

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 2:03 p.m., Sunday, November 22, 2020, at the Webster Conference Center, 2601 N Ohio Street, Salina, Kansas, 67401.

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:

Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality
Agronomy Department, Kansas State University
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Andrew Lyon, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Cindy Pulse, Conservation District Program Coordinator
Cathy Thompson, Program Consultant
Christy Koelzer, Administrative Specialist

Guests:

Mike Beam, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture
Kelsey Olson, Deputy Secretary Kansas Department of Agriculture
Matt Meyerhoff, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, NRCS
Amanda Scott, President, KACD-EO
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) (arrived at 2:45, left at 3:45)
Scott Marsh, KDA State Weeds Specialist (arrived at 2:55, left at 3:20)

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Sara Spicer, Wichita Eagle (left at 2:55)

Carla Wikoff, Chief Program Specialist for Conservation Price Support, Kansas Farm Service Agency

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the September 28, 2020, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. House Bill 2462 – Lyon

- i. House Bill 2462 was not voted on in the last legislative session, therefore the same bill will be put forth in legislation this year. Andy Lyon read the bill as presented in the previous legislative session. An item for further discussion is the ex-officio members' right to vote. In the language that currently exists the ex-officio members are not voting members. That language could change for the bill this year, although that may invoke further review. DOC will work with the KDA legal department to be sure all those issues are resolved before presenting the bill this year. During discussion the commissioners expressed an appreciation for the scientific background and credibility that the ex-officio members' opinions lend to the SCC. Dan Devlin, Peter Tomlinson and Terry Medley clarified that they would like to remain voting members.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to allow all appointed members to be voting members. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. KACD's DOC budget resolution – Frost (Attachment A)

- i. Steve Frost provided a handout and reviewed the Kansas Department Agriculture, Division of Conservation FY2021 and FY2022 Budget Request for Kansas State Water Plan Funds. Brad Shogren and Dan Devlin expressed disappointment that cost share to districts was decreased. They would like to have the aid to conservation districts maintained. Andy Lyon stated that the DOC is in full support of the Governor's budget recommendation for next year. The commission can submit the resolution to KACD with or without a recommendation. A different mechanism for bringing the budget to KACD during the convention can be considered for future years.

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to submit this resolution to KACD without a commission recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

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b. Old World Bluestem Discussion – Lyon (2:30-3:20)

- i. Scott Marsh, KDA State Weed Specialist, provided a presentation on Old World Bluestem, including photos, charts of names, varieties and cultivars of Bluestem and common methods of control options and actions. There has been a successful petition to NAISMA to include both bluestems as restricted species as part of the national weed-free forage program. In progress is a quarantine against the movement of the OWB seeds and plants into and within the quarantine area. A future possibility is the listing of the species as a noxious weed seed species. There is an ongoing effort to encourage landowners to voluntarily control infestations and universities to continue further research into control options. OWB is present in every county in the state and continues to spread. Control is harder. Ranchers along the southern border of the state are growing OWB as a forage crop and have not been agreeable to a state-wide quarantine. Scott provided a map of the quarantine area including the Flint Hills and Smoky Hills. Authority comes from the Plant Pest and Agriculture Commodity Certification Act K.S.A 2-2125.
- ii. Dan Devlin said he has seen areas in Oklahoma where it looks like it's been planted.
- iii. Scott M. said they do actively plant it, but it is very aggressive and likely takes over.
- iv. Ted Nighswonger asked if it is not good forage.
- v. Scott M. said OWB are not palatable to wildlife. The cattle will eat around it.
- vi. Rod Vorhees said it's easy to spot along the roadways if you know what you're looking for. Rod said it will take a multi-faceted approach to achieve control and would like to see more education for producers.
- vii. Scott M. said the quarantine involves restriction of movement of seed and plants as a whole and plant parts capable of reproducing. The NAISMA petition restricts the movement of the seed and plant parts. Restricting hay with seed or plant parts in it is much more difficult.
- viii. Rod asked if that would prohibit seeding along highway construction.
- ix. Scott M. is not sure if the highway department has ever planted it, but after mowing, they may move it. They are working with KDOT to re-consider their mowing program and change the dates of mowing so they don't mow seed heads and scatter it that way.
- x. Rod said a program to increase awareness would be great.
- xi. John Wunder said there is a huge economic impact. Conservation districts, extension offices, noxious weed directors, commissioners, and KDOT should work together to develop a program for how to identify it.
- xii. Scott M. said he would be happy to meet with any organization to provide information on identification and education. Identification is difficult. He would be happy to share the brochures that are available.
- xiii. Rod said commissioners are receptive to disseminate information through the conservation districts and help control the spread.
- xiv. Mike Beam thanked the commissioners for putting this topic on the agenda. Ranchland owners in Flint Hills and Smoky Hills see this as a big threat. Education and awareness need to increase. Some interests don't want to see a quarantine and it's uncertain if we'll take the next step of a quarantine.
- xv. Scott M. said as it is written now the quarantine restricts the movement of Bluestem seed, whole plant or plant parts capable of reproducing into the areas of the Flint Hills and Smokey Hills.
- xvi. Peter Tomlinson asked how many hay tons are coming in from Oklahoma.
- xvii. Scott M. said Kansas doesn't import a lot of hay, but is not sure if any is coming in from Oklahoma. The biggest issue is seed being planted where it's actively being grown as a forage crop.

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- xviii. Andy Lyon said when ranchers hay, they do their best to avoid OWB, but it can be difficult to do. We need to get the word out to producers to prevent haying if there is an infestation.
- xix. John said we should make an all-out effort to let people know the impact this has over the next several months.
- xx. Scott M. said knowledge of the issue is widespread, but knowledge of identification is more challenging. They are still trying to determine the best way to increase knowledge on identification.
- xxi. Brad Shogren said he is reluctant to get behind a quarantine as he has a different perspective from the feedlot.
- xxii. Andy said we could get pamphlets in the conservation district offices to be available for producers.
- xxiii. Cathy Thompson asked if the pamphlet is available in a digital form that could be e-mailed out.
- xxiv. Scott M. said the pamphlet is available digitally and they can send it to anyone that requests it.
- xxv. Matt Meyerhoff said the Natural Resource Conservation Service considers OWB to be a species which causes a resource concern under Plant Pest Pressure on rangeland and pasture. NRCS can provide both technical and financial assistance for addressing populations on agricultural lands.
- xxvi. Andy thanked Scott for his time.

c. NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA February 6-10, 2021 – Lyon

- i. The NACD Annual Meeting will be virtual, rather than in person in New Orleans. Cost is \$50 per person. DOC encourages all to participate who want to and will forward the agenda as it becomes available.

A 10 minute break was taken from 3:45 p.m. to 3:55 p.m. Meeting resumed at 3:55 p.m.

7. UPDATES:

a. Comments from Guests

- i. Mike Beam, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture: no comments.
- ii. Kelsey Olsen, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture: no comments.
- iii. Carla Wikoff, Chief Program Specialist for Conservation Price Support, Kansas Farm Service Agency: They are adding additional area closer to Rattlesnake Creek. After the State Committee Meeting they will know if proposals are approved. They are waiting for approval on Soil Rental Rates. A lack of data provided a challenge to fulfill the requirements necessary to raise rental rates.
- iv. Amanda Scott, President, KACD-EO (Attachment B): KACD-EO will present the District Professional Award at the KACD Banquet. Amanda will encourage information on OWB to be shared at Annual Meetings. She has been sending welcome emails to new district managers. She has worked with Cindy Pulse on the District Manager Training Initiative.

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b. DOC Staff Updates

- i. Scott Carlson (Attachment C): Land Reclamation planning and approval site visits are caught up. Virtual Equipment delivery information was sent to all districts and commissioners last week and included the timeline, locations, map of the distribution areas and a photo of the equipment. Delivery is planned to be completed by December 11. Districts will receive instructions for how to put the cart together and a MOU and an attachment for noting the serial number.
- ii. Steve Frost (Attachment D): 2020 CCGA grant has allowed the implementation of four new regional soil conservationists in the state through DOC/conservation district agreements. DOC is administering 36 other agreement positions and FY2022 grant opportunities. CUSDA MOA revisions to the UAR CREP agreement are being completed, along with all associated components for 2021 re-rollout – training, educational documents, public notifications, data updates, enrollment. FY2020 annual CREP report is being compiled. Other work includes performance evaluations, streambank stabilization projects implementation, training new R&W manager, district budget certifications & state aid calculations, developing and administering contractual agreements, invoice processing, buffer payment preparation, and GRASP project.
- iii. Dave Jones (Attachment E): Dave reviewed FY2021 uncommitted balances as of 11/9/2020. If the uncommitted balances remain at or close to current levels in WR and NPS DOC may have to look first fully funding current underfunded contracts, then reallocate and cancel every 30-45 days. Dave recommends encumbering all FY 2021 approved contracts until May 2023. The attachment also included an NPS cover crop update.
- iv. Cindy Pulse (Attachment F): The Transition Checklist is finished and will be presented at the KACD convention. The Transition Checklist will be sent to all districts after the convention. The next project will be updating supervisor training modules and the supervisor handbook. The handout also reviewed district manager and employee updates.
- v. Hakim Saadi (Attachment G)
- vi. Andy Lyon announced Kristin Kloft is the new Riparian and Wetlands Program Manager. She will start November 30. The Philips County district manager position has been vacant. Andy attended a meeting with the Smith and Philips County boards last week to discuss options.

c. Agency Updates:

- i. Matt Meyerhoff (USDA, NRCS) shared that COVID operations are back to phase I in most offices. No groups are allowed in NRCS offices. If an office is in phase II a customer can enter, but they are required to wear a mask and maintain six feet social distance. All employees are wearing masks. They are also taking safety measures to max telework and stay home when sick. Fiscal year 2020 ended well. \$60 million has been obligated out. They are finalizing ranking criteria. FY21 stewardship program is next in the queue. As of November

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there are 2,234 full time staff. They have requested 50 positions for direct hiring authority in soil conservation technicians and soil conservationists. There will be some realignment of management units. They are working on the wording for the MOU with DOC and KACD. The cooperative agreement will be two documents.

- ii. Dan Devlin (KSU, KCARE) shared that due to COVID in-person meetings are discouraged. There has to be a critical need to meet in person. Some county offices are open by appointment and some are not open at all. The student in person classes are finished and the next two weeks are online. There is a freeze on all external hiring in agriculture. There has been re-structuring of extension stations with internal hires. Next year there will be a new strategic planning process. There was a field visit to a cover crop site to view the irrigation technology.
 - iii. Peter Tomlinson (KSU Research & Extension) shared that the new Agronomy Department Head will start January 11 and has a background in precision ag. Research and extension is doing its best to meet client needs through virtual methods. Don't Zoom and drive.
 - iv. Terry Medley (KDA, DWR) provided a handout (Attachment H). The LiDAR contract was extended to December 31, 2020. Floodplain mapping project kickoff meetings were held on October 27, November 12, and November 17. DWR discussed flooding concerns and mapping needs. Flood Risk Review meetings were held on October 7 and November 17. DWR has ongoing technical assistance projects for Sun City, Maize, Hutchinson, Garden Plain and Solomon. DWR continues to host meetings on Western Kansas Hydrology. Earl Lewis was selected as the DWR Chief Engineer and started on November 2. There are several staffing vacancies.
- d. Elected Commissioner Area Updates:
- i. Ted Nighswonger (Area I): There have been fires.
 - ii. Andy Larson (Area II): They've had some rain.
 - iii. Brad Shogren (Area III): There has been streambank project work. To answer questions on what they will do they would like Kari to come in and provide some recommendations on what works and what doesn't.
 - iv. John Wunder (Area IV): Topics for the next meeting could include the declaration of state of emergency for counties impacted by wildfire, having an emergency fund, and thinking of projects that could be used for emergencies. John thanked Mike and Kelsey for their understanding and DOC, KDA and partners for their conservation efforts.
 - v. Rod Vorhees (Area V): It has been a challenging year. District managers and NRCS staff are finding innovative ways to get the job done. They have had spotty rain and have had fires in their area. The dry weather has allowed some contracts to be finished.

8. SCC STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION:

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- a. County level natural resource planning
 - i. Source water protection component.
 - ii. Land management and how it impacts water resource protection.
 - iii. Water quality planning.
 - iv. Know what to do with additional funding if it's received. District managers may not have time for the planning process so develop a template for use that can be filled in.
 - v. Identify potential funding sources.
- b. Education and outreach funding
 - i. Information and education are huge components for adoption of practices.
 - ii. Look for education and outreach funding sources. Partnerships can work together to fund events.
 - iii. Look at how to allocate dollars to information and education.
 - iv. In an ideal world the conservation districts and county extension offices would work together in providing information and education.
- c. Supervisor on farm trials
 - i. Supervisor engagement. They may see work on boards as administrative. That's necessary and important. The outreach is important too.
 - ii. Try to engage supervisors in outreach and model what we're asking others to do. In the future consider allocating dollars to counties for supervisors doing field trials of practices.
 - iii. Acknowledging what was learned and encouraging other producers to try things. Partners can help with promotion and see these things on the ground.
 - iv. Peter shared the KARTA online meeting information.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting date was not set.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Lyon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Andrew Lyon
Executive Director

Resolution #2
Sponsor: Finance and Development Committee
Committee: Finance and Development

**Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation
FY2021 and FY2022 Budget Request for Kansas State Water Plan Funds**

BE IT RESOLVED:

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s FY2021 adj. budget for the Division of Conservation and the Kansas Department of Agriculture’s FY2022 budget request for full restoration of Kansas State Water Plan Special Revenue Funds to the Division of Conservation as recommended by the Kansas Water Authority, as follows:

KANSAS STATE WATER PLAN SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS:	<u>FY2021 adj.</u>	<u>FY2022</u>
Aid to Conservation Districts	\$ 2,192,637	\$ 1,973,373
Water Resources Cost-Share	\$ 2,448,289	\$ 2,248,289
Water Supply Restoration	\$ 0	\$ 0
Non-Point Source Pollution	\$ 1,857,836	\$ 1,857,836
Watershed Dam Construction	\$ 550,000	\$ 1,000,000
Riparian and Wetland Protection	\$ 154,024	\$ 54,024
Water Quality Buffer Initiative	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,000
CREP / WTAP	\$ 302,046	\$ 627,046
Streambank Stabilization	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,044,264
Irrigation Technology	\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000
TOTAL:	\$ 8,304,832	\$ 9,104,832

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Kansas Association of Conservation Districts supports the request for appropriation language allowing carryover of funds in the Division of Conservation’s budgets from the past fiscal year to FY2021, and from the current fiscal year to FY2022.

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Employees' Organization

AMANDA SCOTT, President



November 2020

- The KACD-EO Executive Board met in Manhattan, September 29, 2020 at the Kansas Department of Ag Conference Room.
- The KACD-EO Executive Board met via Video Conference, November 3, 2020 to discuss plans for the upcoming EO Annual Meeting.
- The KACD-EO Executive Board selected the District Professional Award to present at the KACD Banquet.
- I continued working with Cindy Pulse at the Division of Conservation on the District Manager Training Initiative.
- I continue to:
 - Work with district managers to answer questions
 - Work with DOC on various issues pertaining to districts
 - Welcome new district manager
 - Keep the Picture Directory updated
 - Share educational opportunities with districts

As always, if anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact any Area KACD-EO Representatives or myself for assistance.

Assistant Director/Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager

Scott Carlson

November 22, 2020

- Land reclamation planning and approval site visits on-going.
- Finishing up annual ag lime sampling of approximately 70 sites.
- Reclamation and Ag Lime Information System (RALIS) development 98% complete.

Administrative Manager/Water Conservation Programs Manager

Steve Frost

November 22, 2020

Major tasks ahead for the next quarter –

- Implementing 2020 CCGA grant to place four new regional soil conservationists in the state through DOC / conservation district agreements; administering 36 other agreement positions and FY2022 grant opportunities
- Completing USDA MOA revisions to the UAR CREP agreement and all associated components for 2021 re-rollout – training, educational documents, public notifications, data updates, enrollment; compiling FY2020 annual CREP report
- Performance evaluations, streambank stabilization projects implementation, training new R&W manager, district budget certifications & state aid calculations, developing and administering contractual agreements, invoice processing, buffer payment preparation, GRASP project

Water Quality Program Manager Update

Dave Jones

November 22, 2020

FY 2021 Uncommitted Balances (As of 11/9/2020)

- Water Resources - \$679,595.93
 - (Initial Allocation \$2,302,030.40, Paid Contracts \$111,424.44)
- Non-Point Source - \$424,862.40
 - (Initial Allocation \$1,269,644.00, Paid Contracts \$239,983.98)
- ❖ The cancellation of uncommitted funds in CSIMS will occur on Friday December 4, 2020
- ❖ If the uncommitted balances remain at or close to current levels in WR and NPS we may have to look at a scenario that would first fully fund current underfunded contracts, then reallocate and cancel every 30-45 days.

FY 2021 WR and NPS Contract Encumbrance

- My current recommendation is to encumber all FY 2021 approved contracts until May 2023
 - All approved contracts will need to be evaluated in the field before May. This needs to happen because practices cannot be changed on an encumbered contract.
 - We are seeing many requests to change practices on encumbered contracts because they aren't being looked at in the field until after they have been encumbered.
 - The DOC will correspond with Conservation Districts several times before the end of the current fiscal year about the encumbrance policy.

NPS Cover Crop Update

County	Number of Contracts	Total Contract Dollars
Atchison	12	\$14,322.00
Sheridan	9	\$8,410.00
Doniphan	6	\$12,627.30
Jackson	5	\$6,384.00
Allen	5	\$5,128.74
Nemaha	4	\$5,562.18
Osage	4	\$3,500.00
Harvey	3	\$850.00
Mitchell	3	\$5,630.00
Republic	2	\$1,000.00
Miami	2	\$3,693.00
Anderson	2	\$4,649.82
Wilson	2	\$1,165.00
Marshall	2	\$2,594.10
Franklin	1	\$3,207.00
Greenwood	1	\$1,100.00
Total:	63	\$79,823.14

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAM COORDINATOR UPDATE

As prepared by Cindy Pulse

State Conservation Commission Meeting

November 22, 2020

1. New District Manager Training

- Completed new process of welcoming & training
- Continuing virtual training in segments
- Constantly updating and improving trainings
- District Managers trained to date:
 - Area 1
 - Rawlins County – Lori Poore
 - Rooks County – Janel Odle
 - Area 2
 - Stanton County – Samantha Haugen
 - Grant County – Amber Arellano
 - Stanton County – Kinsey Knox (returned)
 - Area 3
 - Barton County – Veronica Coons
 - Jewell County – Jo Bauman (in process)
 - Mitchell County – Linda Deneke
 - Saline County – Diana Harden
 - Rice County – Holly Mead
 - Area 4
 - Atchison County – Tiffany Hoffman (returned)
 - Jefferson / Leavenworth – Megan Green
 - Area 5
 - Chase / Lyon – Mallory Burton
 - Marion County – Lori Siebert (transferred from Chase / Lyon)

2. District Manager Transition Checklist

- Finally complete!
- Started sending to board chairs of exiting district managers
- Roll-out at KACD convention
- Future: additional trainings, workshops, and videos
- Goal: improve training quality, quantity, effectiveness & consistency

3. Supervisor Training Modules

- Reviewing & updating modules into different format
- Will create video for each module
- Goal: module videos can be viewed at monthly meetings & individually

4. Supervisor Handbook

- Will be updated in the very near future

5. National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) Board NACD Northern Plains

- Attend monthly virtual meetings

6. KACD Convention

- Power points for Transition Checklist introduction and to discuss employee evaluations
- Vespers Program
- Slide show creation
- Lots of misc.

7. Forums in CSIMS

- “Forums Friday”
- Participation continues to increase

8. Inspiring Women in Public Administration (IWPA)

- Attending virtual annual conference November 19

9. Riparian / Wetland Program Manager Interviews

- Part of interview team for 2nd round of interviews

10. Governor’s Water Conference

- Attended virtual conference

District Manager Updates

(as of 11-10-20)

4th Quarter (October 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020)

New District Managers

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
3	Barton	Veronica Coons	10/8/2020
3	Jewel	Joseph Bauman	10/26/2020

Resigned / Retired District Managers

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>End Date</u>
4	Shawnee	Judy Boltman	11/13/2020

Upcoming Vacancies

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>End Date</u>
3	Sedgwick	Catherine Johnson	12/11/2020

Current Vacancies

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>
1	Phillips
4	Shawnee

District Employee Updates

(as of 11-10-20)

4th Quarter (October 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020)

New District Employees

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
2	Kearny	Chad Dykstra	DOC Technician	11/4/2020
3	Cloud	Shane Wallace	DOC Technician	9/24/2020
4	Jefferson	David Campbell	DOC Technician	10/6/2020
4	Shawnee	Dennis Brinkman	CD Technician	9/22/2020

Resigned District Employees

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>End Date</u>
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Watershed Districts

Hakim Saadi, P.E.

November 22, 2020

A. Watershed Dam Construction Program (cost-share assistance)

Watershed District	Site	RAC	Cost-share		
			Requested	Approved	Cumulative
Long-Scott WD 93 (*)	5-8	NO	\$25,905.40	\$25,905.40	\$25,905.40
Doyle Creek WJD 86	7	EW	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$145,905.40
Pony Creek WJD 78	9	KS	\$60,917.12	\$60,917.12	\$206,822.52
Pottawatomie C WJD 90	G-3	MC	\$88,104.00	\$88,104.00	\$294,926.52
Salt Creek WJD 104	117	MC	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$318,926.52
Salt Creek WJD 104	123	MC	\$61,200.00	\$61,200.00	\$380,126.52
Walnut-West WD 72	DD 3	EW	\$64,000.00	\$64,000.00	\$444,126.52
Whitewater WJD 22	SP-8	EW	\$88,480.00	\$88,480.00	\$532,606.52
Wet Walnut WJD 58(**)	153	GB	\$64,800.00	\$17,393.48	\$550,000.00

FY 2021 Funding Available:	\$550,000.00
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Total Requested =	\$1,899,095.32	
Total Funded =	\$550,000.00	% Funded: 29%

(*) Partially Funded in FY 2020: \$15,130.60

(**) Potentially to be Funded in FY 2022: \$47406.52

B. 2020 O&M Inspections (as of Nov 16, 2020): 32%

(Due on or before Dec 31)

C. Watershed District Handbook:

- The 2020 version was completed and published in May 2020, on the KDA-DOC website.

LiDAR: The LiDAR contract with Atlantic was extended to December 31, 2020. The quality of the data blocks delivered to the USGS is getting better. 17 blocks of data have been submitted and 6 remain. DWR submitted the request for NRCS extension for hydrorenforcement on October 20 and requested an extension until February 28, 2022.

Floodplain Mapping Kickoff Meetings: Floodplain mapping project kickoff meetings were held for the Lower Middle Arkansas Custom Watershed on October 27, the Blue Custom Watershed on November 12 and for the Middle Smoky Hill Watershed on November 17. At the Kick-Off meetings, DWR discusses flooding concerns and mapping needs and gives an overview of the process. Following the meeting, DWR posts the initial floodplains on a web map. This is part of the first phase of a FEMA Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (MAP) project, which includes a Discovery process to gain an understanding of the watershed's citizens mapping and flooding concerns. The initial mapping is being performed for the watershed at a Base Level Engineering (BLE) level, similar to a Zone A, using HEC-RAS 2D software. Mapping will be available for the entire watershed as part of the projects, and it may be used as best available data in some cases. However, regulatory mapping is only planned where mapping needs are known, such as current mapping not performed on LiDAR or current mapping is a paper map.

Floodplain Mapping Flood Risk Review Meetings: Flood Risk Review (FRR) meetings were held for Topeka/North Topeka Levee on October 7 and for the Upper Cottonwood/Marion County on November 17. At these meetings DWR reviews the enhancements made to the initial mapping and discusses the next steps in the mapping process.

On-Going Technical Assistance Projects: DWR has on-going technical assistance projects for Sun City, Maize, Hutchinson, Garden Plain and Solomon. In Sun City DWR is analyzing the flooding issues to determine possible mitigation efforts to reduce the flood hazard within town. The most cost-effective solution was determined to be Levee 3 scenario. They are pursuing grant opportunities to fund the scenario. In Maize the goal of this technical assistance project is to perform a Flood Mitigation Study to develop conceptual flood mitigation alternatives that may reduce the risk of flooding while also considering future upstream development within the watershed. The City of Hutchinson requested Technical Assistance from the Kansas Department of Agriculture to develop a Funding Brochure and Benefit Cost Analyses on potential flood mitigation improvements along Cow Creek Old Channel. Meetings are currently being held to determine the feasibility of creating an interactive web tool for the funding brochure. In Garden Plain several proposed flood mitigation alternatives including stormwater detention and channel improvements along Polecat Creek Garden Plain Tributary 2 will be analyzed with this study. The flood risk area inundates approximately 7 or 8 structures that are adjacent to the drainage channel. In Solomon the recent flood risk study update of the Solomon River Tributary indicates that the primary channel does not have enough capacity to convey the 1% annual chance design storm event. This could result in shallow overland flow which could impact numerous existing structures. The primary goal of this technical assistance project was to identify cost effective mitigation improvements that reduce the flood risk areas within the City of Solomon.

Western Kansas Hydrology: DWR continues to host meetings on Western Kansas Hydrology. Various contractors and state agencies participate in the meetings. The goal of the meetings is to determine how to handle stream flows in Western Kansas. The big question is if it is appropriate to use the entire data set to calibrate models or post 1978 data.

Chief Engineer: Earl Lewis was selected as the DWR Chief Engineer. Earl started on November 2, 2020.

Staffing: The Water Structures Program has 2 vacant dam safety engineering positions and 1 stream permitting engineering position. The Water Appropriations Program has 7 vacancies. Water Management Services has 1 vacancy.