



109 SW 9th Street 2A
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1283

MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner at 9:05 a.m., Monday April 7, 2014 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 SW 9th St., 2th Floor Conference Room, Topeka, Kansas.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

Elected Commissioners:

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

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

Eric Banks, State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Chad Voigt, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Division of Water resources (DWR) (Arrived at 10:30)
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality Agronomy Department, Kansas State University (KSU)
Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Greg Foley, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager (Arrived at 12:20)
Donna Meader, Public Service Executive
Don Jones, Water Quality Programs Manager
Steve Frost, Water Conservation Programs Manager
Hakim Saadi, Watershed & Water Supply Program Manager

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Guests:

Herb Graves, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

ADDITIONS:

9.h. Effectiveness of short-term poultry litter storage options for protecting Kansas water quality - Peter Tomlinson.

9.i. Reschedule approval of Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation funding from SCC September meeting to the SCC July meeting.

Motion by Andy Larson to approve as amended the agenda as presented. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the February 10, 2014 minutes as mailed. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

a. Herb Graves – Has been involved with the legislative process and the progression is very educational.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT:

a. Financial report update - See Attachment A – Donna Meader.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Division of Conservation (DOC) received correspondence (See Attachment B) from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on March 19, 2014. DOC has been invited to participate as a “Cooperating Agency” in the development of a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) project to analyze lands and minerals under the jurisdictions of BLM and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Steve Frost reported that BLM manages about 1,000 acres of surface acres, and also about 850,000 acres of sub-surface acres (mineral rights), under various federal properties in Kansas. Mr. Frost was asked to research whether the invitation was actually intended for the Kansas Corporation Commission’s (KCC) “Division of Conservation” which typically manages environmental issues related to oil and gas in the state. The DOC will investigate and assure that KCC is aware of this EIS planning effort.

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8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Summary of 2014 Spring Workshop – See Attachment C - Donna Meader.
- b. Legislative update and review of FY 2015 budget – Greg Foley.

Budget and House Substitution for SB 147 overview – Greg explained where the status of the budget enhancement and the mitigation easements bills were. The budget enhancement for streambank stabilization looks possible and SB 147 appears to be held up in conference committee.

- c. Review future SCC meeting dates and Joint Meeting plans – See Attachment D - Don Jones.

Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the FY 2015 meeting dates as outlined below. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

July 27-28, 2014 – TBD
September 11, 2014 – Hutchinson
November 23, 2014 – Wichita
January 12, 2015 – Manhattan
February 23, 2015 – Manhattan
April 13, 2015 – Manhattan
May 12, 2015 – Manhattan

***Note: Calendar provided with holidays to assist in selection of dates by Commissioners.**

- iii. SCC/KACD Joint Meeting hosted by Area IV KACD Director will be in Clay County this summer.
- d. Update on document submittal – Donna Meader. Staff is managing required documents via e-mail. No report was presented at this meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review prior year FY 2012 and FY 2013 cost-share encumbrance and cancellation policy recommendations – Staff.
 - **Extend all FY 2012 LWM encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) until December 1, 2014.**
 - **Extend all FY 2013 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) until December 1, 2014 except for all FY 2013 Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative projects which must be completed by June 2, 2014**

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- **Extend all FY 2013 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Water Resources Cost-share Program (WR) until December 1, 2014 except for all FY 2013 Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative projects which must be completed by June 2, 2014.**

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the FY 2012 and FY 2013 cost-share encumbrance policy recommendations. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

b. Review current year FY 2014 cost-share encumbrance policy recommendations – Staff.

i. Program Encumbrance – Staff

- **Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS)**
 - **All On-site Wastewater System (OSW) and Abandoned Water Well Plugging (AWP) contracts will expire on June 2, 2014. Encumber all other FY 2014 NPS cost-share contracts that have been started until June 1, 2015 except for Livestock Waste System contracts which will be encumbered until June 1, 2016.**
- **Riparian and Wetland Protection Program (RWPP)**
 - **Encumber all FY 2014 RWPP contracts until June 1, 2016.**
- **Watershed Dam Construction Program (WDCP)**
 - **Encumber all FY 2014 WDCP contracts until June 1, 2016.**
- **Water Resources Cost-share Program (WR)**
 - **Encumber all FY 2014 WR cost-share contracts that have been started until June 1, 2015.**
 - **Cancel all FY 2014 Emergency Drought Livestock Water Supply Initiative projects that were funded with watershed district funds on May 1, 2014.**
- **Engineering Contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) and Riparian and Wetland Protection Program (RWPP)**
 - **Encumber all FY 2014 engineering contracts in the NPS and RWPP programs until June 1, 2016.**

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the FY 2014 cost-share encumbrance policy recommendations. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

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- c. Review FY 2015 WRCS, NPSPC program policy revisions. – See Attachment E – Don Jones.

Motion by Andy Larson to approve the FY 2015 WRCS, NPSPC Program policy revisions as described in attached handout. Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

The SCC did not make any changes to the existing OSW system cost-sharing policy.

- d. Review FY 2015 program allocation scenarios – See Attachment F – Don Jones.

Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the WRCSP and the NPSPCP 2015 cost-share fund allocation recommendations within each program. County specific allocations will be recommended by staff at the May 13, 2014 SCC meeting. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

- e. Discuss FY 2015 cost-share cancellation/reallocation policy – Staff.

- **Cancel all uncommitted FY 2015 cost-share funds in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) on December 5, 2014 and reallocate to Livestock Waste System applications, applications in targeted TMDL watersheds, and Streambank Protection projects.**
- **Cancel all uncommitted FY 2015 cost-share funds in the Water Resources Cost-share Program (WR) on December 5, 2014. First priority would be to reallocate statewide.**

Motion by Andy Larson to approve the FY 2015 cost-share cancellation/reallocation policy recommendations. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

- f. Discuss luncheon speaker choices for the SCC luncheon at the 2014 KACD Convention – Greg Foley.
- i. Several names were suggested. Staff will follow-up with those suggestions.

- g. Discuss Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) – Staff.

An update was provided on input received from the Governors Vision planning and LEMA water conservation efforts in Kansas. Discussion was held on if conservation districts would have an interest in becoming a sponsor to a LEMA, similar to what is possible today for the Groundwater Management District (GMD)

- h. Effectiveness of short-term poultry litter storage options for protecting Kansas water quality – See Attachment G – Peter Tomlinson.

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Motion by Brad Shogren to approve \$50,412 from FY 2014 NPS Program to enter into a contract with the Kansas State Research and Extension (KSRE) for a poultry litter research project. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. (Peter Tomlinson and Dan Devlin abstained from the vote on poultry litter.)

- i. Reschedule Commissioners' approval of Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation funding from SCC September meeting to the SCC July meeting – Greg Foley.

Motion by Brad Shogren to reschedule Commissioners' approval of Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation funding from SCC September meeting to the SCC July meeting. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

10. REPORTS:

a. Agency Reports:

- i. NRCS – Eric Banks. See Attachment H.
- ii. KCARE/KWRI –Dan Devlin. Dan reported there is a sedimentation of reservoir workshop in Topeka on Monday, April 14th. He reported that enrollment is up at KSU in the College of Agriculture. The Governor's Water Conference is November 12-13 in Manhattan. Over 400 people are expected to attend the Water Conference to discuss the vision of the future. Dan also commented that he is involved in three new international institutes.
- iii. K-State Agronomy – Peter Tomlinson. Peter reported that he was involved with the USDA Southern Plains Climate Hubs. He received internal funding on a development of a watershed project at KSU. His proposal on the technical review was favorable. Peter and Dan Devlin attended the second meeting of the Grazing Coordinated Agricultural Project led by Oklahoma State. The project covers cattle management, preparing for drought, and too much water.
- iv. DWR – Chad Voigt – Chad reported on the home stretch of the move to Manhattan. He reported that their division has had numerous turnover in staff due to the move. Their division will be undergoing restructuring and is in a rebuilding mode with more than a 65% turnover rate. He reported that John Roth is retiring from the Stafford County field office. It is possible they may relocate the position to another location and expand the job duties to include dams. He reported on legislative actions; their division lost grant funding as well as three positions.

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b. Staff reports:

- i. Move Coordination – Scott Carlson gave an overview of the move coordination committee.
- ii. Poultry Litter Issue – Don Jones reported that he and Herschel George, KSU, have been out and about at meetings.
- iii. Watershed Programs – Hakim Saadi reported that he has 1,000 watershed files prepared for Docuware scanning. He has Operation and Maintenance workshops this week for watershed districts. He also reported that Osage City Reservoir restoration has not started yet, they are waiting on a permit from KDOT.
- iv. Greg Foley reported that the DOC has an approved budget and current a Legislative proposal that could enhance one program only. He also continues to travel statewide with the Governor’s Vision Team.
- v. Donna Meader reported that there has been several new District Managers recently hired. Dave Jones and herself have been providing training.

c. Commissioner Reports:

- i. Area I – Ted Nighswonger. Reported that he received many letters/comments regarding the possible OSW eligibility criteria change.
- ii. Area II – Andy Larson. Reported that his area would be appreciative that the board took action to not modify OSW criteria.
- iii. Area III – Brad Shogren. Reported on assurance district beginning. He also reported that their WRAPS group continues to work.
- iv. Area IV – John Wunder. Reported that the spring workshop attendance and topics were good.
- v. Area V – Rod Vorhees. Reported on the Conservation Heritage exhibits. Workshop.

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13. ADJOURN:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. May 13, 2014 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 SW 9th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Topeka, Kansas.

**Motion by John Wunder to adjourn. Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.**



Greg A. Foley.
Executive Director



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Oklahoma Field Office
7906 E. 33rd Street, Suite 101
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145
www.blm.gov/nm



In Reply Refer To:
1610

March 14, 2014

REC'D MAR 19 2014

Kansas Division of Conservation
Rodney Voorhees, Chairperson
109 SW 9th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Mr. Voorhees:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oklahoma Field Office, in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains Regional Offices, has begun an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) project to analyze lands and minerals under the jurisdiction of both agencies in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The BLM portion of the EIS will result in the revision of the 3 current Resource Management Plans within the Oklahoma Field Office's jurisdiction.

In the spirit of government to government consultation and cooperation, Oklahoma Field Office (OFO), working as project lead, is inviting the Kansas Division of Conservation to become a Cooperating Agency for the duration of the RMP/EIS process. The Council on Environmental Quality's regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) allow federal agencies (as lead agencies) to invite tribal, state, and local governments, as well as other federal agencies, to serve as Cooperating Agencies in the preparation of environmental impact statements. Cooperating Agency status provides the opportunity for us to work together and to enhance the BLM's planning efforts.

Local and tribal governments, other agencies, and the public have participation opportunities such as attending public meetings, and reviewing and commenting on plan documents. Being a Cooperating Agency provides the opportunity for interested agencies to take on additional roles and responsibilities beyond basic participation opportunities. Cooperating Agencies do have obligations to contribute staff to the RMP/EIS team, assist with analysis for which they have particular expertise, and fund their own participation.

In general, you will be expected to provide a person to attend meetings to accomplish the tasks, as well as to accommodate other time involvement. I anticipate about six

Cooperating Agency meetings over the first twelve to fifteen months of the planning process, with an additional three to four meetings over the following year. There will also be a time requirement to review documents.

To help you in your decision to accept or deny this invitation, please consult sections V, VI, and VII of the enclosed draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as well as specific information about Cooperating Agency relationships at the following website:
http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/nepa/cooperating_agencies.html.

If you choose to become a Cooperating Agency, you will work closely with BLM and other agencies throughout the RMP/EIS process. While Cooperating Agency status does not eliminate your rights to protest or appeal the EIS Record of Decision, my expectation is that you would have had sufficient opportunity to work with BLM and others so that a protest or appeal would not be necessary.

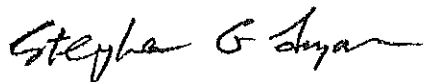
If the Kansas Division of Conservation is interested in becoming a Cooperating Agency please notify Laurence Levesque, of my staff, by April 14, 2014 at (918) 621-4136 or llevesqu@blm.gov. We will need to sign a MOU that describes the roles and responsibilities of the BLM and the Kansas Division of Conservation. Enclosed is a sample MOU (draft) that has been developed for the planning process. Laurence Levesque, the Project Lead, will need a point of contact to finalize the MOU and the name of the person who will represent the Kansas Division of Conservation for the planning process.

We request that agencies declining to accept Cooperating Agency status also respond to this invitation. Should you choose not to become a Cooperating Agency, be assured that we will still provide the Kansas Division of Conservation with ample opportunity to participate in the planning process.

If you have questions regarding cooperating agency status or want more information concerning opportunities available for your agency to participate in the land use planning process, do not hesitate to call Laurence Levesque, the Project Lead, at (918) 621-4136.

Thank you for your interest in the planning process and administration of your public lands. We look forward to working with the Kansas Division of Conservation as we proceed with this land use planning effort.

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Tryon
Field Office Manager

Enclosure
1 – Draft MOU

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
KANSAS DIVISION OF CONSERVATION
AND THE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OKLAHOMA FIELD OFFICE
AND THE
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGIONAL OFFICE
SOUTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL OFFICE

I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oklahoma Field Office, in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains Regional Offices, has begun an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) project to analyze lands and minerals under the jurisdiction of both agencies in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The BLM portion of the EIS will result in the revision of the three (3) current Resource Management Plans within the Oklahoma Field Office's jurisdiction into one (1) Resource Management Plan (RMP).

The Kansas Division of Conservation is eligible to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the duration of the EIS/RMP process. Cooperating Agency status provides an opportunity for the BLM, BIA, AGENCY NAME, and other Cooperating Agencies & Entities to work together to enhance BLM's and BIA's planning efforts.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth roles and responsibilities for the Cooperating Agencies as agreed upon between the Kansas Division of Conservation and the BLM Oklahoma Field Office (OFO), BIA Eastern Oklahoma and BIA Southern Plains Regional Offices for the purpose of collaborative planning and production of the EIS and BLM RMP.

II. PURPOSE

In carrying forth the responsibilities and mandates under the National Environmental Policy Act and Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1500 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (as amended) CFR Part 1600, the BLM and BIA recognize a compelling need to ensure that the interest of Kansas Division of Conservation are accounted for, and that they are meaningfully engaged in the above stated planning effort and associated EIS.

As such, the BLM and BIA have agreed to grant Cooperating Agency status to Kansas Division of Conservation pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6, 1501.2, and 1501.8. Under the regulations, the BLM and BIA recognize that Kansas Division of Conservation has special expertise as it relates to various aspects of the planning effort described above.

III. AGENCY DESIGNATIONS

Appendix A specifies Agency Representatives. Each participating entity designates one primary representative to attend meetings and to act as a point of contact to ensure coordination and exchange of information between Kansas Division of Conservation and BLM and BIA during the planning process. An entity may change its representative at any time by providing written notice to the other parties. Cooperating Agencies may also involve "in-house" specialists in discussions, when a specific topic warrants such expertise.

IV. AUTHORITIES FOR AGREEMENT

Authority for the BLM, BIA, and Kansas Division of Conservation to participate in this agreement is provided through Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 USC 4321 et seq., including 40 CFR 1501.6-Roles of lead and cooperating agencies, 1508.5, Defining eligibility, and 1508.26, Special expertise.

Additional authority is provided in BLM CFR 1601.0-5, Defining eligibility and 1610.3-1, Inviting participation.

V. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, OFO; BIA EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGIONAL OFFICE; AND BIA SOUTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL OFFICE

The BLM and BIA is responsible for the following:

- xli. To prepare and ensure the content and quality of the Draft BLM RMP/ Draft EIS, the Proposed BLM RMP/ Final EIS, and the three (3) Records of Decisions/Approved BLM RMP.
- xlii. To provide Kansas Division of Conservation with meaningful opportunities for participation, including involvement in:
 - a. Identifying issues and concerns of relevance to the planning effort,
 - b. Identifying or providing data that is suitable, available, and relevant to the planning effort,
 - c. Reviewing and commenting on draft sections of the EIS for which the Kansas Division of Conservation provided input due to its special expertise.
- xliii. To consider and incorporate information and comments provided by Kansas Division of Conservation into EIS documents to the extent possible and where appropriate.
- xliv. To make all final determinations regarding the content of the EIS document.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE KANSAS DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

The Kansas Division of Conservation has special expertise in a number of areas related to planning, and as such, is responsible for the following:

- lxxi. Along with other Cooperating Agencies, to participate in the planning process to the fullest extent possible.
- lxxii. To assist the BLM and BIA with identification of issues and concerns to be addressed through the planning effort.
- lxxiii. To provide data to potential relevance and value to the EIS/RMP revision effort. This data may include but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Approved Kansas Division of Conservation programs, plans, and policies potentially affected by the EIS/RMP,
 - b. Information regarding planning area resources and current and proposed uses and management actions,
 - c. Environmental analyses on issues for which the Kansas Division of Conservation has special expertise,
 - d. Socio-economic data such as demographics, activities, and values.
- lxxiv. To review and provide comments during specified review periods on preliminary baseline and other technical reports for which the Kansas Division of Conservation had contributed data or other pertinent information.
- lxxv. To review and provide comments during specified review periods concerning the following sections for the preliminary Draft EIS:
 - a. Preliminary range of alternatives to be considered in detail,
 - b. Relevant portions of the "Affected Environment" section (including the socio-economic portion),
 - c. Relevant portions of the "Environmental Consequences" section,
 - d. Relevant portions of the "Consultation and Coordination" section, including information on consistency reviews.
- lxxvi. During public review periods for the Draft EIS, to provide the BLM and BIA with a consolidated comprehensive review of the Draft EIS.
- lxxvii. To assist the BLM with analyzing and reviewing public comments and data, and with the development of the Proposed BLM RMP/Final BLM & BIA EIS.

VI. FUNDING

Each entity agrees to fund its own expenses associated with this planning process.

VII. JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES

The parties agree to use their best efforts to meet the timeframes established in the agreement to work cooperatively, and to resolve differences as quickly as possible.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION, AMENDMENT, AND TERMINATION

This agreement becomes effective upon signature by all parties, and may be subsequently amended through written agreement of all signatories. The parties agree to jointly develop a framework of information exchange and feedback within 60 days of the signing of this agreement.

The Kansas Division of Conservation, the BLM, or the BIA may terminate this agreement by providing written notice of termination to the other parties. If not terminated sooner, this agreement will end when the Notice of Availability for the Final EIS is published by the Federal Register.

Nothing in this agreement will abridge or amend the authorities and responsibilities of the Kansas Division of Conservation, BLM, or BIA or any other party on any matter under their respective jurisdictions.

Nothing in this agreement may be construed to require either AGENCY NAME, BLM or BIA or obligate or pay funds or in any other way take action in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 USC 1341) or any State or County law or ordinance.

IX. SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY

None of the signatories waive their sovereign immunity by entering into this Memorandum of Understanding. Each fully retains all immunities and defenses provided by law with respect to any actions based on or occurring as a result of this agreement.

X. SIGNATURES

The parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding as of the dates shown below.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Stephen G. Tryon, Field Manager
Oklahoma Field Office

Date

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office

Date

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Southern Plains Regional Office

Date

KANSAS DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

Date

APPENDIX A – AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

REPRESENTING: KANSAS DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

REPRESENTING: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OKLAHOMA FIELD OFFICE

Laurence Lévesque
Planning and Environmental Specialist
Oklahoma Field Office
7906 E. 33rd St., Suite 101
Tulsa, OK 74467
Phone: (918)621-4136
Email: llevessqu@blm.gov

REPRESENTING: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGIONAL OFFICE

Jonna Polk
Environmental Protection Specialist
BIA- Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office
3100 W Peak Blvd
Muskogee, OK 74401
Phone: (918)781-4667
Email: jonna.polk@bia.gov

REPRESENTING: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
SOUTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL OFFICE

David Anderson
Physical Scientist
BIA- Southern Plains Regional Office
Hwy, 281
Anadarko, OK 73005
Phone: (405)247-9707
Email: david.anderson@bia.gov

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2014 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014

	Program/Fund	Index	Appropriation/ Allocation	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		Uncommitted Balance
						Committed/ Encumbered		
1.	STATE GENERAL FUND - 1000							
	a. Office Operations	0053	472,497.00	381,800.66	80.8%	2,558.52		88,137.82
	TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND		\$472,497.00	\$381,800.66	80.8%	\$2,558.52		\$88,137.82
2.	STATE WATER PLAN FUND - 1800							
	a. Water Resources Cost-Share							
	(1) Office Operations		128,085.63	84,312.67	65.8%	12,546.91		31,226.05
	(2) WR- A.S.K. Associates-Programming		15,000.00	0.00	0.0%	15,000.00		0.00
	(3) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		2,238,700.65	671,660.12	30.0%	1,462,912.83		104,127.70
	(4) Reserve Funds		2,974.21	0.00	0.0%	0.00		2,974.21
	WR - TOTAL	1205	2,384,760.49	755,972.79	31.7%	1,490,459.74		138,327.96
	b. Non Point Source Pollution Control							
	(1) Office Operations		2,000.00	0.00	0.0%	1,867.44		132.56
	(2) NPS- A.S.K. Associates-Programming		15,000.00	0.00	0.0%	15,000.00		0.00
	(3) NPS-Engineering Services		61,105.76	0.00	0.0%	61,105.76		0.00
	(4) NPS-Wyandotte CO CD-TA		12,993.00	0.00	0.0%	12,993.00		0.00
	(5) NPS/TA-Conservation Technician Positions		144,434.73	144,434.73	100.0%	0.00		0.00
	(6) NPS/TA-No Till Conservation Districts		42,500.00	31,705.50	74.6%	3,879.50		6,915.00
	(7) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		1,756,031.00	662,766.21	37.7%	1,042,125.78		51,139.01
	(8) Targeted Funds		179,854.26	0.00	0.0%	0.00		179,854.26
	NPS - TOTAL	1210	2,213,918.75	838,906.44	37.9%	1,136,971.48		238,040.83
	c. Aid to Conservation Districts	1220	2,326,147.00	2,322,690.83	99.9%	0.00		3,456.17
	d. CREP/WTAP							
	(1) Office Operations		90,737.00	69,602.17	76.7%	0.00		21,134.83
	(2) WR/CREP CSIMS		37,677.40	37,677.40	100.0%	0.00		0.00
	(3) WTAP Projects		265,710.60	0.00	0.0%	265,710.60		0.00
	(4) Targeted Funds		105,453.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		105,453.00
	CREP/WTAP - TOTAL	1225	499,578.00	107,279.57	21.5%	265,710.60		126,587.83
	e. Watershed Dam Construction							
	(1) Watershed Dam Cost-Share Assistance		273,200.00	72,219.00	26.4%	200,981.00		0.00
	(2) Rehabilitation		368,315.98	22,208.46	6.0%	346,107.52		0.00
	(3) Reserve (PAYBACK)		(971.98)	(971.98)	100.0%	0.00		0.00
	WATERSHED PROGRAM - TOTAL	1240	640,544.00	93,455.48	14.6%	547,088.52		0.00
	f. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative	1250	295,393.51	0.00	0.0%	253,376.34		42,017.17
	g. Riparian and Wetland Protection							
	(1) RW-OOE		300.00	150.00	50.0%	0.00		150.00
	(3) CSIMS-Demonstration Projects		171,200.54	0.00	0.0%	0.00		171,200.54
	RW - TOTAL	1260	171,500.54	150.00	0.1%	0.00		171,350.54
	i. Lake Restoration-Water Supply Program	1275	286,868.00	0.00	0.0%	286,868.00		0.00
	TOTAL - STATE WATER PLAN FUND		\$8,818,710.29	\$4,118,455.11	46.7%	\$3,980,474.68		\$719,780.50

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2014 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2014

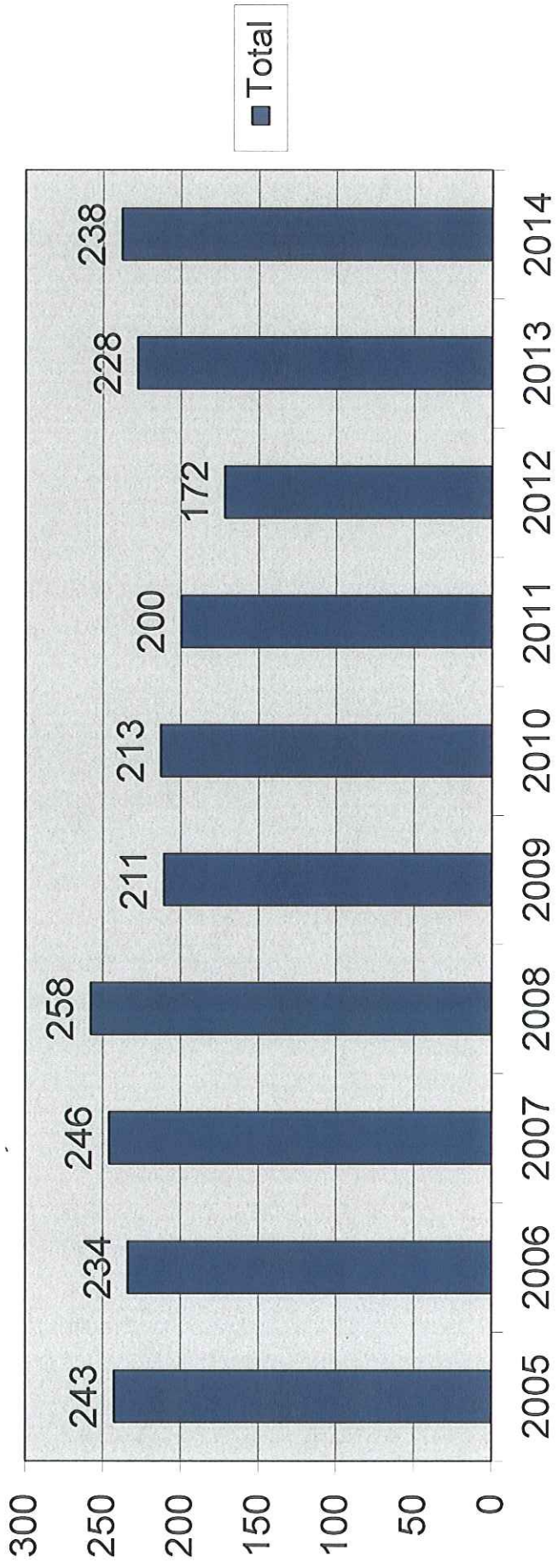
FEE FUND PROGRAMS	Index	Fee Deposit Accounts	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		Cash Flow
					Committed/		
					Encumbered-	Contingent	
1. AG Lime Program - 2118	1200	23,788.37	321.62	1.4%	470.00	23,466.75	
2. KDWP-Buffer Partnership - 2517	2510	75,000.18	75,000.18	100.0%	0.00	0.00	
3. LAND RECLAMATION FEE FUND - 2542	2090	171,103.13	101,962.81	59.6%	0.00	69,140.32	
4. KDHE/EPA - FEDERAL FUNDS - 3889	(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED TO KDHE)				REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST		
a. KDHE/NPS Conservation Technician	3880	40,196.48	40,196.48	100.0%	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL KDHE-TA - 3880		40,196.48	40,196.48	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
b. KDHE/Buffer Indirect Funds	3705	43,530.05	0.00	0.0%	0.00	43,530.05	
c. KDHE/NPS Indirect Funds	3705	4,500.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	4,500.00	
TOTAL KDHE-INDIRECT FUNDS - 3705		48,030.05	0.00	0.0%	0.00	48,030.05	
TOTAL- FEDERAL FUNDS - 3915		88,226.53	40,196.48	45.6%	0.00	48,030.05	
5. NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS - 3715	(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REQUESTED FROM NRCS)				REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST		
a. NRCS/NPS Conservation Technician	3825	145,115.75	64,117.28	44.2%	36,330.38	80,998.47	
TOTAL NRCS-TA/ENGINEERING - 3825		145,115.75	64,117.28	44.2%	36,330.38	80,998.47	
b. NRCS/WQ Indirect Funds	3800	53,739.71	0.00	0.0%	593.73	53,739.71	
TOTAL NRCS-INDIRECT FUNDS - 3800		53,739.71	0.00	0.0%	593.73	53,739.71	
TOTAL- NRCS FUNDS - 3917		198,855.46	64,117.28	32.2%	36,924.11	134,738.18	
6. WR WSD DROUGHT PROGRAM - 7305	7000	90,000.00	30,320.00	33.7%	32,500.00	59,680.00	
		<i>Deposits</i>	<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>Funds Expended</i>	<i>Total Encumbered</i>	<i>Cash Flow Balance</i>	
FEE FUNDS GRAND TOTAL		\$646,973.67	\$311,918.37	48.2%	\$0.00	\$335,055.30	
1. *HOSPITALITY FUND - 1000	0054	317.61	317.61	100.0%	0.00	0.00	

*Paid under KDA Budget

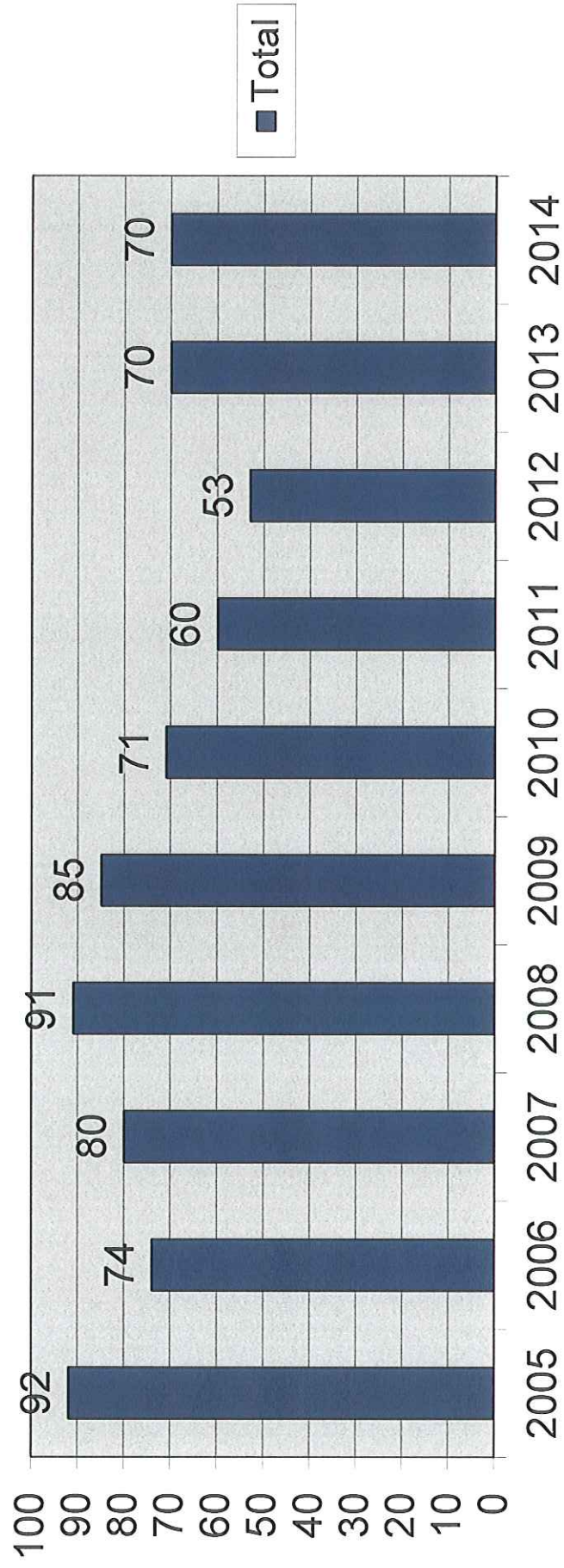
2014 Spring Workshop Attendance Summary

	<u>District Manager</u>	<u>District Conservationist</u>	<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
Area I	15	8	12	5	40
Area II	18	7	15	10	50
Area III	16	8	13	7	44
Area IV	17	5	17	12	51
Area V	14	10	13	16	53
Total	80	38	70	50	238

DOC Spring Workshops Attendance



DOC Spring Workshops Attendance - Supervisors



2014

January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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February						
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March						
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30	31					

April						
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May						
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July						
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November						
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December						
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Holidays and Observances (United States)

Jan 01	New Year's Day	Jan 20	M L King Day	Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 17	Presidents' Day	Apr 18	Good Friday	Apr 20	Easter Sunday
May 11	Mother's Day	May 26	Memorial Day	Jun 15	Father's Day

2015

January						
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July						
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August						
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September						
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October						
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November						
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29	30					

December						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Holidays and Observances (United States)

Jan 01	New Year's Day	Jan 19	M L King Day	Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 16	Presidents' Day	Apr 03	Good Friday	Apr 05	Easter Sunday
May 10	Mother's Day	May 25	Memorial Day	Jun 21	Father's Day



**State Conservation Commission Meeting
April 7, 2014**

FY 2015 Proposed Program Revisions

NPSPCP

➤ **Revised Onsite Wastewater System Eligibility Worksheet**

- DOC staff has worked with KDHE Watershed Management staff to review the existing OSW eligibility worksheet.
- DOC staff received eleven emails or letters from conservation districts and two letters for county sanitarians opposing the revised worksheet.
- There were many conservation district staff and board members that expressed their opposition to the revised worksheet at the SCC spring workshops.

Staff Recommendation: Keep the current Onsite Wastewater System Eligibility Worksheet in place for FY 2015.

WRCSP

➤ **Irrigation Water Management Code 449**

- Request from Stevens County Conservation District to make Water Probe Sensors eligible for cost-share assistance.

Staff Recommendation: Provide cost-share assistance for a demonstration site where water probe sensors are installed. The David Clawson property is a potential demonstration site. David would like to install water probe sensors on 40 center pivots. DOC staff recommends that David pay for the water probe sensors and DOC pay for the management component which would give DOC access to all of the data during the irrigation season. Staff could then analyze the data to see what water savings that may have occurred using the water probe sensors. Estimated cost for the management component is \$1,000 per center pivot.

DOC will work with the KSU Research and Extension irrigation engineer in SW Kansas on the demonstration project. KSU Research and Extension will serve as a clearinghouse for the data from the water probe sensors and will provide an evaluation of the effectiveness as a management tool to reduce water consumption. A minimum of three to four center pivot systems without water probe sensors that are in close proximity to the center pivots with water probe sensors will be used as controls.

Water Resources Cost-Share Program			FY 2015 Allocation - SCC Meeting April 7, 2014			
FY 2014 Appropriation:	2,164,973					
FY 2013 Carryover:	0					
FY 2013 Reserve:	0					
FY 2014 CSIMS	-15,000					
FY 2014 Admin expenses:	-129,898	6% of appropriation proviso to assist with SGF shortfall				
FY 2014 Total Cost-Share CD Allocation:	2,020,075					
FY 2015 Appropriation:	1,948,289					
FY 2014 Carryover:	0					
FY 2014 Reserve:	0	<i>June 1 uncommitted FY 14 funds will be added to fall FY 2015 reallocation</i>				
FY 2015 CSIMS	-25,000					
FY 2015 Admin expenses:	-116,897	6% of appropriation proviso to assist with SGF shortfall				
FY 2015 Total Cost-Share CD Allocation:	1,806,392					
ISSUES:						
1. Proviso to allow up to 6% of appropriation for contract TA and non-salary admin expenses.						
FY 2015 Cost-Share Allocations:						
<hr/>						
<u>FY 2015 Cost-Share Allocations</u>		<u>FY 2014 Allocations</u>		<u>Increase/Decrease from FY 2014</u>		
DNA	1,606,392	DNA	1,820,075	DNA		-213,683
TMDL Allocation	<u>200,000</u>	TMDL Allocation	<u>200,000</u>	TMDL Allocation		0
	1,806,392		2,020,075	Total		-213,683

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Cost-Share Program (NPS)				FY 2015 Allocation - SCC Meeting April 7, 2014			
FY 2014 Appropriation:	\$ 2,065,031					FY 2015 Appropriation:	\$ 1,858,350
FY 2013 Carryover:	\$ -					FY 2014 Carryover:	\$ -
FY 2014 Rescission Fund	\$ -					FY 2015 Rescission Fund	\$ -
FY 2014 Total Allocation:	\$ 2,065,031					FY 2015 Total Allocation:	\$ 1,858,350

Issues

1. Funding for all 105 counties in FY 2015
2. Fund 11 Conservation Technician positions in 11 NRCS Management Units identified by the workload analysis with a Contribution Agreement with NRCS. NPS portion, \$200,000. T/A Partnership: Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE), Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism (KDWP&T), NRCS, SCC, Pheasants Forever, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Kansas Forest Service (KFS), and The Nature Conservancy.

FY 2015 Allocation Option:					
FY 2015 Allocation Option:					
<u>FY 2014 Allocations</u>		<u>FY 2015 Allocations Projected</u>		<u>Adjustment from FY 2014</u>	
NPS Base	\$ 1,556,031	NPS Base	\$ 1,439,350		\$ (116,681)
T/A	\$ 200,000	T/A	\$ 200,000		\$ -
TMDL	\$ 100,000	TMDL	\$ 100,000		\$ -
Supplemental LWS	\$ 100,000	Supplemental LWS	\$ 50,000		\$ (50,000)
No-till Education	\$ 42,500	No-till Education	\$ 42,500		\$ -
NPS Operations	\$ 1,500	NPS Operations	\$ 1,500		\$ -
CSIMS	\$ 15,000	CSIMS	\$ 25,000		\$ 10,000
KWPCRF*	\$ 50,000	KWPCRF*	\$ -		\$ (50,000)
					Streambanks
Total	\$ 2,065,031	Total	\$ 1,858,350	Total	\$ (206,681)

* Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund (KWPCRF) funding for Streambank Protection projects

Project Title: Effectiveness of short-term poultry litter storage options for protecting Kansas water quality.

Principle Investigator:

Peter J. Tomlinson, Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, ptomlin@ksu.edu

Collaborating Investigator:

Herschel George, Water Quality Specialist, Kansas State Research and Extension, Kansas State University, hgeorge@ksu.edu

Introduction and Justification:

Southeast Kansas has experienced an influx in poultry litter being transported into the region during the last 3 to 5 years. This trend has been driven by increased environmental regulations in surrounding states and the recognition by Kansas producers that poultry litter can be a cost effective source of nutrients (N, P, K and micro-nutrients) and organic matter. Poultry integrators began establishing litter export programs in nutrient sensitive watersheds in Arkansas and Oklahoma as early as 2005. It has been reported that more than 100,000 tons of poultry litter are exported annually from the Illinois River Watershed in Arkansas and Oklahoma with most of this material going to Kansas and central Oklahoma (Herron et al., 2012).

Poultry litter can provide a significant and important supply of nutrients for crop production. Phosphorus (P) content in poultry litter is usually high (≈ 60 lbs P_2O_5 /ton), and applications rates should be based on P levels to avoid building excessive soil P levels contributing to potential surface water contamination. When properly managed it provides an excellent complement to commercial nitrogen (N) fertilizers. In the last three years concern has grown in Kansas that the influx of poultry litter is contributing to water quality problems. Storage for poultry litter on the edge of fields in close proximity to ditches and waterways is a contributing factor (Figure 1). Currently, in Kansas no recommended practices, guidelines or regulations exist for the storage of poultry litter.

A critical research need exists to evaluate poultry litter storage best management practices that effectively control runoff and minimize the transport of nutrients to the waters of Kansas.

This research need is further supported by producer requests for information on effective, low cost poultry litter storage options. Limited research is available on effective best management practices for in-field poultry litter storage since historically poultry litter has been hauled directly from the poultry house to the field or



Figure 1. Poultry litter stored at the edge of a field with runoff flowing to the adjacent road ditch.

Effectiveness of short-term poultry litter storage options for protecting Kansas water quality.

stored on farm in a litter stacking shed. Arkansas and Oklahoma regulation discourage the outside storage of poultry litter and require outside poultry litter piles to be covered. Covering poultry litter with plastic is highly effective at reducing volatilization of ammonia, leaching of nitrate and the loss of N and P via runoff (Payne and Zhang, 2012); however, this practice has not been adopted by Kansas producers because of the time and effort it takes to keep the plastic cover in place for periods of time beyond a few days.

Project Goals and Objectives:

The goal of the proposed project is to address the priority area **“Use of poultry litter in Kansas, including, storage and understanding agronomic use and environmental impacts.”** Specifically this project addresses the effectiveness of in-field temporary containment measures and improved temporary storage demonstration sites for controlling runoff losses of N and P.

The specific project objectives are:

1. Identify effective low cost run-off containment options for short-term in-field storage of poultry litter.
2. Evaluate effectiveness of improved temporary poultry litter storage sites for the reduction of runoff.

To accomplish the research objectives containment options will be evaluated during the summer of 2015 and water samples will be collected from August of 2014 through December of 2017 (option 1) or December of 2015 (option 2) from two improved temporary poultry litter storage demonstration sites.

Procedures:

- A. In-field Containment Practices: A simulated in-field storage site with a 2 to 3% slope will be established for the evaluation of temporary poultry litter storage practices. Poultry litter piles containing approximately 5 ton of material or a ¼ of an average tractor trailer load of poultry litter will be used for this study and all practices will be replicated three time.

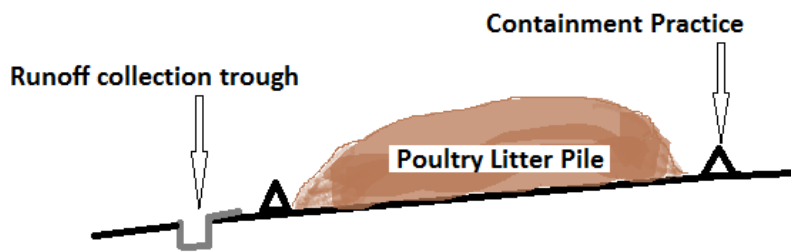
Practices to be evaluated will include, but not be limited to:

1. No practice (control) – No containment will be placed around the pile of poultry litter
2. Earthen berm – An earthen berm will be constructed around the pile of poultry litter.
3. Straw bales – Straw bales will be placed in a ring around the pile of poultry litter and staked to prevent movement.
4. Wood chip filled erosion control socks – Commercially available erosion control socks filled with wood chips will be placed around the pile of poultry litter and staked to prevent movement.
5. Plastic pile covering – A plastic tarp will be placed over the pile of poultry litter and the edges covered with soil to keep it in place.

Effectiveness of short-term poultry litter storage options for protecting Kansas water quality.

Immediately down slope of the pile a metal collection trough the width of the pile will be installed level with the soil surface and equipped with a runoff collection bucket (Figure 2).

Figure 2. A diagram showing the location of the containment practice being tested and the runoff collection trough.



Rainfall simulators will be used to simulate rainfall intensities representative of Southeast Kansas. The rainfall event will proceed until runoff occurs. Rainfall events will be repeated monthly over a 6 month period to test the longevity and robustness of materials. Runoff water will be collected to determine the volume of runoff and a composite sample will be analyzed for total and dissolved N and P.

- B. Improved Poultry Litter Storage Sites: In the fall of 2013, Spring and Middle Neosho WRAPS provided cost share funding for the construction of improved temporary poultry litter storage demonstration sites. Two of these sites will be equipped to evaluate edge of field nutrient losses over the next two years. A diversionary structure will be constructed to divert runoff from natural rainfall events to a central location at each site for the collection of flow-weighted composite water samples using an automated water sampler. Water samples will be analyzed for total N, nitrate, ammonium, and total and dissolved P.
- C. Technology Transfer: Poultry litter storage options will be showcased in K-State Research and Extension programs including producer field days. Furthermore, the data generated by this project will be published in an M.S. student's thesis, peer reviewed publications, research conference proceedings and used to develop new Extension presentations and print materials.

Duration of the Project:

Options 1: This four year project will be conducted from June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2018.

Options 2: This two year project will be conducted from June 1, 2014 to May 31, 2016.

Effectiveness of short-term poultry litter storage options for protecting Kansas water quality.

Expected Outputs and Outcomes:

This project will provide critically needed information on simple cost effective containment options producers can use to control the runoff from poultry litter, temporarily stored at the edge of fields. Additionally we will evaluate the effectiveness of improved temporary poultry litter storage sites with the goal of generating sufficient data to support the development of technical standards for the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Project outputs will include graduate student training, M.S. thesis, Extension presentations, and research and Extension publications. Additionally the project PI will prepare annual reports detailing research progress, findings and technology transfer.

References:

- Herron, S, A. Sharpley, S Watkins, and M. Daniels. 2012. Poultry Litter Management in the Illinois River Watershed of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agriculture, University of Arkansas. Fact Sheet FSA9535. 4 pages.
- Payne and Zhang. 2012. Poultry Litter Nutrient Management: A Guide for Producers and Applicators. Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University. Fact Sheet E-1027. 12 pages.

Effectiveness of short-term poultry litter storage options for protecting Kansas water quality.

Project Budget – Option 1:

Total: \$132,149 (\$26,157/year for years 1&2 and \$39,917/year for years 3&4). These funds will be used to support a graduate student for the duration of the project. Additional funds requested in years 3&4 will be used for undergraduate student labor, travel, materials and supplies, and analytical fees associated with the proposed research. The Kansas Fertilizer Research Fund has awarded \$30,000 (\$15,000/year for years 1&2) that will be used for site modifications, materials and supplies, poultry litter hauling, and analytical fees associated with the proposed research.

Proposed Budget Summary	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Totals
A. Salaries and Wages:					
Graduate Student(s) – Ph.D.	\$24700	\$24700	\$25441	\$25441	\$100282
Undergraduate Student			\$2500	\$2500	\$5000
B. Fringe Benefits (5.9% for graduate students and 1.0% for undergraduate student)	\$1457	\$1457	\$1526	\$1526	\$5966
C. Travel (Mileage to and from the field site and funds for the graduate student to attend a professional meeting in years three and four to present research results.)			\$5000	\$5000	\$10000
D. Other Direct Costs					
Material and Supplies (Containment and water diversion materials and fuel for equipment. Expendable research supplies for sample collection and processing.)			\$3000	\$3000	\$6000
Other - Contractual Services (Soil Testing Lab - Cost calculated based on the established fee schedule for water analysis)			\$2450	\$2450	\$4900
E. Total Amount of This Request	\$26157	\$26157	\$39917	\$39917	\$132148

Effectiveness of short-term poultry litter storage options for protecting Kansas water quality.

Project Budget – Option 2:

Total: \$50,412 (\$25,206/year for 2 years). These funds will be used to support a graduate student and an undergraduate student. The Kansas Fertilizer Research Fund has awarded \$30,000 (\$15,000/year for 2 years) that will be used for site modifications, materials and supplies, poultry litter hauling, and analytical fees associated with the proposed research.

Proposed Budget Summary	Year 1	Year 2	Totals
A. Salaries and Wages:			
Graduate Student(s) – MS.	\$22371	\$22371	\$44742
Undergraduate Student	\$1500	\$1500	\$3000
B. Fringe Benefits (5.9% for graduate students and 1.0% for undergraduate student)	\$1335	\$1335	\$2670
C. Travel (Mileage to and from the field site in both years and funds for the graduate student to attend a professional meeting in year two to present research results.)	KFRF support	KFRF support	0
D. Other Direct Costs			
Material and Supplies (Containment and water diversion materials and fuel for equipment. Expendable research supplies for sample collection and processing.)	KFRF support	KFRF support	0
Other - Contractual Services (Poultry litter hauling and Soil Testing Lab - Cost calculated based on the established fee schedule for water analysis)	KFRF support	KFRF support	0
E. Total Amount of This Request	\$25206	\$25206	\$50,412



NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOPEKA, KANSAS
April 7, 2014

PERSONNEL

- Conversions: Brittany A. Anderson, Student Trainee, to Soil Conservationist, Pratt, Kansas
- Details: Brian D. Lang, Construction Engineer, Salina State Office, to Acting State Conservation Engineer, Salina State Office
- Reassignments and/or Promotions: Dwayne W. Kersenbrock, Soil Conservationist, Lyons, to Soil Conservationist, Colby
Keith Williams, Soil Conservationist, Oakley, to Soil Conservationist, Abilene
Dale F. Younker, District Conservationist, Jetmore, to Soil Conservationist, State Soil Scientist Staff, Garden City
- Resignation: Arvil G. Bass, State Conservation Engineer, Salina State Office
- Retirements: Barbara J. Coonrod, Soil Conservation Technician, Hays Field Office
Michael A. Debes, Resource Conservationist, Hutchison Area Office Staff, Dodge City
Andy L. Phelps, District Conservationist, Russell

OPERATIONS

We are still waiting on our final budget allocations. With the signing of the Farm Bill, the agency could no longer authorize new expenditures from the previous programs. Therefore, all of the funds not obligated were pulled from our account. We anticipate receiving allocations for the new Farm Bill programs within the next couple of weeks. Based on previous advisory allocations, Kansas NRCS would not have sufficient technical assistance funds this year to cover our typical operating budget. We are preparing to make any needed budget cuts to be able to operate within our allocation.

The Administrative Transformation process is still ongoing. Kansas has three administrative employees currently serving on pilot and design teams for the new structure. The permanent national service delivery teams are expected to be implemented over the next year or so. In

addition, each state will be changing the local structure of the Administrative and Operations sections. Kansas will no longer have both a state administrative officer and an assistant state conservationist for operations. The new structure will have an assistant state conservationist for business leadership. This position will oversee all administrative and operational activities. Under this position, there will be a financial resources specialist, a business services position, and a few other support positions to handle the duties that remain at the state level.

PROGRAMS

Attached is a one-page document summarizing changes in programs from the 2008 Farm Bill and the new Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill). More information may be found at www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted.

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

- AWEP is no longer a program under the new Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) but NRCS will honor existing AWEP agreements through fiscal year (FY) 2014.
- AWEP proposals in Kansas Groundwater Management Districts 2, 3, and 5 will be funded under EQIP General. The application cutoff date was March 21, 2014.

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Annual payments have been made on 390 contracts for FY2014 in the amount of \$4,486,000.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

- Annual payments have been made on 2,517 contracts for \$40,170,417.
- Kansas has 274 pending applications as of the close of business March 21, 2004. This was the extended deadline to enter applications received on or before February 7, 2014, into the NRCS contracting system.
- We are currently awaiting guidance on the renewal process for contracts that expire in September and December 2014; as well as guidance on the new rules for the program.

NRCS Easement Programs

- **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**
 - The 2014 Farm Bill was signed by the President into law on February 7, 2014. The FRPP has been rescinded. All existing easements acquired before the date of the new farm bill are still valid.
 - The 2014 Farm Bill has a new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) which includes an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) component. The ACEP-ALE is very similar to FRPP. Guidance is still pending from NHQ on the full provisions of the program.
 - Kansas ACEP-ALE FY14 signup deadline is April 4, 2014.
 - Assistance and reviews are being provided to cooperating entities as they work on various steps toward closing on prior year conservation easements. We continue to work on 24 parcels remaining to close through the FRPP.

- **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)**

- The 2014 Farm Bill was signed by the President into law on February 7, 2014. The GRP has been rescinded. All existing GRP easements acquired before the date of the new farm bill are still valid.
- The 2014 Farm Bill has a new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) which includes an Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) component. The ACEP-ALE is very similar to FRPP but also contains provisions to allow for the protection of grazing lands. Applications for easements under the ALE must be submitted through an eligible entity. Private landowners may no longer directly enroll into the ACEP-ALE program.
- NRCS has closed on over 4,260 acres of GRP easements so far in FY14. Currently we are in the closing process on three additional easements that were enrolled in FY13. This will complete all of our prior year GRP easements.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

- The 2014 Farm Bill signed by the President into law on February 7, 2014, also rescinded the WRP. All existing WRP easements are still valid.
- The new Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), includes a Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) component very similar to WRP.
- Landowners can now make applications for ACEP-WRE at local field offices.
- All WRP enrollments in Kansas are now closed and recorded at the appropriate county courthouse.
- Workload is now focused on backlog of restoration work that is needed. There are 26 projects that need restoration/construction completed.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

- Kansas NRCS completed an update of the Emergency Recovery Plan (ERP) in FY13, which provides guidance for technical and financial assistance through EWP.
- Kansas currently has no eligible EWP projects on the waitlist at national headquarters (NHQ).

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- For fiscal year 2014, Kansas has received a total of 1,586 General EQIP applications with an estimated cost of \$12.5 million which covers over \$250,700 acres.
- The application cutoff date for the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) has been extended to April 18, 2014. CCPI is no longer a program under the new 2014 Farm Bill but NRCS will honor existing CCPI agreements through FY2014.
- **EQIP—Initiatives**
 - Organic, On-Farm Energy, and Seasonal High Tunnel—Application cut-off deadlines are set for February 21 and April 18 for these three initiatives and the news releases were sent to the field offices on January 7. State bulletins were issued January 31.
 - Ogallala Aquifer—Application cut-off deadline was March 21 for this initiative. News releases are out. Draft bulletins have been sent to the field to allow them to complete planning activities.
 - Lesser Prairie Chicken—Application deadline for the Lesser Prairie-Chick Initiative (LPCI) was extended to April 18 to allow time for applications following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision on listing. A news release with this information was sent

out. A draft bulletin has been sent to the field to allow them to complete planning activities.

- o National Water Quality—Application cutoff deadline for the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) is set for April 18. An additional watershed within West Emma Creek has been added to the initiative. This is the watershed above the original Emma Creek Watershed and extends north to the city of Canton. A draft bulletin for the initiative has been issued to the field to aid in planning. Information has been delivered to partners and they have been informed that outreach can begin.
- o \$4,460,584 was received for initiatives (LPCI, Organic, Seasonal High Tunnel, Ogallala, NWQI, and On-Farm Energy).

Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities

- Kansas NRCS requested \$1,793,000 for FY2014. Funds have been authorized for technical assistance associated with prior year watershed rehabilitation activities. NRCS NHQ is currently working with states to prioritize and fund additional projects during FY2014 with funding authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. Indications are Kansas NRCS will receive funds for 6 new rehabilitation planning requests.
- The Spring Creek Watershed District in Sedgwick County continues forward with rehabilitation of their R-1 Dam near Garden Plain, Kansas. Construction is still targeted to begin this spring and be completed during FY2014.
- NRCS continues to work with local watershed districts and sponsors on NRCS-assisted watershed projects to ensure Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) are developed for all 102 High Hazard Dams currently under O&M Agreements. To date, 44 EAPs have been developed.
- Watershed districts and local NRCS field offices will need to work together to conduct annual inspections on all NRCS-assisted flood-control structures. A total of 751 dam inspections will need to be completed and submitted to the Salina State Office during calendar year 2014.

TECHNOLOGY

With the listing of the lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) under the Endangered Species Act, and associated 4(d) rule, NRCS is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to implement conservation strategy in LPC range.

Division of Conservation (DOC) Streambank Agreements

- Construction of the last project from the DOC agreements is scheduled to be completed this spring.

Architect and Engineer (A&E) Contracts

- Construction of the assigned streambank protection projects is continuing. Two more projects have been completed. The last four projects are in construction. They all should be built by late spring.
- The design for an agricultural waste management system has been completed.

OUTREACH

NRCS and No-Till on the Plains coordinated a High Plains Cover Crop Symposium with six universities and Agricultural Research Service in Hays, Kansas, to evaluate and discuss cover crop research for the NRCS Soil Health Initiative.

NRCS sponsored a booth at a Seasonal High Tunnel Workshop hosted by the Kansas Rural Center on April 5 in Lawrence.

News Releases were issued on the following:

- NRCS Announces Funding for Conservation Innovation Grants
- Sign Up Now for National Water Quality Initiative
- Cutoff Date Extended to April 18 for Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative
- Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative Cutoff Date Extended



Your guide to the new Farm Bill Conservation Programs

Below is a quick summary of changes made to conservation programs in the new Farm Bill, enacted on February 7, 2014. These programs are administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The new Farm Bill streamlines conservation programs that enable farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to get assistance.

To get started with NRCS, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted or visit your local USDA service center.

	Previous Farm Bill	vs.	New and Streamlined Farm Bill
Financial Assistance	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	}.....▶	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program		Conservation Stewardship Program
	Conservation Stewardship Program		Agricultural Management Assistance
Easements	Wetlands Reserve Program	}.....▶	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
	Grassland Reserve Program		
	Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program		
	Healthy Forests Reserve Program	}.....▶	Healthy Forests Reserve Program
Partnerships	Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative	}.....▶	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
	Agricultural Water Enhancement Program		
	Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative		
	Great Lakes Basin Program		
Other	Technical Service Providers	}.....▶	Technical Service Providers
	Conservation Innovation Grants		Conservation Innovation Grants
	Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program		Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services Program
	Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program – administered by Farm Service Agency		Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program
	<i>Emergency Watershed Protection Program*</i>		<i>Emergency Watershed Protection Program*</i>
	<i>Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program*</i>		<i>Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program*</i>

*EWP and Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program are not Farm Bill programs but are offered by NRCS; Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program was funded through the 2014 Farm Bill.