

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 1:00 p.m., Monday, January 29, 2024, at the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, 816 SW Tyler, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

Elected Commissioners:

Ted Nighswonger, Area I Commissioner
Jed Fleske, Area II Commissioner
John Wunder, Area IV Commissioner
Rod Vorhees, Area V Commissioner

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

David Doctorian, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas
Department of Agriculture
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality
Agronomy Department, Kansas State University

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Steve Frost, Executive Director
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Kristin Kloft, Riparian & Wetland Program Manager
Cathy Thompson, Program Consultant
Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer, Conservation District Program Coordinator
Monica Wichman, Grants Coordinator

Guests:

Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director, KACD

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Amanda Scott, Assistant Executive Director, KACD
Dana Schmelzle, President, KACD-EO
Ryan Armbrust, Rural Forestry Program Coordinator, KFS
Laura Munsch, Marketing Angle
Katherine Stueve, Marketing Angle
Kelly Monasmith, Marketing Angle

3. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION:

A motion was made by Jed Fleske to certify the election to the Conservation Commission for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2024: Area I – Ted Nighswonger, Area III – Sam Sanders, and Area V – Rod Vorhees. The motion was seconded by Terry Medley. Motion carried.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to nominate Rod Vorhees to serve as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Jed Fleske. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to nominate John Wunder to serve as Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Jed Fleske. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to amend the agenda to add a presentation by Marketing Angle on Facebook ads for cost-share funding. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

6. MARKETING ANGLE PRESENTATION:

a. Marketing Angle informed the commissioners they created four Facebook Instant Form ads promoting cost-share funding information.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. Steve Frost provided a written report (Attachment A) and shared the comments from Governor Kelly given at the Kansas Water Authority meeting on January 24 (Attachment B).

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8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the November 19, 2023 and December 22, 2023 minutes as emailed. The motion was seconded by Jed Fleske. Motion carried.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. NACD Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA, February 10-14, 2024 – Frost
 - i. Steve Frost informed the commissioners the NACD Annual Meeting is February 10-14, 2024 in San Diego, CA. Sam Sanders and Jed Fleske are planning to attend.
- b. High Plains Aquifer RCPP Update – Frost
 - i. Steve Frost informed the commissioners progress is being made to finalize plans for the \$26 million matching funds to be provided from multiple sources. Final negotiations should be completed by May. A meeting was held with all five groundwater management districts to discuss the RCPP and the 10 positions that come with the grant. Lee Wheeler has agreed to be a consultant assisting with training the technicians. \$15 million in funding will come through DOC and \$10 million to the Kansas Water Office. The goal is 10% reduction in water use in five years. GMDs have been encouraged to develop core target areas in their districts first and then work out from there to accomplish goals.
- c. FY 2024 Watershed and Water Right Funding Update – Frost
 - i. Steve Frost informed the commissioners KDA received \$10 million with \$7 million for the Rattlesnake Creek area in GMD 5 for temporary leasing of water rights retirement. These retirements would hopefully transition to permanent. Terry Medley informed the commissioners that \$3 million is for High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation funding. Engineers will develop the plans for these. DOC will facilitate allocating the funds to owners and sponsors with cost-share. Proposed revisions to the Stream Obstruction Act and associated regulations were discussed (Attachment C). If dam inspections were brought back to KDA, DWR it would require additional staff and fee funding.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. FY 2025 WR and NPS Programs and Budgets – Jones

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- i. Dave Jones informed the commissioners of the recommendations for FY 2025 WR and NPS programs and budgets (Attachment D). The May 30, 2025 date (#9) was adjusted to May 28, 2025. The WR KLA Livestock Water Initiative will provide \$500,000 for large dairies and feedlots implementing water saving initiatives.

A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the proposed FY 2025 WR allocation as presented. The motion was seconded by Jed Fleske. Motion carried.

A motion was made by John Wunder to approve NPS Scenario #1 with a portion of carry forward funds to be used for OSW pool funding. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

b. Legislative Activity – Meyerhoff

- i. Dan Meyerhoff informed the commissioners that two bills that impact conservation funding could be introduced this legislative session. HB 2541 promotes voluntary conservation and seeks to provide a dedicated source of funding for conservation in Kansas, coming from sporting goods sales, lottery, and sports betting. The other bill seeks to increase funding for State Aid to Conservation District's with a 2:1 match up to \$50,000.

c. Conservation Day at the Capital – Meyerhoff

- i. Dan Meyerhoff informed the commissioners Conservation Day at the Capital is February 6, 2024.

11. REPORTS & UPDATES:

a. Comments from Guests:

- i. Dana Schmelzle (KACD-EO) informed the commissioners that district managers are working on annual meetings, annual work plans and budgets. The Statewide EO Annual Meeting will be held May 8-9, 2024 at the Homewood Suites in Salina.
- ii. Ryan Armbrust (KFS) provided a written update (Attachment E).

b. Agency Reports:

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- i. David Doctorian (USDA, NRCS) informed the commissioners that NRCS will continue with budgeting as they have in the past. There are 194 vacancies they are working to fill. Hiring and training staff is a priority. The cooperative help from partnership agreements is appreciated.
 - ii. Terry Medley (KDA, DWR) provided written updates (Attachments C and F).
 - iii. Peter Tomlinson (KSU Research & Extension) informed the commissioners the Eastern Kansas Research and Extension Center is seeking to fill agronomist positions in Manhattan and Parsons. They are working on climate smart projects with sorghum producers. They've been awarded an RCPP Ethanol Project for \$25 million. NRCS will administer the cost-share.
- c. DOC Staff Updates:
- i. Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer provided a written update (Attachment G).
- d. Elected Commissioner Area Updates:
- i. Ted Nighswonger (Area 1) informed the commissioners Graham County hired a technician and a district manager.
 - ii. Jed Fleske (Area II) welcomed Steve Frost as Director of Conservation. His area has received good moisture and snow.
 - iii. John Wunder (Area IV) welcomed Steve Frost as Director of Conservation and thanked all for the kindness shown during his mother's passing. His area has received good moisture also. He thanked everyone for the work they are doing.
 - iv. Rod Vorhees (Area V) informed the commissioners that Wilson County had their 78th Annual Meeting on Saturday and they have also received moisture.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

The next SCC meeting will be held March 18, 2024.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.



Director's Report

November 20, 2023 – January 29, 2024



1. December 11 – Staff met at Topeka's Sunflower Foundation facilities for an annual strategic planning retreat.
2. December 12 – A first-phase proposal to the EPA / KDHE E-Link funding program was submitted by TNC on behalf of KDA for a \$48M grant. Outcomes of this project would include 1) NRCS adoption of successful grass establishment protocols for sandy-soils, 2) establishment of native grass stands on previously tilled land, 3) enhanced long-term management of grasses after rental contracts, 4) increased staff capacity to implement greenhouse gas measures in direct agriculture production, and 5) improved habitat for T&E species.
3. December 21 – Steve and Dave met with NRCS State Conservationist David Doctorian and his staff about several items of current topics and special focus – especially TA challenges associated with increased IRA funding.
4. January 3 – Kristin visited an Ark River site in Pawnee County to assist a landowner with concerns about streambank erosion and directions for accessing state and federal information / permitting procedures.
5. January 5 – Steve's new status as Executive Director became 'officially' official.
6. January 11 – Kristin surveyed another potential small-stream streambank protection site (and is preparing seven new large sites for upcoming summer bids, five are on the Cottonwood River).
7. January 16 & 17 – Steve attended the Interagency presentations from KDA, KWO & KDHE in House Ag & NR and Senate W&M on the implementation status of HB2302 which provided \$35M to the State Water Plan Fund.
8. January 17 - DOC staff participated in an interagency meeting with GO, KWO, KDHE and DWR to discuss a "one-stop shopping" application / information concept for water, conservation and environmental resources.
9. January 17 & 23 – DOC staff participated in Soil Health U and No-Till on the Plains conferences with conservation I&E. We provided attendance scholarships to 67 conservation district staff and first-time attendee landowners.
10. January 22 – Steve attended House Ag & NR for the HB2541 "Kansans for Conservation" hearing – SRO !
11. January 24 – Steve participated in the Kansas Water Authority meeting in Topeka. Governor Kelley addressed the authority members and challenged us to provide an urgent new direction to the State Water Plan (attached).
12. Other things we're working on –
 - a. conservation district annual workplan templates.
 - b. updates to the Kansas Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Program.
 - c. CD supervisor area networking events.
 - d. Red Cedar initiative.
 - e. expanding archeologists and conservation technician TA agreements with NRCS.
 - f. enhancements to the CREP project including proposed dryland and limited irrigated practices.
 - g. High Hazard Potential Dam funding initiative – launching February 1.

* The next SCC meetings are March 18, May 14, August 14, September 13 and November 11, 2024.

KANSAS STATE WATER PLAN FUNDS – KDA DIVISION OF CONSERVATION FY2025 BUDGET

CONSERVATION

FUND #	FUND NAME	ACCOUNT CODE	FY23 Actuals	FY24 Budget	FY24 Adj. Budget	FY25 Budget
1000-0053	State General Fund	Appropriation	501,964	506,512	620,861	624,344
1800-0088	State Water Plan - Irrigation Technology	Appropriation	408,976	350,000	550,000	2,550,000
1800-1205	State Water Plan - Water Resources Cost Share	Appropriation	4,023,581	2,768,956	2,834,714	5,000,000
1800-1210	State Water Plan - Non-Point Source	Appropriation	2,291,809	1,863,636	1,866,598	1,866,598
1800-1220	State Water Plan - Conservation District Aid	Appropriation	2,473,373	2,502,706	2,502,706	3,502,706
1800-1225	State Water Plan - Water Transition / CREP	Appropriation	979,867	550,727	1,189,574	1,554,142
1800-1240	State Water Plan - Dam Construction Rehab	Appropriation	550,000	550,000	650,000	3,000,000
1800-1250	State Water Plan - Water Quality Buffer	Appropriation	635,432	-	-	-
1800-1260	State Water Plan - Riparian & Wetland	Appropriation	666,194	154,024	154,024	154,024
1800-1300	State Water Plan - KS Reservoir Protection Initiative	Appropriation	-	-	1,467,795	1,500,000
1800-1290	State Water Plan - Streambank Stabilization	Appropriation	1,084,589	750,000	750,000	1,500,000
1800-0090	State Water Plan - Soil Health Initiative	Appropriation	100,000	200,000	400,000	400,000
TOTAL			\$13,715,785	\$10,196,561	\$12,986,272	\$21,651,814

Kansas Water Authority Meeting — 1.24.24
Governor Laura Kelly Remarks as Prepared

Good morning. Thank you, Dawn, for that introduction. And to everyone at the Kansas Water Authority, thank you for inviting me to be here today, and for all the work you do to preserve and protect water in Kansas.

In my State of the State Address a couple of weeks ago, I reiterated my commitment to addressing our ongoing water crisis.

My budget proposal for this year fully funds the State Water Plan for the third year in a row.

On top of that, we're putting the additional \$35 million from last year's HB 2302 legislation towards things like improving our water quality, helping farmers and ranchers implement water-conserving irrigation technology, and strengthening our dams and reservoirs so our water supply is less vulnerable to extreme events like droughts and flash floods.

We are also allocating \$5 million to the new Kansas Water Institute at K-State, and \$10 million to help rural towns update their water systems. That's in addition to the \$13 million we've already invested in shovel-ready infrastructure projects in these areas.

All told, over the last three years, we have made nearly \$250 million of much-needed investments in water. And we're not finished.

We have a tremendous opportunity ahead of us to be a role model for the rest of the country: ensuring a safe and resilient water supply for generations to come.

We have some of the best water data in the county. We have started to make the needed investments.

And we have unprecedented momentum—thanks in large part to years of persistent, tireless advocacy from the Water Authority and its courage in changing the conversation from depleting the Ogallala Aquifer to preserving it.

That alone represents a huge step forward in forging a new path for collective water conservation.

But while we have made incredible progress in recent years, we all know there is much more to be done.

Protecting and preserving our state's water supply is essential to continued economic growth and the success of our communities. As with any investment, we need to make sure our approach is strategic and proactive, in order to prevent situations like what happened last year in Caney.

For those who don't know, Caney is a town in southeast Kansas with a population of fewer than 2,000 people. Last year, the town nearly ran out of water.

In the middle of summer during the hottest year on record, they had to close the town pool. Restaurants couldn't give tap water to customers. Schools were forced to bring in portable bathrooms for students, and the district eventually closed schools on Fridays to conserve water.

Obviously, the extreme drought conditions in recent years have exacerbated our water problems. But in Caney, another causal factor was ancient, leaking pipes.

Caney is an example of why planning and investments in resilient water systems are critical to prevent vulnerable communities from reaching a crisis point. Unfortunately, it is also the canary in the coalmine when it comes to water challenges in Kansas.

The threats are real and growing, and it is clear that we are entering a new stage of water management. Many communities have already been forced to build expensive water treatment systems to address growing water quality concerns. Parts of western Kansas have seen wells dry up, and estimates show that others have less than 25 years to go. It's possible that the next generation of western Kansans could be left with no usable water.

Addressing these challenges before it's too late will require us to rethink how we invest and manage water.

I believe the state is ready to have that conversation. We have put the state on a strong fiscal path, and we are well-positioned to think about strategic investments in the future.

Here's what I mean by strategic investments. In the mid-late 1980's, Kansas, under the leadership of Governor Hayden, implemented the first multi-year Comprehensive Highway Program. It was followed, in 1999, by the Comprehensive Transportation Program that expanded the scope of investments to include transit rail and aviation.

Kansas is now operating under its fourth comprehensive 10-year program, known as IKE. These programs have been funded by a combination of dedicated state funding (Motor Fuels Tax and a portion of the sales tax), federal, and local funding. These programs have allowed Kansas to have a transportation infrastructure system that is the envy of other states.

We need to apply that same long-range, inclusive, nimble, and well-financed approach to our water issues.

Today, I am asking for the Water Authority to work with key stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels, public and private, to develop a strategic plan, including funding, and to determine the state's role in the next decades of water funding and management in Kansas. I know you have already begun moving in this direction, and I am here to say I am in lockstep with you on this vision.

Before the 2025 legislative session, I would like initial recommendations that will lay the foundation for a large-scale, long-term investment framework around the five guiding principles of the State Water Plan.

The recommendations should include policy changes, ways to improve state capacity and water management, measurable goals and timelines, and include input from various state and local stakeholders.

I have the utmost trust and confidence in your leadership on this issue. Many of the policies I've discussed today are reflective of well-thought-out recommendations you've previously provided.

And the progress we made last year in the legislature and through the Ogallala committee was due largely to folks in this room bringing together a wide array of stakeholders through the KWA Water Policy Conversation. After the failed mega-water bill in 2022, you persevered to find common ground and chart a path forward.

Water is an issue that affects all Kansans, and we need everyone pulling in the same direction to meet this critical moment and set ourselves up for a strong, sustainable future.

I give you my word that I will do everything in my power to leave office with a viable path forward for Kansas on this issue. I look forward to working together over the next three years to get this done.

With that, I'll turn things back over to Dawn.



PROPOSED REVISIONS

Stream Obstruction Act and Associated Regulations

January 2024

Dam Inspections

Return to agency-based dam safety inspections, rather than requiring dam owners to hire licensed professional engineers to complete inspections.

- Maintain a 3-year rotation for high hazard potential dams (HHPD).
- Maintain a 5-year rotation for significant hazard potential dams (SHPD).
- Inspect low hazard potential dams (LHPD) on a 10-year rotation.

Low Hazard Potential Dam Exemptions

Remove the exemption for prior approval for construction for low hazard potential dams less than 125 acre-feet.

- Most of the nation's dam failures occur on dams that are in this size range.
- LHPDs have been exempted from prior approval for construction, but still considered dam regulated by the state.

Compliance and Enforcement

Add a civil penalty provision to the statute to allow for an additional enforcement tool for non-compliance, combined with a risk-informed decision-making process that will prioritize enforcement actions to the dams with the highest risk to property or life, most in need of repair, and those with lack of responsiveness of dam owner.

Staffing

Add 6 Full Time Employees for a total of 12.5 to address in-house inspection of dams.

- Positions must be at sufficient salaries to attract qualified candidates.
- Kansas currently ranks 49th of the 50 state dam safety programs in dams per FTE.
- This increase would still only place Kansas in the bottom half of the nation for dams per FTE.

Application Fees

Increase fees to move Kansas close to fees of other states and costs of application processing.

- High Hazard Potential Dam — \$5,000 New / \$3,000 Modification.
- Significant Hazard Potential Dam — \$3,000 New / \$2,000 Modification.
- Low Hazard Potential Dam — \$1,500 New / \$1,000 Modification.

Registration Fees

Establish an annual registration fee for high and significant hazard dams, rather than dam owners' requirement to pay for inspections themselves every five years.

- High Hazard Potential Dam — \$1,500 / year.
- Significant Hazard Potential Dam — \$1,000 / year.
- Capped at \$10,000 / year / owner.
- Total cost to owner will be consistent, or lower, than cost of current private dam inspection process.

Watershed District Act

Change statute to allow for regulations to clarify the requirements of the Watershed District Act, to provide for longevity for the districts and ensure public safety.

Other Recommendations

Establish a road fill dry detention exemption which would exempt state, county, or municipal dry detention road fill dams from the state's dam requirements. Permit as stream obstructions instead.

DOC Staff Policy Recommendations

FY 2025 WR and NPS Cost-Share Programs

1. DOC Initiative Sign-Up Dates.
 - a. Soil Health Education – July 1, 2024
 - b. OSW Initiative (if NPS scenario #2 is approved) – July 1, 2024
 - c. Kansas Grasslands Initiative (if NPS scenario #2 is approved) – August 15, 2024
 - d. Irrigation Technology – August 15, 2024
 - e. Conservation Reserve Fund (based on determination of SCC/DOC) – October 1, 2024
2. FY 2024 WR and NPS carry-forward funds (funds from uncompleted FY 2024 contracts) will be held in a Conservation Reserve Fund and could be utilized in the following ways based on the determination of the SCC in consultation with the DOC at the September 2024 SCC meeting.
 - a. Disaster Initiative (Wildfire, Drought, etc.) if needed.
 - b. Resource based cost-share initiative (Grazing Lands, Soil Health, etc.)
 - c. Conservation Funding Pool (similar to FY 2024)
3. October 18, 2024, Cancellation of Uncommitted Funds (WR and NPS)
 - a. All uncommitted funds in WR (DNA) and NPS (NPS_NPS) will be cancelled.
 - b. Cancelled funds will be available to all conservation districts in the conservation funding pool.
 - c. All WR and NPS project types will continue to be eligible for pool funding (OSW would not be eligible for pool funding if NPS scenario 2 is approved for FY 2025).
 - d. Uncommitted funds from a paid or cancelled contract may be utilized to fully fund an existing approved contract with DOC approval. The DOC will approve these requests on a case-by-case basis.
4. November 1, 2024, WR and NPS underfunded contract application tools open.
 - a. Districts may submit applications to fully fund one underfunded contract per program (WR only if NPS scenario 2 is approved for FY 2025).
5. January 1, 2025, uncommitted funds will be cancelled routinely and added to the conservation funding pool.
 - a. Districts will be given a one week notice prior to a cancellation of uncommitted funds.
6. No new FY 2025 WR or NPS contracts can be written after Friday, March 14, 2025. Exception being a DOC initiative (if needed).
7. No FY 2025 WR and NPS contracts will be encumbered.
8. No FY 2025 WR and NPS contract dollars will be rolled forward into FY 2026.
9. All FY 2025 WR and NPS contracts must be either submitted for cancellation or submitted for final payment by close of business Friday, May 30, 2025.

Water Resources Cost-Share Program		FY 2025 Allocation Worksheet					
FY 2024 Appropriation:	\$2,834,714						
FY 2024 Admin expenses:	<u>-\$170,083</u>						
FY 2024 Total Cost-Share CD Allocation:	\$2,664,631						
FY 2025 Appropriation:	\$5,000,000						
FY 2025 Admin expenses:	<u>-\$300,000</u>						
FY 2025 Total Cost-Share CD Allocation:	\$4,700,000						
FY 2025 Cost-Share Allocation:							
<u>FY 2024 Cost-Share Allocations</u>		<u>FY 2025 Allocations</u>		<u>Adjustment from FY 2024</u>			
DNA	\$2,664,631	DNA	\$4,200,000	DNA		\$1,535,369	
KLA Livestock Water Initiative	<u>\$0</u>	KLA Livestock Water Initiative	<u>\$500,000</u>	KLA Livestock Water Initiative		<u>\$500,000</u>	
	\$2,664,631		\$4,700,000	Total		\$2,035,369	

FY 2025 WR DNA Allocations

County	FY 2025 WR DNA Allocation	County	FY 2025 WR DNA Allocation
Allen	\$33,455.91	Linn	\$33,455.91
Anderson	\$33,455.91	Logan	\$42,911.82
Atchison	\$36,607.88	Lyon	\$38,183.86
Barber	\$46,063.79	Marion	\$39,759.85
Barton	\$41,335.83	Marshall	\$41,335.83
Bourbon	\$33,455.91	McPherson	\$41,335.83
Brown	\$38,183.86	Meade	\$44,487.80
Butler	\$41,335.83	Miami	\$36,607.88
Chase	\$36,607.88	Mitchell	\$39,759.85
Chautauqua	\$35,031.89	Montgomery	\$33,455.91
Cherokee	\$31,879.92	Morris	\$38,183.86
Cheyenne	\$44,487.80	Morton	\$39,759.85
Clark	\$46,063.79	Nemaha	\$41,335.83
Clay	\$41,335.83	Neosho	\$33,455.91
Cloud	\$39,759.85	Ness	\$46,063.79
Coffey	\$36,607.88	Norton	\$42,911.82
Comanche	\$44,487.80	Osage	\$36,607.88
Cowley	\$41,335.83	Osborne	\$44,487.80
Crawford	\$33,455.91	Ottawa	\$41,335.83
Decatur	\$42,911.82	Pawnee	\$42,911.82
Dickinson	\$41,335.83	Phillips	\$44,487.80
Doniphan	\$38,183.86	Pottawatomie	\$41,335.83
Douglas	\$36,607.88	Pratt	\$38,183.86
Edwards	\$38,183.86	Rawlins	\$44,487.80
Elk	\$35,031.89	Reno	\$41,335.83
Ellis	\$44,487.80	Republic	\$38,183.86
Ellsworth	\$41,335.83	Rice	\$38,183.86
Finney	\$47,639.77	Riley	\$36,607.88
Ford	\$44,487.80	Rooks	\$42,911.82
Franklin	\$36,607.88	Rush	\$42,911.82
Geary	\$35,031.89	Russell	\$41,335.83
Gove	\$44,487.80	Saline	\$41,335.83
Graham	\$42,911.82	Scott	\$41,335.83
Grant	\$39,759.85	Sedgwick	\$41,335.83
Gray	\$41,335.83	Seward	\$39,759.85
Greeley	\$41,335.83	Shawnee	\$35,031.89
Greenwood	\$38,183.86	Sheridan	\$42,911.82
Hamilton	\$42,911.82	Sherman	\$44,487.80
Harper	\$42,911.82	Smith	\$42,911.82
Harvey	\$35,031.89	Stafford	\$38,183.86
Haskell	\$42,911.82	Stanton	\$41,335.83
Hodgeman	\$41,335.83	Stevens	\$41,335.83
Jackson	\$38,183.86	Sumner	\$44,487.80
Jefferson	\$36,607.88	Thomas	\$44,487.80
Jewell	\$42,911.82	Trego	\$42,911.82
Johnson	\$35,031.89	Wabausee	\$38,183.86
Kearny	\$41,335.83	Wallace	\$42,911.82
Kingman	\$42,911.82	Washington	\$41,335.83
Kiowa	\$39,759.85	Wichita	\$42,911.82
Labette	\$33,455.91	Wilson	\$35,031.89
Lane	\$41,335.83	Woodson	\$33,455.91
Leavenworth	\$36,607.88	Wyandotte	\$36,607.88
Lincoln	\$41,335.83	Total	\$4,200,000.00

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Cost-Share Program (NPS) FY 2025 Allocation Worksheet Scenario #1

FY 2025 NPS Budget: \$1,866,598

- Obligations**
1. Funding for all 105 counties in FY 2025
 2. Fund 39 Conservation Technician positions in counties identified by the workload analysis with a Contribution Agreement with NRCS, NPS portion, \$520,000.
 3. Fund 7 Conservation Technicians in 7 management units identified by NRCS with a contribution agreement NACD. NPS portion, \$95,000.
 4. Fund 3 Conservation Easement Specialists and 1 Soil Health Specialist, locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS. NPS portion, \$20,000 (agreement expires September 30, 2024).
 5. Fund 4 Soil Conservationist positions in locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS. NPS portion, \$80,000 (agreement expires September 30, 2025).
 6. Fund 4 Archeologist positions in locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS. (no NPS match)
 7. Year five of five matching funds for KSU Sustainable Phosphorus Grant. (\$30,000)
 8. KACD partnership for conservation district professional development. (\$30,000)

FY 2025 Allocation:

<u>FY 2024 Allocations</u>		<u>FY 2025 Allocations</u>		<u>Adjustment from FY 2024</u>	
NPS Base	\$ 1,018,636	NPS Base	\$ 856,598		\$ (162,038)
T/A	\$ 550,000	T/A	\$ 715,000		\$ 165,000
KACD Partnership	\$ 30,000	KACD Partnership	\$ 30,000		\$ -
NPS Operations	\$ 105,000	NPS Operations	\$ 105,000		\$ -
CSIMS	\$ 130,000	CSIMS	\$ 130,000		\$ -
KSU Grant Match	\$ 30,000	KSU Grant Match	\$ 30,000		\$ -
Total	\$ 1,863,636	Total	\$ 1,866,598	Total	\$ 2,962

FY 2025 NPS Base Allocations Scenario #1

County	FY 2025 NPS Base Allocation	County	FY 2025 NPS Base Allocation
Allen	\$7,948.70	Linn	\$8,559.44
Anderson	\$7,948.70	Logan	\$6,116.48
Atchison	\$9,780.92	Lyon	\$11,002.40
Barber	\$8,152.28	Marion	\$9,780.92
Barton	\$8,152.28	Marshall	\$8,966.60
Bourbon	\$7,948.70	McPherson	\$8,152.28
Brown	\$9,170.18	Meade	\$6,116.48
Butler	\$9,780.92	Miami	\$8,559.44
Chase	\$11,002.40	Mitchell	\$7,745.12
Chautauqua	\$8,559.44	Montgomery	\$9,780.92
Cherokee	\$9,780.92	Morris	\$9,780.92
Cheyenne	\$5,505.74	Morton	\$5,912.90
Clark	\$7,745.12	Nemaha	\$10,391.66
Clay	\$8,559.44	Neosho	\$8,559.44
Cloud	\$8,966.60	Ness	\$6,930.80
Coffey	\$9,780.92	Norton	\$8,152.28
Comanche	\$8,152.28	Osage	\$10,391.66
Cowley	\$9,780.92	Osborne	\$8,559.44
Crawford	\$8,559.44	Ottawa	\$8,152.28
Decatur	\$6,320.06	Pawnee	\$8,152.28
Dickinson	\$9,780.92	Phillips	\$8,152.28
Doniphan	\$8,559.44	Pottawatomie	\$10,391.66
Douglas	\$9,170.18	Pratt	\$8,559.44
Edwards	\$7,337.96	Rawlins	\$5,505.74
Elk	\$10,391.66	Reno	\$9,780.92
Ellis	\$8,152.28	Republic	\$8,559.44
Ellsworth	\$8,559.44	Rice	\$7,745.12
Finney	\$6,116.48	Riley	\$10,391.66
Ford	\$7,337.96	Rooks	\$7,337.96
Franklin	\$9,780.92	Rush	\$7,337.96
Geary	\$9,170.18	Russell	\$8,152.28
Gove	\$6,116.48	Saline	\$8,559.44
Graham	\$7,745.12	Scott	\$5,912.90
Grant	\$5,912.90	Sedgwick	\$8,966.60
Gray	\$6,116.48	Seward	\$6,320.06
Greeley	\$5,709.32	Shawnee	\$10,391.66
Greenwood	\$10,391.66	Sheridan	\$6,320.06
Hamilton	\$5,709.32	Sherman	\$5,912.90
Harper	\$8,559.44	Smith	\$8,559.44
Harvey	\$8,559.44	Stafford	\$8,559.44
Haskell	\$5,709.32	Stanton	\$5,505.74
Hodgeman	\$6,930.80	Stevens	\$5,912.90
Jackson	\$10,391.66	Sumner	\$8,152.28
Jefferson	\$10,391.66	Thomas	\$6,320.06
Jewell	\$8,966.60	Trego	\$8,152.28
Johnson	\$8,559.44	Wabausee	\$10,391.66
Kearny	\$5,912.90	Wallace	\$6,116.48
Kingman	\$8,966.60	Washington	\$8,559.44
Kiowa	\$8,152.28	Wichita	\$5,912.90
Labette	\$8,559.44	Wilson	\$8,559.44
Lane	\$5,709.32	Woodson	\$7,948.70
Leavenworth	\$9,780.92	Wyandotte	\$7,335.82
Lincoln	\$7,745.12	Total	\$856,598.00

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Cost-Share Program (NPS) FY 2025 Allocation Worksheet Scenario #2

FY 2025 NPS Budget: \$1,866,598

Obligations

1. Funding for all 105 counties in FY 2025
2. Fund 39 Conservation Technician positions in counties identified by the workload analysis with a Contribution Agreement with NRCS, NPS portion, \$520,000.
3. Fund 7 Conservation Technicians in 7 management units identified by NRCS with a contribution agreement NACD. NPS portion, \$95,000.
4. Fund 3 Conservation Easement Specialists and 1 Soil Health Specialist, locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS. NPS portion, \$20,000 (agreement expires September 30, 2024).
5. Fund 4 Soil Conservationist positions in locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS. NPS portion, \$80,000 (agreement expires September 30, 2025).
6. Fund 4 Archeologist positions in locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS. (no NPS match)
7. Year five of five matching funds for KSU Sustainable Phosphorus Grant. (\$30,000)
8. KACD partnership for conservation district professional development. (\$30,000)

FY 2025 Allocation:

FY 2024 Allocations		FY 2025 Allocations		Adjustment from FY 2024	
Kansas Grasslands Initiative		Kansas Grasslands Initiative	\$ 506,598		\$ 506,598
OSW Initiative		OSW Initiative	\$ 350,000	(140 systems)	\$ 350,000
NPS Base	\$ 1,018,636	NPS Base	\$ -		\$ (1,018,636)
T/A	\$ 550,000	T/A	\$ 715,000		\$ 165,000
KACD Partnership	\$ 30,000	KACD Partnership	\$ 30,000		\$ -
NPS Operations	\$ 105,000	NPS Operations	\$ 105,000		\$ -
CSIMS	\$ 130,000	CSIMS	\$ 130,000		\$ -
KSU Grant Match	\$ 30,000	KSU Grant Match	\$ 30,000		\$ -
Total	\$ 1,863,636	Total	\$ 1,866,598	Total	\$ 2,962

WR and NPS FY 2024 Additional Information

- OSW Contracts Per Year (Average FY 2021 – FY 2023): 140
- FY 2024 WR and NPS Contracts by Project Type:

<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Contracts</u>
Pasture Rangeland Management	866
Erosion Sediment Control	804
Soil Health	148
On-Site Waste	107
Abandoned Well Plugging	63
Irrigation Water Management	20
Nutrient Management	15
Riparian Area Protection	7
Total Contracts:	2030

- Allocation difference from FY 2024 to FY 2025 WR and NPS
 - FY 2025 WR average county allocation increased by \$14,622.56.
 - FY 2025 NPS average county allocation decreased by \$1,543.21 (If NPS scenario #1 is approved).

NPS Rules and Regulation language regarding NPS Scenario #2

K.A.R. 11-7-5. Allocation of non-point source pollution control funding. (a) When funds are available, any district with an approved local non-point source management plan shall annually request from the commission NPS funding for new and existing project work plans to implement specific elements of the plan and to request contract funds by April 1, using forms prescribed by the commission.

(b) Annual district allocations shall be made by the commission in accordance with the following criteria:

- (1) The amount of geographic inclusion in a state water plan priority area;
- (2) the identified areas or drainage addressing the protection of public water supply areas;
- (3) other locally identified priority areas;
- (4) the total maximum daily load project areas; and

(5) any other criteria determined by the commission to meet the resource goals and objectives of the state.

(Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1998 Supp. 2-1915; effective May 21, 1990; amended Dec. 27, 1999.)

K.A.R. 11-7-16. Special projects. (a) Funds may be withheld by the commission from the annual appropriation, and funds released by the districts may be reserved by the commission for the purpose of contributing to special projects that the commission considers necessary and important for the abatement of non-point source pollution.

(b) (1) Authority shall rest with the commission to fund special projects for the purpose of testing, development, implementation, and demonstration of new cost-share practices appropriate for water quality protection and restoration.

(2) Special projects may be funded by the commission from annual appropriations if the projects are determined to be necessary to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the cost-share program.

(3) Special projects shall be conducted for a specified period of time and in a limited area as determined by the commission. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2-1904, 2-1915 and 82a- 951; effective Aug. 23, 2002.)

FY 2025 Kansas Water Authority Proposed Budget

Agency/Program	FY2023 Actuals	FY2024 Appropriation w/carry forward, WID Supplemental and pay plan adj	FY2025 KWA Recommendations
Department of Agriculture			
Interstate Water Issues	\$ 395,833	\$ 923,976	\$ 527,927
Subbasin Water Resources Management	\$ 632,982	\$ 1,210,304	\$ 673,847
Water Use Database Modernization	\$ 35,871	\$ 280,273	\$ 250,000
Water Resources Cost Share	\$ 2,122,059	\$ 4,736,236	\$ 5,000,000
Nonpoint Source Pollution Asst.	\$ 1,486,389	\$ 2,672,018	\$ 1,866,598
Aid to Conservation Districts	\$ 2,473,373	\$ 2,502,706	\$ 3,502,706
Dam Construction Rehabilitation	\$ 550,000	\$ 650,000	\$ 3,000,000
Water Quality Buffer Initiative	\$ -	\$ 635,432	\$ -
Riparian and Wetland Program	\$ 86,910	\$ 733,308	\$ 154,024
Water Transition Assistance Program/CREP	\$ 189,377	\$ 1,344,631	\$ 1,554,142
Irrigation Technology	\$ 274,998	\$ 683,978	\$ 2,550,000
Crop and Livestock Research	\$ 150,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 450,000
Soil Health	\$ -	\$ 420,944	\$ 400,000
Streambank Stabilization	\$ 756,436	\$ 1,078,153	\$ 1,500,000
SUBTOTAL- KDA	\$ 9,154,227	\$ 18,321,958	\$ 21,429,244

Kansas Forest Service Report for SCC (January 29, 2024)

Ryan Armbrust, Rural Forestry Program Coordinator



KFS Annual Report available via QR code above

- Select accomplishments for KFS Rural Forestry in 2023:
 - Through a Contribution Agreement with NRCS, KFS designed 303 forestry conservation practice plans covering 2,744 acres. These include plans for windbreak establishment and renovation (94), forest stand improvement (111), riparian forest buffers (53), and tree and shrub establishment (45). KFS also provided 64 inventory/evaluation site visits and 112 implementation visits for landowners to assist with compliance to NRCS standards and specifications for applications and plans.
 - Also, KFS designed 134 practice plans that led to the implementation of tree planting, windbreak establishment and renovation and forest stand improvement on 7,270 acres.
 - KFS foresters produced 66 new comprehensive Forest Stewardship Management Plans providing professional forestry recommendations on 10,650 acres. These are part of the 742 active Forest Stewardship Management plans covering 199,911 acres across Kansas, with 709 of those plans occurring within priority forest resource areas covering 57,787 acres.
 - KFS work contributed to 44,092 tons (3,150 dump truck loads) of sediment and contaminants annually kept from entering Tuttle Creek reservoir by 8 streambank stabilization projects.
 - Through a direct-seeding program, more than 362,000 native tree seeds were planted in riparian forest areas.
 - KFS foresters provided direct technical assistance to 411 unique landowners.
 - KFS also provided forestry education to 546 adults and 1672 youth at 31 workshop or field day events throughout 2023.

- Grant updates
 - Awaiting ranking/funding for US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration grant “Enhancing Streambank Practice Success at Multiple Scales in Priority Watersheds” written in cooperation with KDA-DOC staff
 - Preparing to submit proposal to US Economic Development Administration “Building Rural Resilience through Workforce Development and Wildfire Risk Management” in cooperation with K-State Dept. of Agriculture, Flint Hills Regional Council, and others.
 - Construction of a facility will include a modernized fire equipment shop, an emergency response training and agricultural technology and mechanics teaching lab and a multipurpose class-lab for teaching, workforce training and development.
 - Development of a workforce development program implemented by KFS to train local workers to serve in critical positions to provide practice implementation. Participants will obtain the skills and on-the-job training necessary to attain entry-level positions or to start their own businesses.
 - Submitted project information to KDHE’s “Emissions Reduction and Mitigation Plan” (E-RAMP) focused on carbon sink practices tied to riparian forestry, urban forestry, and wildland fire mitigation.
 - Preparing to create proposal with partners to submit to EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grants “CPRG Implementation Grants” due April 1.
 - Preparing to implement funded “Forestry Gaps Initiative: Identifying Opportunities to Better Serve All Kansans” grant focused on increasing technical assistance to underserved / disadvantaged rural groups.
- Staffing updates since last report
 - Bill Waln, Fire Management Officer (Hutchinson)
 - following Mark Neely, now with DoD
 - Blaine Stroble, NE Community District Forester (Manhattan)
 - following Kim Bomberger, retired
 - Jamie Madden, Community Forestry Volunteer Coordinator (Manhattan)
 - new position
 - Forestry Technician Team (Manhattan)
 - 4 technicians, implementation of projects across program areas
 - Vacancies:
 - NW District Fire Management Officer (Stockton)
 - SE District Fire Management Officer (Parsons)

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-564-6700
www. agriculture.ks.gov



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-3556

Mike Beam, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

January 29, 2024

City of Anytown
Department of Public Works
123 Main Street
Anytown, Kansas 66030

RE: Special High-Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Rehabilitation Funding Opportunity

Dear HHPD Owner,

The Kansas Legislature has provided a special funding opportunity to address rehabilitation of high-hazard potential dams in 2024. The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation will be administering \$3M that is now available for cost-share assistance to owners or sponsors of eligible high hazard potential structures, as follows:

- 1) the maximum allowable financial assistance will be capped at \$500,000 per structure;
- 2) financial assistance awarded will be provided at a maximum of 80% of the total rehabilitation cost which may include both construction & engineering fees;
- 3) financial assistance for engineering fees will be capped at 20% of the total rehabilitation cost.

The application period begins February 1. Due to the special nature of the legislative authorization, the timeline for receiving applications with designs and permits in place for subsequent evaluation, ranking and approval is very compressed. We expect to provide funding agreements to selected projects by May 31 and encourage you to consider submitting application materials by April 15.

Questions regarding permits and design requirements can be directed to Ambrose.Ketter@ks.gov at (785) 207-2117. Financial assistance questions can be directed to kda.doc@ks.gov or (785) 307-9161. Cost-share application forms and related information can be accessed at

<https://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation/financial-assistance> .

We look forward to working with you, and as always, please write or call if we can be of any assistance !

Sincerely,

Terry Medley, P.E
Water Structures Program Manager
Division of Water Resources

Steven K. Frost
Executive Director
Division of Conservation

**Conservation District Program Coordinator Update
Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer • January 29, 2024**

New District Manager

Name	County	Start Date
Teri McNeal	Graham	12/11/2023
Mindy Goble	Crawford	1/21/2024

Current Vacancy:

Montgomery County

New Managers	2023	2022
1st quarter	4	8
2nd quarter	2	9
3rd quarter	6	5
4th quarter	8	5
Total	20	27

2023 - Of the 20 new managers, 17 are still with the conservation district.

2022 - Of the 27 new managers, 18 are still with the conservation district.

District Manager Statistics:		
Wages		
Range	\$12.25 - \$30	
Mean	\$19	
Median	\$18.75	
Mode	\$15	8 counties
	\$16	8 counties
KPERS	85	
Other retirement full amount	4	
Other retirement partial amount	2	
No retirement benefit		14
General Health insurance full	14	
General Health insurance partial	14	
No health insurance benefit		77
Life Insurance full	4	
Life Insurance partial	0	
No life insurance benefit		101
Average length of service:	9 years	

Two managers over 40 years; Six managers 30 - 40 years experience

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5
Average wage	\$17.73	\$18.23	\$19.00	\$21.26	\$18.61
Average years of experience	14	7	4	11	10