

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 1:32 p.m., Friday, December 22, 2023, at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

Elected Commissioners:

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

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

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

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Steve Frost, Acting 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
Christy Koelzer, Administrative Specialist

Guests:

Mike Beam, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture
Kelsey Olson, Deputy Secretary Kansas Department of Agriculture

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3. NEW BUSINESS:

a. State Water Plan Funding Update – Beam

- i. Secretary Mike Beam informed the commissioners funds allocated for dam rehabilitation will be processed through the DOC. The additional State Water Plan funding will be awarded through cost share and is for all dams including watershed district dams. Existing statutes pertaining to dam cost share give lenience to include other dams and for the cost share cap to be increased. The State Water Plan funds allocated for dams for FY24 will be announced in early 2024. KDA will consider updating the related statutes to make these changes permanent as it appears the intent of the legislature will be to continue with increased allocations.

A motion was made by John Wunder to enter executive session for five minutes to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. No action was taken during the executive session.

Following the executive session, a motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to support KDA in pursuing the top candidate for the Executive Director position. The motion was seconded by Jed Fleske. Motion carried.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

The next SCC meeting will be held January 29, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.



Steve Frost
Acting Director