

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 1:05 p.m., Sunday, November 20, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency, 400 W Waterman St, Wichita, KS 67202.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

Elected Commissioners:

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

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

Jackie Byam, Acting 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
Susan Metzger, Associate Director, College of Agriculture, K-State Research and Extension, Director Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE) and the Kansas Water Resources Institute (KWRI)

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Andrew Lyon, 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
Christy Koelzer, Administrative Specialist

Guests:

Amanda Scott, President, KACD-EO

SCC MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2022

Page 2

Ryan Armbrust, Rural Forestry Program Coordinator, KFS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the September 15, 2022, minutes as emailed. The motion was seconded by Sam Sanders. Motion carried.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. SCC Commissioner KACD Convention Roles and Responsibilities – Lyon

- i. Andrew Lyon reviewed the SCC Luncheon agenda and confirmed commissioner luncheon responsibilities.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, February 11-15, 2023 – Lyon

- i. Andrew Lyon informed the commissioners the NACD Annual Meeting is February 11-15, 2023 in New Orleans, LA. Andrew Lyon, John Wunder and Sam Sanders are planning to attend.

b. FY2023 WR and NPS Cancelled Funds, Uncompleted Contract/Project Strategy – Lyon

- i. Dave Jones reviewed the uncommitted balances in WR and NPS (Attachment A) and an email question received from a district manager (Attachment B).
- ii. Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer provided a list of all eligible practices (Attachment C).
- iii. DOC recommends the following:
 - (a) A statewide list of all eligible practices is automatically populated for counties on the CS-2. Counties can then prioritize their primary resource concerns utilizing the ranking worksheet. The CS-2 and ranking worksheet are recommended to be updated in March or April each year.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2022

Page 3

(b) Counties use NRCS EQIP payment rates rather than county average costs to ease the burden of keeping the rates up-to-date and to ensure the rates are comparable. Counties would be allowed to calculate a higher cost for a particular practice based on the site-specific needs in their county.

(c) Counties increase landowner limits from \$10,000 to \$15,000 to reflect new economic conditions.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve DOC putting together a proposal of recommendations for the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Sam Sanders. Motion carried.

Take a break 2:44 to 2:54.

iv. DOC proposed a \$250,000 Nutrient Management Initiative utilizing uncommitted funds after the cancellation. Peter Tomlinson suggested including a liming component to address soil pH.

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve a \$250,000 Nutrient Management Initiative from uncommitted balances after cancellation with a liming component. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

c. "Conservation Summit" a New Take on Area Meetings (strategy discussion) – Lyon

i. Andrew Lyon informed the commissioners that DOC would like to hold an annual Conservation Summit that rotates around the state and focuses on priority resource concerns in the area. He has been advised many commodity groups would like to be involved.

A motion was made by Sam Sanders to approve drafting a proposal for a Conservation Summit. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

7. UPDATES:

a. Comments from Guests:

i. Amanda Scott (KACD-EO) informed the commissioners that several district managers have participated in KACD leadership training. The EO is participating in the DOC partnership calls. Amanda presented at the NRCS new employee training and is preparing for the Annual EO meeting on Monday.

ii. Ryan Armbrust (KFS) informed the commissioners KFS is growing work capacity for delivering programs and working to secure federal dollars. They are exploring options for

SCC MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2022

Page 4

federally-funded cost share programs for forest landowners. 130 people attended a recent field day.

b. Agency Updates:

- i. Terry Medley (KDA, DWR) informed the commissioners that the water transfer panel was convened for the first time in decades. There is a hearing in February. The Mitchell County floodplain map will hit the 90-day period at the end of December. Dam safety evaluation has hired a team to do the RFP. Environmental consultants have also been hired. They are looking at roles and responsibilities of the Watershed District Act. Earl Lewis attended the Association of Western States Engineers. They voted on policies that go to congress. They are having difficulty hiring open positions.
- ii. Peter Tomlinson (KSU Research & Extension) informed the commissioners that Dr. DeAnn Presley is working on a project looking at carbon stocks across the state over the next five years, with a focus on McPherson and Harvey County and providing 12 years of continuous data. The National Sorghum Climate Smart Commodities proposal successfully awarded \$65 million, with 80% of the funds going back to sorghum producers.
- iii. Jackie Byam (USDA, NRCS) informed the commissioners that NRCS has hired 25 recent graduate positions and reviewed FY2023 program allocations. Inflation Reduction Act funds could provide expansion opportunities for EQIP, CSP, RCPP and ACEP. The IRA is the single largest investment in American history with \$20 billion for climate related benefits. They expect to receive funds in December or January. \$850 million in year one and increasing in following years. Partnerships will be important for implementation.
- iv. Susan Metzger (KSU, KCARE) informed the commissioners that a watershed specialist position is open in Northeast Kansas. K-State started a new student organization for water conservation. They are writing bylaws and finding officers.

c. DOC Staff Updates:

- i. Andrew Lyon informed the commissioners that both GMD 1 and GMD 3 are interested in special irrigation technology initiatives.
- ii. Dave Jones informed the commissioners that the GMD 4 initiative funds were allocated in less than a month. The earlier irrigation technology initiative also went well.
- iii. Kristin Kloft informed the commissioners that it has been busy on the two largest Cottonwood sites the past couple months and they have awarded four more sites on the Big Blue River.
- iv. Cathy Thompson informed the commissioners that she is getting payments allocated out. Funds are available for soil health workshops.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2022

Page 5

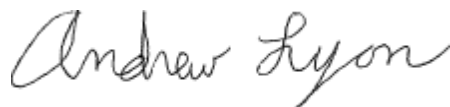
- v. Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer informed the commissioners that 25 new district managers have been hired in 20 districts this year. Reno, Haskell and Ottawa County are currently open. She attended the NASCA Annual Meeting last month.
 - vi. Christy Koelzer informed the commissioners that mining license renewal will occur in December and the 2022 Governor's Mined Land Reclamation Award recipient is Hamm Companies for their reclamation work at the Onaga Quarry.
- d. Elected Commissioner Area Updates:
- i. Ted Nighswonger (Area 1) informed the commissioners that the quick response during the four-county fire was appreciated. There was another fire in Rush County. The fire risk will remain high without some moisture. Crops were bailed and the wheat isn't coming up.
 - ii. Andy Larson (Area II) informed the commissioners that they have had seven inches of rain for the entire year. Row crop production has suffered.
 - iii. Sam Sanders (Area III) informed the commissioners that they have three applicants to interview for the Reno County district manager position. They have had a little rain and the wheat is coming up.
 - iv. John Wunder (Area IV) informed the commissioners that it is dry in his area.
 - v. Rod Vorhees (Area V) informed the commissioners that although the drought has been a challenge this year, the degree of management used in the operation and the health of the soil, and the diversity of the plant community played a part in not having as significant an impact on productivity.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

The next SCC meeting will be on January 17, 2023, 2:00-5:00 p.m. in Salina, KS.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.



Andrew Lyon

SCC MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2022

Page 6

Executive Director

Unallocated Funds Report 11/15/2022

Non-Point Source

County Allocation Totals :

	Allocation	Committed	Paid	Uncommitted
Total	\$1,377,641.09	\$816,925.97	\$151,588.93	\$409,126.19

Water Resources

County Allocation Totals :

	Allocation	Committed	Paid	Pending Approval	Pending Saved	Uncommitted
Total	\$3,751,051.47	\$2,425,707.42	\$376,361.14	\$9,650.45	\$9,338.43	\$929,994.03

From: Grover, Rachee - FPAC-NRCS, JOHNSON, KS <Rachee.Grover@KS.NACDNET.NET>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Jones, David [KDA] <David.Jones@ks.gov>
Subject: RE: Cost Share question

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Do you have any advice on how to get these funds allocated? Contractors and everything have gone up out here so to install the practices they'd rather take their chances with EQIP.

For example a produce put in a fence 2022, the fence cost him \$10,994.00 to install and everything and he only received \$4,500. Another example a producer capped her well in 2020 and cost have only gone up since then. Her well was one of the shallower wells around here at only 378ft her total was \$2,603.66 receiving only \$1,000. For someone to cap a well of 600 or 800 feet would be so much more. Majority of our wells here are 400+. Which in turn they don't end up capping them. Last example I'll give is a producer put in a solar panel pump project for a tank in 2021 her total cost was 12,796.37 she received only \$4,500.

Any advice would be greatly appreciated!! I'm just having a hard time allocating these funds which I have a lot of money to fund and a little bit of time left to allocate. I've ran an ad in the newspaper every week since September and have talked to producers who have come into the office. So any advice I will take in!

THANK YOU!!!!

From: Jones, David [KDA] <David.Jones@ks.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 10:22 AM
To: Grover, Rachee - FPAC-NRCS, JOHNSON, KS <Rachee.Grover@KS.NACDNET.NET>
Subject: RE: Cost Share question

Shay,

That would be considered one project, I am guessing under the PRM project type. They would be two practices under one project. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

From: Grover, Rachee - FPAC-NRCS, JOHNSON, KS <Rachee.Grover@KS.NACDNET.NET>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 10:19 AM
To: Jones, David [KDA] <David.Jones@ks.gov>
Subject: Cost Share question

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning David!

I had a question about Cost-Share. If a Landowner is wanting a tank and a solar panel pump is that considered 2 separate projects? If so would those 2 projects be in 2 separate programs where they could receive up to the \$10,000 land owner limit?

Shay Grover
District Manager
Stanton County Conservation District
103 E. Grant Ave P.O. Box J
Johnson, KS 67855
620-492-2260 x 226
Rachee.Grover@ks.nacdnet.net



Conservation Practices Available for Cost Share

The following is a list of conservation practices available for cost share funding from the Division of Conservation. Each year, supervisors elect which practices are authorized in their district. Offerings vary by district. Code No. designates NRCS code.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Code No.</u>
Access Road	560
Animal Mortality Facility	316
Brush Control Management	314a
Brush Management	314
Channel Bank Vegetation	322
Closure of Waste Impoundments	360
Composting Facility	317
Concentrated Non-Confined Livestock	390
Constructed Wetland	656
Contour Buffer Strips	332
Contour Buffer Strips Reseeding	332r
Cover Crop	340
Critical Area Planting	342
Critical Area Planting Reseeding	342r
Dike	356
Diversion	362
Dry Hydrant	432
Elimination of Abandoned On-Site Wastewater System	110a
Fencing	382
Fertilizer Containment Structure	140
Field Border	386
Field Border Reseeding	386r
Filter Strip	393
Filter Strip Reseeding	393r
Forage & Biomass Planting	512
Forage & Biomass Reseeding	512r
Forest Stand Improvement	666
Grade Stabilization Structure	410
Grassed Waterway or Outlet	412
Grassed Waterway Restoration	412r
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Herbaceous Weed Control	315
Improvement of Existing Water Wells	008
Irrigation System, Trickle	441
Irrigation Water Conveyance Pipeline-High Pressure	430DD
Irrigation Water Conveyance Pipeline-Low Pressure	430EE
Irrigation Water Management	449
Land Smoothing	466
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468
Livestock Waste System	312
Monitoring Well	353
Mulching	484
Nutrient Management	590
On-Site Wastewater System	110
Pipeline	516

Eligible Conservation Practices (Continued)

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Code No.</u>
Pond	378
Pond Restoration	378r
Pond Sealing or Lining - Bentonite	521C
Pond Sealing or Lining – Flexible Membrane	521A
Pond Sealing or Lining – Natural Clay	521D
Pond Sealing or Lining – Soda Ash	521B
Precision Land Forming	462
Prescribed Grazing	428
Pumping Plant for Water Supply	533
Range Planting	550
Range Planting Reseeding	550r
Residue Management	329A
Riparian Forest Buffer	391
Roof Runoff Structure	558
Sediment Basin	350
Spring Development	574
Stream Crossing	578
Streambank Protection	018
Streambank Protection Repair	580r
Streambank Riparian Buffer Incentive Payment	004
Streambank Signing Incentive Payment	001
Structure for Water Control	587
Subsurface Drain	606
Terrace	600
Terrace Restoration	600r
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	490
Tree/Shrub Pruning	660
Underground Outlet	620
Underground Outlet Restoration	620r
Unpermitted and Permitted Above Ground Fuel Storage Tank	700
Unpermitted Dump Site Remediation	120
Vegetated Treatment Area	635
Waste Storage Facility	313
Waste Transfer	634
Waste Treatment Lagoon	359
Water and Sediment Control Basin	638
Water Well	642
Watering Facility	614
Watering Facility Replacement	614r
Well Decommissioning	351
Wetland Creation	658
Wetland Enhancement	659
Wetland Restoration	657
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	380
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650

Program eligibility, specific guidelines, procedures and policies for each practice are found in Chapter 4 of the Division of Conservation Programs Manual. Contact your district manager for more information.