

MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. The State Conservation Commission meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner at 9:07 a.m., Thursday, September 16, 2021, at the Cottonwood Court Building, Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, Kansas.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

Elected Commissioners:

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

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality
Agronomy Department, Kansas State University

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Andrew Lyon, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Kristin Kloft, Riparian & Wetland Program Manager

Guests:

Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)
Jason Hartman, State Forester, Kansas Forest Service

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

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

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the April 12, 2021, minutes as emailed. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

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5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for Dam Rehabilitation for FY 2022 – Lyon
 - i. Andrew Lyon reviewed the Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for Dam Rehabilitation for FY2022 (Attachment A).
 - ii. There is tremendous unmet need to repair structures. Twenty-nine percent of applications were funded, leaving 19 project applications not funded. All ten projects listed have permits approved. Projects #9 and #10 are funded below requested amounts but are finishing remaining work or will be continued next year. Andrew Lyon and Hakim Saadi have made the Water Authority aware of the unmet needs.
 - iii. Karen Woodrich informed the commissioners that NRCS can supply some data on economic savings. Herb Graves stressed the importance of cost/benefit data on the dam structures. The commissioners would like to see some modeling or tools to show sediment kept out of reservoirs.

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the Watershed Dam allocations. The motion was seconded by Peter Tomlinson. Motion carried.

- b. Budget updates for the 2023 fiscal year – Lyon
 - i. Andrew Lyon informed the commissioners that FY 2023 Budget Recommendations look good (Attachment B). RAC's have helped, especially with aid to Conservation Districts, with almost 1:1 match with the enhancement.
 - ii. At Herb Grave's request, Andrew Lyon will look into adding rehabilitation to Watershed Dam Construction.
 - iii. Scott Carlson suggested recognizing the Kansas Water Authority members at the KACD Convention to thank them for additional funding.
 - iv. Rod Vorhees asked if DOC would provide a list of district managers participating on RAC's to recognize them at the KACD Convention.
- c. KDOT HOME project – Lyon
 - i. Andrew Lyon informed the commissioners that KDOT is working with broadband service and landowners to open new markets for landowners and possibly carbon credits. DOC will be providing a stipend from NPS funds for landowners to take soil samples. There is a three-year commitment. 13 producers attended the Hoxie meeting, and 25 producers attended the Concordia meeting.
 - ii. John Wunder would like Commissioners to have input on the program. Andrew Lyon welcomes their input. KDOT is the main driver of the program and there is still a lot to learn.

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- iii. Peter Tomlinson asked that K-State Research and Extension be involved due to the type of soil samples that will be needed.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Livestock water supply eligibility on cropland discussion – Jones
 - i. Karen Woodrich stressed the importance of needing parameters in place for grazing plans and cover crops before installing a water tank.
 - ii. Brad Shogren expressed concern about producers installing a well or tank and then regretting the location after installation.
 - iii. Andrew Lyon stressed the importance of technical assistance, maybe even more than cost share.
 - iv. John Wunder would like to see flexibility in cover crops and adjust for years when it gets too late to plant such as planting three out of five years.
 - v. Karen Woodrich and Peter Tomlinson informed the commissioners that they've had a hard time finding paired watersheds with willing landowners and grazing. Peter is willing to do the research if sites can be found and estimates \$100,000 for sampling equipment plus mileage and travel costs.
 - vi. Rod Vorhees asked if SCC could sponsor or present the idea to the Kanas Water Authority or other private companies? Rod suggested postponing this discussion to the next meeting.
- b. KACD Convention update – Lyon
 - i. Andrew Lyon asked for speaker suggestions for the SCC Luncheon. Earl Lewis (KDA), Governor Kelly, Ted Nugent, Johnny Emrons (No-Till on the Plains), Trent Loose (Nebraska radio), Senator Moran, and Senator Marshall were possible suggestions.
 - ii. John Wunder asked for a draft of the convention agenda.

A motion was made by John Wunder to hold a caucus for the Area I, III, and IV elections. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

7. UPDATES:

- a. Comments from Guests
 - i. Jason Hartman (KFS) will provide a written update due to time.
 - ii. Herb Graves (SAKW) informed the commissioners that the SAKW Convention is February 1st and 2nd.
- b. Agency Updates
 - i. Karen Woodrich (USDA, NRCS) will provide a written update due to time.

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- ii. Peter Tomlinson (KSU Research & Extension) informed the commissioners that they have a stable work environment.
- c. DOC Staff Updates
 - i. Kristin Kloft informed the commissioners that construction is close to starting this fall and she plans to attend a stream training in November.
 - ii. Scott Carlson informed the commissioners that ACME Brick won the NASLR Award.
 - iii. Dave Jones informed the commissioners that KRPI funds of \$550,000 have all been allocated, mostly to cover crops.
 - iv. Andrew Lyon informed the commissioners that KDA has returned to remote work and DOC staff are doing very well.
- d. Elected Commissioner Area Updates:
 - i. Ted Nighswonger (Area 1) informed the commissioners that he loves partners and wants to make sure we keep our identity.
 - ii. Andy Larson (Area II) informed the commissioners that it has been very dry. Corn is less than 10% moisture. There was a bottom line conference in Kearney County.
 - iii. Brad Shogren (Area III) informed the commissioners they are pursuing riverbank projects, have contracted with KCARE, and will look at RCPP. He will keep Kristin Kloft in the loop.
 - iv. John Wunder (Area IV) informed the commissioners that they held a social in Jefferson County in August. They will donate \$1,000 to each of the FFA chapters in Jefferson County. There was a nice article in the newspaper.
 - v. Rod Vorhees (Area V) provided a written report (Attachment C).

8. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Tomlinson. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.



Andrew Lyon
Executive Director

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION: REHABILITATION

9/16/2021



FY 2022

| | Watershed District | Site | RAC | WSI | Hazard | Cost-share | | | Total Cost Estimate |
|----|-----------------------|-------|-----|----------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | | Requested | Approved | App Cumul | |
| 1 | Wet Walnut WJD 58 (*) | 153 | GB | DRH-0047 | L2 | \$47,406.52 | \$47,406.52 | \$47,406.52 | \$106,000.00 |
| 2 | Walnut-West WD 72 | DD 3 | EW | DGW 0204 | H3 | \$120,000.00 | \$120,000.00 | \$167,406.52 | \$190,000.00 |
| 3 | Lakin WD 49 | FRD 4 | UA | DKE-0008 | H3 | \$13,354.00 | \$13,354.00 | \$180,760.52 | \$18,694.00 |
| 4 | Lakin WD 49 | FRD 2 | UA | DKE-0011 | H3 | \$26,745.00 | \$26,745.00 | \$207,505.52 | \$36,793.00 |
| 5 | Pawnee WJD 81 | 1-17 | GB | DPN-0030 | L3 | \$120,000.00 | \$120,000.00 | \$327,505.52 | \$212,885.00 |
| 6 | Rock C WJD 84 | 204 | NO | DLY-0071 | L2 | \$98,166.53 | \$98,166.53 | \$425,672.05 | \$143,589.00 |
| 7 | Switzler Creek WD 63 | 5 | MC | DOS-0050 | S3 | \$120,000.00 | \$120,000.00 | \$545,672.05 | \$226,500.00 |
| 8 | Delaware WJD 10 | C-58 | KS | DJA-0181 | L2 | \$72,000.00 | \$72,000.00 | \$617,672.05 | \$110,000.00 |
| 9 | Delaware WJD 10 | A-99 | KS | DJA-0174 | L3 | \$76,000.00 | \$48,000.00 | \$665,672.05 | \$115,000.00 |
| 10 | LDM WJD 5 (**) | 66 | KS | DBR-0034 | L3 | \$65,639.70 | \$22,612.65 | \$688,284.70 | \$103,148.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| (*) Partially Funded in 2021: | \$17,393.48 |
| (**) To be Supplemented in 2023: | \$43,027.05 |

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Totals | \$759,311.75 | \$688,284.70 | \$1,262,609.00 |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

Fund Requested

\$2,367,388.75

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Fund Available | FY 2022 |
| | CO FY 2021 |
| | Total |

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| \$550,000.00 | 23% |
| \$138,284.70 | |
| \$688,284.70 | 29% |

State Water Plan Fund: Kansas Water Authority DRAFT FY 2023 Budget Recommendations - FOR REVIEW

| EXPENDITURES | FY 2021 Adjusted* | FY 2022 Appropriation | FY 2023 KWA Base Budget Recs | KWA Enhanc. Recs | FY 2023 Full Restoration SGF/EDIF |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Department of Health and Environment | | | | | |
| Contamination Remediation | \$ 1,090,340 | \$ 1,088,301 | \$ 1,088,301 | \$ - | \$ 1,088,301 |
| Nonpoint Source Program | \$ 406,157 | \$ 303,208 | \$ 403,208 | \$ - | \$ 403,208 |
| TMDL Initiatives | \$ 340,068 | \$ 280,738 | \$ 380,738 | \$ - | \$ 380,738 |
| Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot | \$ 1,148,761 | \$ 450,000 | \$ 150,000 | \$ - | \$ 150,000 |
| Watershed Restoration/Protection (WRAPS) | \$ 752,128 | \$ 730,884 | \$ 730,884 | \$ 269,116 | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Drinking Water Protection Program | \$ 350,000 | \$ 350,000 | \$ 450,000 | \$ 350,000 | \$ 800,000 |
| SUBTOTAL--KDHE | \$ 4,087,454 | \$ 3,203,131 | \$ 3,203,131 | \$ 619,116 | \$ 3,822,247 |
| Department of Agriculture | | | | | |
| Interstate Water Issues | \$ 685,138 | \$ 473,184 | \$ 499,281 | \$ - | \$ 499,281 |
| Subbasin Water Resources Management | \$ 838,906 | \$ 584,023 | \$ 621,651 | \$ - | \$ 621,651 |
| Water Use | \$ 136,839 | \$ 72,600 | \$ 100,000 | \$ - | \$ 100,000 |
| Water Resources Cost Share | \$ 2,631,243 | \$ 2,248,289 | \$ 2,448,289 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 2,698,289 |
| Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst. | \$ 2,127,289 | \$ 1,853,185 | \$ 1,860,104 | \$ - | \$ 1,860,104 |
| Aid to Conservation Districts* | \$ 2,192,637 | \$ 2,223,373 | \$ 2,223,373 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 2,473,373 |
| Watershed Dam Construction | \$ 550,000 | \$ 550,000 | \$ 550,000 | \$ - | \$ 550,000 |
| Water Quality Buffer Initiative | \$ 529,454 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 200,000 | \$ - | \$ 200,000 |
| Riparian and Wetland Program | \$ 582,295 | \$ 54,024 | \$ 154,024 | \$ - | \$ 154,024 |
| Water Transition Assistance Program/CREP | \$ 454,936 | \$ 446,593 | \$ 446,593 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 546,593 |
| Irrigation Technology | \$ 151,224 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 350,000 |
| Crop and Livestock Research | \$ 350,000 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 250,000 | \$ - | \$ 250,000 |
| Soil Health - NEW | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100,000 | \$ - | \$ 100,000 |
| Streambank Stabilization | \$ 1,320,700 | \$ 794,264 | \$ 500,000 | \$ 250,000 | \$ 750,000 |
| SUBTOTAL--KDA | \$ 13,370,838 | \$ 9,899,535 | \$ 10,203,315 | \$ 950,000 | \$ 11,153,315 |
| Kansas Water Office | | | | | |
| Assessment and Evaluation | \$ 599,177 | \$ 858,919 | \$ 700,000 | \$ 150,000 | \$ 850,000 |
| MOU - Storage Operations & Maintenance | \$ 586,452 | \$ 526,081 | \$ 514,542 | \$ - | \$ 514,542 |
| Stream Gaging | \$ 413,580 | \$ 423,130 | \$ 413,580 | \$ - | \$ 413,580 |
| Technical Assistance to Water Users | \$ 341,391 | \$ 325,000 | \$ 325,000 | \$ - | \$ 325,000 |
| Vision Education Strategy | \$ 100,000 | \$ 125,000 | \$ 125,000 | \$ 125,000 | \$ 250,000 |
| Reservoir and Water Quality Research | \$ 402,304 | \$ 350,000 | \$ 350,000 | \$ - | \$ 350,000 |
| Water Technology Farms | \$ 79,125 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| Watershed Conservation Practice Imp (KRPI) | \$ - | \$ 550,000 | \$ 600,000 | \$ 400,000 | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Equus Beds Chloride Plume Project | \$ 9,141 | \$ - | \$ 50,000 | \$ - | \$ 50,000 |
| Milford Lake Watershed RCPP | \$ 400,000 | \$ 200,000 | \$ 50,000 | \$ - | \$ 50,000 |
| Water Injection Dredging (WID) | \$ 150,000 | \$ 975,000 | \$ 875,000 | \$ - | \$ 875,000 |
| Arbuckle Study | \$ 68,000 | \$ 60,000 | \$ 150,000 | \$ - | \$ 150,000 |
| Flood Response Study | \$ 100,000 | \$ - | \$ 200,000 | \$ - | \$ 200,000 |
| SUBTOTAL--KWO | \$ 3,249,170 | \$ 4,493,130 | \$ 4,453,122 | \$ 775,000 | \$ 5,228,122 |
| Department of Wildlife & Parks | | | | | |
| Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 224,457 | \$ 224,457 |
| University of Kansas--Geological Survey | \$ 26,841 | \$ 26,841 | \$ 26,841 | \$ - | \$ 26,841 |
| Total State Water Plan Expenditures | \$ 20,734,303 | \$ 17,622,637 | \$ 17,886,409 | \$ 2,568,573 | \$ 20,454,982 |

*FY 2023 draft budget recommendation contingent upon follow up information from agency regarding local matching funds.

Know Your Conservation Commissioner

The Dust Bowl made it apparent of the necessity to conserve natural resources. In 1937 Kansas Conservation District Law was established by the Kansas Legislature, creating the State Conservation Committee. In 1951 they hired their first full time employee. In 1951 five geographic areas were defined for committee member elections. In 1972 the name was changed to the State Conservation Commission.

The Commission consists of five elected members, one from each area, and are elected by Conservation District Supervisors at a time and place as designated by the Commission, four members are appointed as guided by Kansas Conservation District Law (KSA 2-1904).

The State Conservation Commission is a conservation program policy board. The Commission together with the Division of Conservation make conservation program policy decisions to be approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. This includes modification of existing programs, creation of new programs and annual budget recommendations.

Why is this important to Conservation District Supervisors? Your Area Commissioner represents you at the State level. A commissioner needs to be knowledgeable about Conservation District Law, Natural Resource concerns and the parameters of conservation programs. A commissioner should be a dedicated leader committed to the advancement, implementation and funding of conservation and related programs Commissioners, like all conservation partners should work well together while representing local, area and statewide concerns and needs. None of us are as smart or wise as all of us working together as a team.

This history of the Conservation Commission is significant. Wise folks after witnessing the worst (manmade) natural disaster during the 1930's understood the necessity for grassroots representation, for technical assistance and for voluntary incentive-based conservation programs.

Area 3 Commissioner Brad Shogren has announced he will not seek nomination. Brad exemplifies what qualities are needed to be a productive commissioner. Brad has a vast experience, in conservation and leadership in the community and state. He is very committed and has dedicated a lot of time to McPherson County, Area 3, and the State of Kansas. Thank You Brad for your incredibly significant contributions. You are a good friend and steward.

If you have questions about the State Conservation Commission or aspirations to serve, reach out to your commissioner or DOC Director to learn more. Nominations occurred at Area meetings earlier this month and may be made at the Area Meetings at the KACD Convention in November, when elections will occur.

Please plan to attend and participate in this year's convention. The theme tells it all "Partnerships, Purpose and Passion, the Pathway to Success."