make landowners that have started a livestock water supply practice under the EDLWSI, prior to approval of the contract, eligible for cost-share assistance as long as the project was not completed prior to the landowner making initial application to the Conservation District. Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.**

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- vii. Authorization for DOC to expend FY 2013 uncommitted cancellation, December 1, of cost-share funds in the WRCSP and the NPSPCP Programs on the EDLWSI and Livestock Waste Management Systems.

**Motion by Brad Shogren to authorize DOC to expend FY 2013 uncommitted cancellation, December 1, of cost-share funds in the WRCSP and the NPSPCP Programs on the EDLWSI and Livestock Waste Management Systems in the NPSPCP Program. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.**

- d. Water Rights Transition Program update see Attachment E – Greg Foley.

### 9. REPORTS:

- a. Agency Reports:

- i. NRCS Report see Attachment F – Eric Banks.
- ii. K-State Research and Extension – Phil Barnes – Blue Green Algae update; Pond clean-out is a good idea and has water quality benefits in those watersheds; a water quality report on pond sediment is forthcoming for DOC to use as a press announcement.
- iii. KDA, DWR – Chad Voigt – Reported the receipt of a Federal Dam Safety Grant.

- b. Commissioners – None.


- c. Staff Reports:

- i. Greg Foley – Attended the Hypoxia Task Force Meeting in Des Moines, IA and provided an update on Poultry Litter and a strategy to voluntarily address nutrient management in southeast Kansas.

### 10. ADJOURN:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. November 18, 2012 at the Wichita Airport Hilton in Wichita, Kansas.

**Motion by Andy Larson to adjourn. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.**



Greg A. Foley  
Executive Director

**DOC BUDGET INFORMATION**

	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>		<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			<b>FUNDING</b>		
<b>SALARIES</b>	\$756,735	\$761,794	<b>SGF</b>	\$479,376	\$481,590
<b>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</b> (communication, rent, travel on-call engineering, Webelan, conservation techs, etc.)	\$1,103,363	\$788,753	<b>STATE WATER PLAN</b>	\$9,198,203	\$8,435,307
<b>COMMODITIES</b> (supplies, vehicle gas, etc.)	\$9,726	\$10,326	<b>KDWP</b>	\$81,059	\$75,000
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b> (computers)	\$2,027	\$1,896	<b>EPA 319 KDHE</b>	\$154,272	\$180,000
<b>AID TO LOCAL UNITS</b>			<b>NRCS</b>	\$307,092	\$229,297
water resource cost share	\$1,885,274	\$2,030,011	<b>LAND RECLAMATION</b>	\$145,700	\$146,789
wrcs drought assistance	\$418,000		<b>MOTOR POOL</b>	\$3,448	
dwr drought assistance	\$219,233				
nonpoint cost share	\$1,538,581	\$1,843,761			
nps drought assistance	\$191,474				
wtap / crep	\$711,286	\$408,974			
aid to conservation districts	\$2,260,000	\$2,326,934			
watershed dams	\$630,299	\$640,973			
buffer	\$282,656	\$277,759			
riparian and wetlands	\$165,000	\$169,742			
water supply restoration	\$195,496	\$287,060			
<b>SUBTOTAL - AID</b>	<b>\$8,497,299</b>	<b>\$7,985,214</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$10,369,150</b>	<b>\$9,547,983</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$10,369,150</b>	<b>\$9,547,983</b>

FY 2013 also has a supplemental SGF request of \$5.8 million for drought assistance

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION**

**WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION: REHABILITATION  
FY 2013**

Watershed District	Site	County	Basin	Cost/Share Requested	Cost/Share Approved	Scope	Const Year
1 Allen Creek WD 89	2	LY	NEO	\$12,070.00	\$12,070.00	Wave erosion repair	2004
2 Wet Walnut WJD 58	124	NS	UAR	\$38,656.00	\$38,656.00	Replace riser, drawdown pipe and valve reline the pp	1977
3 Turkey Creek WJD 103	A-3	NE	NEO	\$80,000.00	\$72,835.61	Replace drop structure, riprap FS and plunge pool	1991
<b>Top 3 to be funded</b>					<b>\$123,561.61</b>		
4 Wet Walnut WJD 58	129	NS	UAR	\$57,208.00		Replace riser, drawdown pipe and valve reline the pp..	1977
5 Wakarusa WJD 35	26	DG	KLR	\$46,664.00		Raise top of dam and extend Auxiliary Spillway	1974
6 Salt Creek WJD 46	107	LC	SOL	\$96,000.00		Replace riser, principal pipe, drawdown pipe	1979
7 Delaware WJD 10	C-48	JA	KLR	\$24,000.00		Extend Inlet and outlet pipe	1986
8 Switzler Creek WD 63	3	OS	MDC	\$120,000.00		Major upgrade	1959
9 UB Vermillion WJD 37	56	MS	KLR	\$45,771.00		Repaire FS and replace principal spillway pipe	1971
10 Long-Scott WD 93	1-33	CF	NEO	\$112,911.00		Major upgrade	1961
11 Allen Creek WD 89	18	LY	NEO	\$9,160.00		Mitigattion rehab: erosion	2006

<b>Totals =</b>	<b>\$642,440.00</b>	<b>\$123,561.61</b>
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<b>Fundind available =</b>	<b>\$123,561.61</b>
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## Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative

<u>AS OF 8/16/2012</u>	<u>Applications Received</u>	<u>Dollars Requested</u>
Area 1 –(Northwest Kansas)	195	\$488,222
Area 2 – (Southwest Kansas)	126	\$392,889
Area 3 –(Central Kansas)	428	\$1,059,366
Area 4 –(Northeast Kansas)	1085	\$2,938,183
Area 5 – (Southeast Kansas)	<u>800</u>	<u>\$1,738,000</u>
<b>Total -</b>	<b>2634</b>	<b>\$6,616,660</b>

### **INITIAL ALLOCATION**

<u>AS OF 9/11/2012</u>	<u>Dollars Allocated</u>
Area 1 –(Northwest Kansas)	\$121,800
Area 2 – (Southwest Kansas)	\$121,739
Area 3 –(Central Kansas)	\$119,494
Area 4 –(Northeast Kansas)	\$121,750
Area 5 – (Southeast Kansas)	<u>\$124,000</u>
<b>Total -</b>	<b>\$608,783</b>

### **DWR FUNDS ALLOCATION**

<u>AS OF 8/20/2012</u>	<u>Dollars Allocated</u>
Area 1 –(Northwest Kansas)	\$29,447
Area 2 – (Southwest Kansas)	\$12,500
Area 3 –(Central Kansas)	\$61,736
Area 4 –(Northeast Kansas)	\$66,460
Area 5 – (Southeast Kansas)	<u>\$48,000</u>
<b>Total -</b>	<b>\$218,143</b>

### **COST-SHARE COMMITTED**

**BY WATERSHED DISTRICT(S) - \$50,000 (MILL CREEK)**

**DISTRICT FUNDS USED (NPS/WR) - \$104,294**

**TOTAL DOLLARS ALLOCATED FOR ENTIRE PROJECT =**

**\$981,220**



**POND RESTORATION**  
**EMERGENCY DROUGHT LIVESTOCK WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO CODE NO. 378D**  
**(PROGRAM: NPS & WR)**

**Corps of Engineers Permit requirements**

This is in regard to the Corps of Engineers Permit requirements for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation Pond Restoration for livestock water supplies:

- A.** The work in existing farm ponds or stock ponds **would be exempt** and not subject to review by the Corps, **provided:**
1. The work is for the purpose of maintaining the impoundment for livestock water.
  2. The work does not result in an increase in the height of the existing dam structure.
  3. The work does not result in an increase in surface acres from the size of the original pond.
  4. Any material excavated from the pond is removed to upland areas, and not deposited into any stream or wetlands.

The maintenance around any existing livestock ponds of features such as siphons, pumps, headgates, wingwalls, weirs, diversion structures, and such other facilities, removal of undesirable vegetation from the dam structure, and repair of erosion issues around the spillway **are also all exempt** and are not subject to review by the Corps.

- B.** **Activities that would need to be reviewed by the Corps**, and follow routine coordination and permitting procedures:
1. Any work that occurs in a Watershed District impoundment that was constructed for flood control or impoundment permitted for multi-use purposes.
  2. The construction of any new pond, including spring development projects.
  3. Any work in large farm ponds such as those used for irrigation or agri-businesses such as CAFOs.



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

Sam Brownback, Governor

## Water Right Transition Assistance Program

Based on the experience gained from the initial pilot project, the 2012 Kansas Legislature extended the sunset provision on the Water Right Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) for another 10 years (expiring June 30, 2022). WTAP had been officially operational since 2007.

The purposes of the initial program were to 1) reduce the Historic Consumptive Water Use (HCWU) in targeted, high-priority areas of Kansas by issuing financial grants for the voluntary, permanent dismissal of privately held water rights; and 2) evaluate the results of the pilot project and develop a viable model for the beneficial implementation of a long term water right retirement program which seeks to leverage state dollars with matching funds from other private and public sources. The results of the program had sufficiently demonstrated that landowners can be reasonably incentivized to voluntarily dismiss water rights in critical areas which are in need of water conservation and water use reductions.

The following basic changes were incorporated into H.B. 2517, as approved:

- Extends the HCWU analysis period from “most recent six years” (with four out of six years being used for the analysis) to the last 10 years of actual water use (to incorporate rights which have recently been in EQIP or DWR’s Water Right Conservation Program (or other due and sufficient causes).)
- Provides an alternative HCWU formula for owners who have low use because they have been conserving – recent flow rate test times a theoretical pumping period not to exceed a nominal 50 percent Net Irrigation Requirement (N.I.R.) for the specific county of the water right application.
- Promotes more partial water right retirements to promote the concept of “limited irrigation” as being the most cost-effective, economic sustaining activity being recommended by industry and education research experts.

As a result of the 22 enrollments to date, a total of \$2,946,082 has been expended to permanently retire of 6,169 acre-feet of annual water appropriation rights and 2,220 acre-feet of HCWU in target areas at an average cost of \$1,753 per acre-foot. A total of \$840,986 of federal (\$653,479) and local (\$187,507) dollars have been matched to WTAP applications in the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4, and \$28,513 of local dollars have been matched to WTAP applications in the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 – a total match of \$869,500.

- The next WTAP enrollment period will begin on October 1 (thru November 15).
- The maximum allowable bid price will remain at \$2,000 / ac-ft of HCWU.
- \$822,154 is available for water right retirements in FY2013 (to be shared with CREP).
- \$338,304 is requested for water right retirements in DOC’s FY2014 Budget.

Revised WTAP rules and regulations have been drafted and submitted to the KDA legal section.

# State of Kansas



## Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation

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### Water Right Transition Assistance Pilot Project Program

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NRCS Photo

## FY 2011 Legislative Report

Executive Summary

January 10, 2012

## **Executive Summary**

The Water Right Transition Assistance Pilot Project Program (WTAP) is nearing the end of its five year “pilot” phase status which expires on June 30, 2012. The results of the program to date have demonstrated that landowners can be reasonably incentivized to voluntarily dismiss water rights in critical areas which are in need of water conservation and water use reductions.

WTAP was authorized by the Kansas Legislature in 2006 as a five year pilot project. The purposes of this unique, innovative program are to 1) reduce the HCWU in targeted, high priority areas of Kansas by issuing financial grants for the voluntary, permanent dismissal of privately held water rights; and 2) evaluate the results of the pilot project and to develop a viable model for the beneficial implementation of a long term water right retirement program which seeks to leverage state dollars with matching funds from other private and public sources.

The project currently has three critical hydrologic targets which have been designated by the Chief Engineer to be in need of stream recovery and / or aquifer restoration – Prairie Dog Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, and six High Priority areas in the Upper Republican Basin. Enrollment sign-ups have been held in the fall seasons of 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011. It was not possible to conduct an enrollment in 2009 due to budget limitations. The maximum bid price for Historic Consumptive Water Use (HCWU) retirement is currently \$2,000 per acre-foot, an amount which was approved by the WTAP Steering Committee in 2008.

The program experienced a very light sign-up in the first year (2007) - only one application was approved - and the program rules were immediately changed to effectuate a simpler, more streamlined process. In the second year (2008), the program experienced a robust enrollment with 41 applications being submitted. Available funds allowed only 14 of those to be approved for a total cost of \$2,075,172 at an average bid price of \$1,301 per acre-foot of HCWU retired.

In the third enrollment period (2010), four applications representing 348 acre-feet of HCWU were approved for a total cost of \$270,629 on bid rates averaging \$1,200 per acre-foot (due to the mutual utility of compatible federal, state, and local programs). In the fourth and last enrollment period (2011), three applications representing 296 acre-feet of HCWU were approved for a total cost of \$517,253 on bid rates averaging \$1,730 per acre-foot.

Limited WTAP funds are being highly leveraged with other federal and local dollars to provide high quality retirements in critical areas at the lowest possible prices to the State. These cooperative activities enhanced the program’s efficiencies by minimizing costs and extending State investments to more potential applicants.

\$840,986 of federal (\$653,479) and local (\$187,507) dollars have been matched to WTAP applications in the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4, and \$28,513 of local dollars have been matched to WTAP applications in the Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5 – a total match of \$869,500.

As a result of the 22 enrollments to date, a total of \$2,946,082 of State money has been expended to effectuate the permanent retirement of 6,169 acre-feet of annual water appropriation rights and 2,220 acre-feet of HCWU in these regions at an average cost of \$1753 per acre-foot.



KSU Photo

**Program Strategy:** The goal of WTAP is to strategically reduce the demand on distressed aquifers and streams, and assist in returning the overall level of water appropriation (demand) back into conformity with water resources (supply). The retirement of some water rights in overdeveloped hydrologic systems, and thereby the cessation of some water diversions, will ultimately provide a measure of recovery to regional water resources and help to re-establish the long-term stabilization of water budgets.

The state's priority for the contractual dismissal of water rights is given to the most senior rights which provide the greatest consumptive use reductions and the greatest direct hydrologic impacts at the lowest reasonable, affordable price via a competitive bid process. The main objective of each contracted water right retirement is to decrease the "historic consumptive water use" which requires a very prescribed analysis of the most recent six years of use.

WTAP targets the retirement of agricultural irrigation water rights because they typically authorize the greatest appropriated quantities and because they are usually the most available (liquid) in the marketplace. Lands to which the dismissed water rights were appurtenant can be used for other purposes, but they can also continue to be dryland farmed or can be re-authorized for irrigation from another water right (subject to additional consumptive use analysis and approval by DWR). Landowners may also propose the dismissal of just partial water rights. These provisions help landowners retain viable options for future financial alternatives and economic decision-making.

## WTAP Enrollment Summary: FY2008 – FY2012

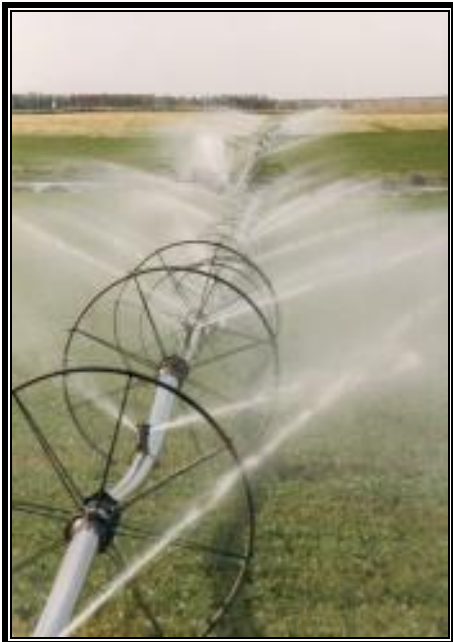
Enrollment Period	WRFNs Dismissed	Authorized AF Retired	HCWU - AF	Target Area	Bid Rate / AF HCWU	Total Cost of Retirement
FY2012	20831	319	93.3000	TH-5	\$1,190.71	\$111,093.24
FY2012	22017, 30528	263	81.8100	SD-6	\$2,000.00	\$163,620.00
FY2012	31673	320	121.2700	CN-3	\$2,000.00	\$242,540.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>902</b>	<b>296.3800</b>		<b>(\$1730 avg)</b>	<b>\$517,253.24</b>
FY2011	9133	305	124.2700	SH-1	\$515.15	\$64,017.69
FY2011	16630	305	90.3125	SD-6	\$758.67	\$68,517.38
FY2011	11776	293	78.7560	TH-5	\$890.83	\$70,158.20
FY2011	22361	239	55.3560	SH-1	\$1,227.25	\$67,936.09
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>1,142</b>	<b>348.6945</b>		<b>(\$847 avg)</b>	<b>\$270,629.36</b>
FY2009	20428	237	64.5600	TH-5	\$792.00	\$51,131.52
FY2009	17173	279	107.7000	SH-2	\$825.00	\$88,852.50
FY2009	20430	260	87.6000	TH-5	\$831.00	\$72,795.60
FY2009	21601	381	194.8000	TH-5	\$925.00	\$180,190.00
FY2009	20429	297	113.4000	TH-5	\$1,072.00	\$121,564.80
FY2009	30423	219	118.6600	TH-5	\$1,114.00	\$132,187.24
FY2009	24733	260	69.9600	TH-5	\$1,200.00	\$83,952.00
FY2009	20218	259	81.6400	TH-5	\$1,200.00	\$97,968.00
FY2009	22814	157	105.6100	TH-5	\$1,200.00	\$126,732.00
FY2009	16739	386	120.0600	SH-1	\$1,420.00	\$170,485.20
FY2009	33817	363	141.2000	SH-1	\$1,750.00	\$247,100.00
FY2009	22938	420	235.7000	Rattlesnake	\$1,895.00	\$446,652.50
FY2009	22007 (partial)	98	35.8600	Rattlesnake	\$1,995.00	\$71,540.70
FY2009	26875	284	92.0100	Rattlesnake	\$2,000.00	\$184,020.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>3,900</b>	<b>1568.7600</b>		<b>(\$1,301 avg)</b>	<b>\$2,075,172.06</b>
FY2008	22934	225	6.4000	Rattlesnake	*	\$83,028.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>225</b>	<b>6.4000</b>		<b>*</b>	<b>\$83,028.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,169</b>	<b>2,220.2345</b>		<b>(\$1,276 avg)</b>	<b>\$2,946,082.66</b>

\*the bidding criteria for the initial WTAP enrollment period was not based on a fixed rate of \$ / AF HCWU



**Enrollment Conditions:** Not more than 10% of a county's irrigated acres can be eligible for retirement under WTAP. Approval of partial water right retirements is allowed. The approval of "partial" water right retirements also requires additional consumptive use analysis and approval by the Kansas Division of Water Resources. Dryland farming is allowed after the water right is retired, and limited, temporary watering of up to three years is allowed to establish a permanent cover on the land being transitioned from irrigation, if necessary. All wells being retired must be properly capped, plugged, or reconditioned in accordance with KDHE.

**Application Evaluation:** Each WTAP application is analyzed for its conformity to the statutory and regulatory requirements of the program. The supporting information supplied with each application regarding water use information, cropping history, and owner fiduciary relationships are also analyzed for accuracy and compliance. Several other relevant hydrologic factors are also reviewed to make an overall comparison of an application's suitability and preference for approval and grant funding to protect the state's investment. After initial review by the Division of Conservation, the application is referred to the Chief Engineer for an analysis of the water right eligibility, a determination of the historic consumptive water use available for retirement under the proposed water right, and for a recommendation of the suitability of retiring the water right regarding the hydrologic impacts of its retirement. If the application is located within a groundwater management district, the application is forwarded to that appropriate office for their opportunity to review the application and to provide a recommendation regarding its ranking or favorability for approval.



KGS Photo

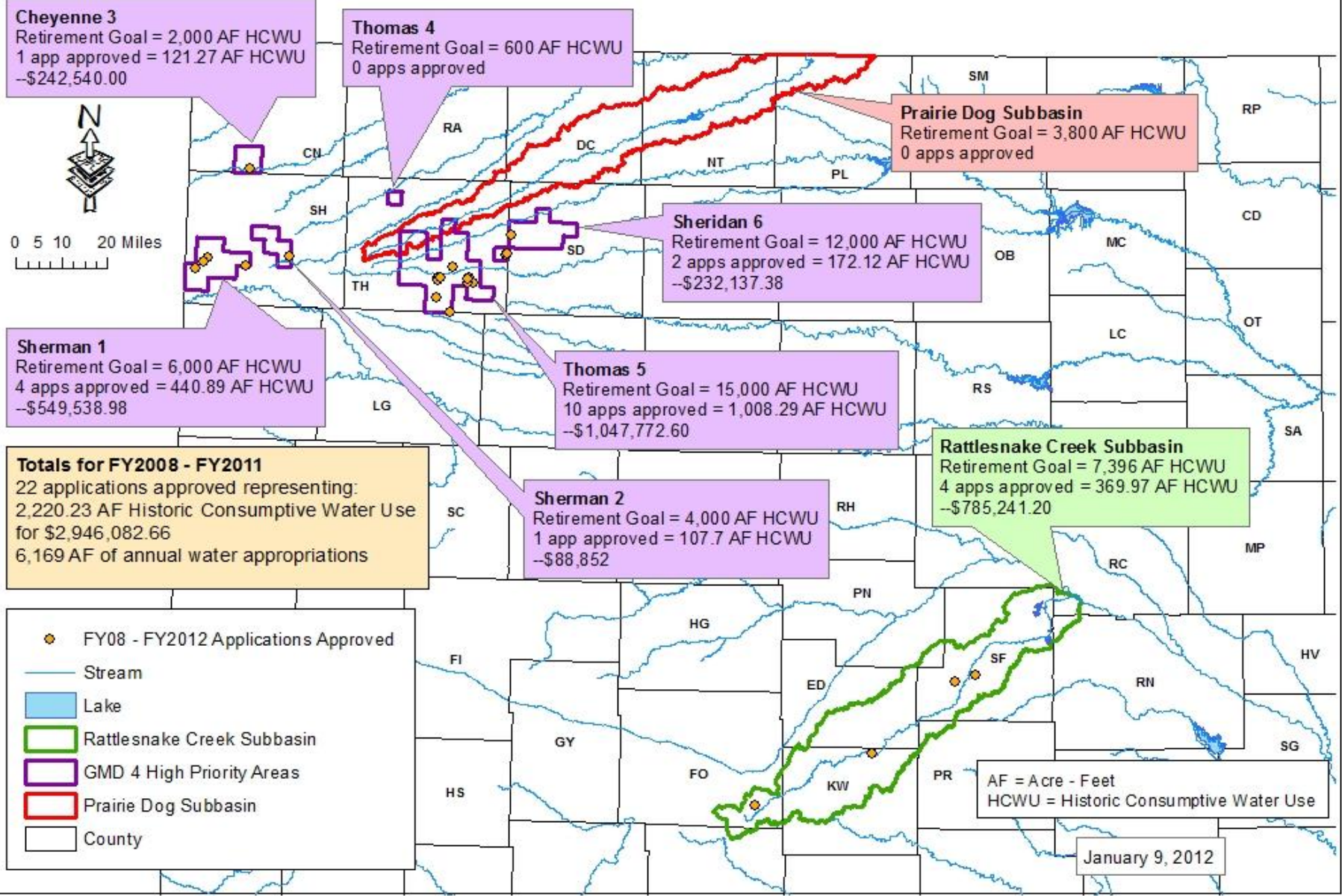
**Potential Economic / Resource Impacts:** The WTAP program is intended to produce a greater long-term stability to water resources which are currently supporting local economies based on over-allocated, over-developed, and distressed water resources – or which have some other compelling issue which is in the State's overriding interest to address. Local citizens will benefit from the stabilization of these water resources which contribute to community sustainability and the quality of life. These water resources and all water rights associated with them, including public water supplies, industries, municipalities, recreation and other valuable economic uses, will eventually require administration and curtailment of water rights in periods of shortages. The expense of significant regulatory activities can be avoided through continued implementation and refinement of the program. The WTAP program is developed on the absolute assumption that grant recipients are impacted positively if receiving financial assistance for the transition of irrigated crop land to dry crop land or grass land, and therefore, neighboring communities are also effected positively in the long run.

### Target Area Summary

Target Area	Target HCWU Reduction (AF)	# Apps Approved	Appropriation Reduced (AF)	HCWU Reduced (AF)	Total Cost
Rattlesnake	7,396	4	1,027	369.9700	\$785,241.20
Prairie Dog	3,800	0	-	-	-
SH-1	6,000	4	1,293	440.8860	\$549,538.98
SH-2	4,000	1	279	107.7000	\$88,852.50
CN-3	2,000	1	320	121.2700	\$242,540.00
TH-4	600	0	-	-	-
TH-5	15,000	10	2,682	1008.2860	\$1,047,772.60
SD-6	12,000	2	568	172.1225	\$232,137.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,796</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6,169</b>	<b>2,220.2345</b>	<b>\$2,946,082.66</b>

# Water Transition Assistance Program

## FY2008 - FY2012 Applications Approved by Target Area







Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES  
for the  
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS  
September 13, 2012**

**PERSONNEL**

New Hires: Glenn Bechtel, Soil Conservation Technician, Eureka  
Marie S. Faatuala, Soil Conservationist, Wellington, (SCEP Student from Missouri)

Reassignments  
and/or Promotions: Monty R. Breneman, Supervisory District Conservationist, Lincoln, to  
Acting State Resource Conservationist, Salina State Office  
Joshua J. Adelhardt, Soil Conservationist, Wellington, to District  
Conservationist, Greensburg  
Chad G. Volkman, Cartographer, Resource Conservation, Salina State  
Office, to Resource Conservationist, Programs, Salina State Office

Retirements: L. Janice Michaels, Office Assistant, Emporia Area Office

Separations: Mark E. Stacey, Agricultural Engineer, Manhattan Area Office

**OPERATIONS**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been cooperating with NRCS and conservation district (CD) employees, the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation (DOC), and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) in developing a Field Office of the Future (FOF) plan. A series of area meetings were held in August with all NRCS and CD employees invited to further explain the NRCS Field Office of the Future plan. The draft plan was submitted on August 31, 2012, to National Headquarters (NHQ) and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD).

NRCS has also submitted the 90 percent plan designed to develop a strategy of having technical field office staff out in the field 90 percent of the time by 2015. Based on the current data provided by NHQ, Kansas technical staff is now in the field approximately 77 percent of the time.

NRCS continues to coordinate with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) on a memorandum to share vehicles, copiers, postage, and other items. FSA is pushing to have the memorandum in place by October 1, 2012.

The annual Supervisory District Conservationist meeting will be held October 10 and 11, in Salina.

## **PROGRAMS**

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**  
Fiscal year (FY) 2013 CSP application cutoff date is January 18, 2013.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)**
  - Kansas received approximately \$260,000 for two EWPP non-exigent projects in March 2012. The city of Beloit, Chautauqua Park Project, has been designed, permits are in process, and a project agreement has been developed. Construction is expected to begin during September. The city of Manhattan, Wildcat Creek Project, is still in design phase and the city is working on required land rights assurances.
  - Kansas NRCS currently maintains an additional 11 non-exigent EWPP projects affecting six counties as a result of locally declared disasters since summer 2010.
- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**
  - Kansas NRCS was allocated an additional \$735,000 in EQIP to address drought concerns. Kansas NRCS used this on existing applications for grazingland health and water quantity concerns.
  - Kansas NRCS has obligated approximately \$24.7 million in over 1300 EQIP contracts and over \$740,000 in Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program-Working Lands for Wildlife-Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative in 25 contracts protecting over 21,000 acres.
  - FY 2013 application cutoff date for General EQIP is November 16, 2012. We are encouraging producers with drought concerns to work with their local field office on a conservation plan, and program application if it works for their operation.
- **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**
  - Closed on conservation easements in Ellsworth County and Saline County with one landowner on 1,638 acres.
  - Funded 16 new parcels submitted for FY 2012 funding. The 16 parcels include 6,882 acres of farm and ranch lands. Total dollars obligated is \$1.67 million.
- **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)**
  - Six of the seven FY 2011 enrollments have been closed and recorded.
  - Eleven applications covering approximately 4,600 acres are now considered enrolled and funds obligated for easement acquisition.
- **Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities**
  - The Wakarusa Watershed District, Douglas County, began construction in March 2012. The \$1.2 million rehabilitation project for site 24 is progressing well ahead of schedule.
  - The Spring Creek Watershed District in Sedgwick County was awarded \$600,000 to complete rehabilitation of their R-1 Dam. The final design is complete. Permits have been requested and the project agreement is scheduled for review and approval before September 30, 2012.
  - Rehabilitation construction on Switzler Creek Watershed site R-7 in Osage County is complete. NRCS recently worked with the watershed district to process the final reimbursement on for this \$1.01 million project.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**
  - Kansas has closed on 21 easements since October 2011 on 2,000 acres protecting 1,062 acres of wetlands. All 2011 enrollments are now closed.
  - Seven new enrollments on 470 acres have been approved.

## TECHNOLOGY

Four introductory soil health campaign training sessions were conducted in each of the four Kansas NRCS areas in May and August of 2012. Each NRCS management unit selected a soil health contact to receive training. Each two-day training session included local area producers along with a field trip to highlight the four soil health principles of: (1) 100% ground cover all the time, (2) no soil disturbance, (3) living roots all the time, and (4) crop diversity of at least 4 crop types. When these principles are applied, the evidence of healthier soil can be seen.

We are working with counties in western Kansas with regard to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

The Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC) Tour took place September 12, 2012.

- **National Resources Inventory (NRI)**
  - Grazing Lands On-Site Study data collection in the field has been completed. Review and editing of data has begun.
- **Division of Conservation (DOC) Streambank Agreements**
  - Four more projects have been built.
  - One designed project that had been canceled before construction started has been revived as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract has been reinstated. Construction is to start soon.
  - Eleven projects have already been designed and are awaiting permits. Construction of these projects should occur in the next six months.
- **Architect and Engineer (A&E) Contracts**
  - The final design has been completed on the last of the streambank protection projects in the 2011 group.
  - Task orders for the design of five new streambank protection projects have been sent to the two A&E contractors.

## OUTREACH

### **Kansas State Fair**

The State Fair booth has a new partner this year: Farm Service Agency. NRCS, KACD, and DOC were joined last year by the Kansas Forest Service and the Kansas Association of Forestry. The group decided on a booth theme about USDA and Kansas Conservation over the last 150 years to tie to the 150th anniversary of the USDA. The booth is staffed by employees from all agencies and groups. From all accounts from all groups, everything is running smoothly at the fair booth. Educational packets are available and rain guage is drawn for each day. "Soil Guys" also performed four days at the fair.

**Manhattan Plant Materials Center Field Day—September 12, 2012u**

Forty people registered for the field day. The day included a tour of the Plant Materials Center (PMC) and breakout sessions. Attendees were from Topeka; Manhattan; Lincoln, Nebraska; and places across the state. The Field Day was advertised in the *Manhattan Mercury* and *Grass and Grain*. The news release sent out was printed in the *Topeka Capital*, *Manhattan Mercury*, *Grass and Grain*, and other local newspapers.

**News Releases**

A conservation planning news release with the announcement of the EQIP cutoff date of November 16, 2012, was issued in August. Monty Breneman did a radio interview as a follow up to the news release.

The EQIP for Forestry Concerns news release was issued September 11, 2012, with emphasis on forestry and the cutoff date of November 16, 2012.

**Conservation Editions**

Bulletin issued to solicit conservation articles for the conservation districts conservation editions. Articles should be posted on the NRCS Kansas Web site by December 1, 2012. Partners are invited to submit articles also.