



1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

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 11:20 a.m., Monday, July 28, 2014 at the Clay County EMS, 702 2nd Street, Clay Center, 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)
Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension
Chad Voigt, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), Division of Water resources (DWR)

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Greg Foley, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager
Donna Meader, Public Service Executive
Hakim Saadi, P.E., Watershed & Water Supply Program Manager

Guests:

Herb Graves, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)

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3. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

ADDITIONS: 9. f. Cooperative Agreement

Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the May 13, 2014 minutes, as mailed. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- a. Herb Graves reported on issues in watershed district programs. He commented that: DOC, NRCS, DWR and SAKW – Watershed Partners - are looking into how to energize and re-engage Watershed Districts. Herb also reported that SAKW placed a call to KSU for proposal for a paper telling the story of the Kansas watershed districts from both the state and federal program perspectives.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. Donna Meader provided a review of the FY 2014 quarterly financial report. – See Attachment A.

7. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Greg Foley gave an overview and led a discussion on the EPA's proposed rule concerning the "Waters of the U.S".

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion on the next regular Commission meeting scheduled on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. the Pride of Kansas Building, Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson, Kansas.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Hakim Saadi presented Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for Dam Rehabilitation for FY 2015. – See Attachment B.

Motion by John Wunder to approve the FY 2015 Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for Dam Rehabilitation. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

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- b. Greg Foley conducted discussion on budget guidance and direction for FY 2016 and Kansas Water Authority Recommendations.

No concrete information has been forwarded, however, flat level or current FY funding is projected.

- c. Review and authorize Commissioner and Staff travel – Vorhees.
 - i. Dave Jones will be attending the No-till on the Plains Point South Bus Tour August 5-8, 2014.
- d. Donna Meader reviewed the allocation plan/strategy of FY 2014 carry forward funds to FY 2015.
 - i. Water Resources – See Attachment C.

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to reallocate \$369,927 of Water Resources carry-forward funds to conservation districts based upon the District Needs Allocation formula. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion Carried.

- ii. Non-Point Source

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to reallocate \$256,856 of Non-Point Source carry-forward funds to conservation districts based on the NPS allocation formula. The remaining carry-forward funds would be used according to the handout presented. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion Carried.

- iii. Cost-Share Information Management System (CSIMS) upgrades, oracle database processor and license purchase.

Motion by Brad Shogren to authorize \$63,745 of carry-forward cost-share funds to pay for CSIMS upgrades-Oracle database processor and \$8,985.46 for an engineering SS project in Chase County. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

- e. Staff gave an overview of the KDA move highlights.
- f. Cooperative Agreement – Recognize that the Conservation District Manager/Secretary is responsible to dedicate 50% of their time towards NRCS duties and tasks.

10. REPORTS:

- a. Agency Reports:
 - i. NRCS – Eric Banks. See Attachment D.

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- ii. KCARE/KWRI - Dan Devlin reported that the *Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas* is taking place on November 12-13, 2014 in Manhattan, Kansas. He also reported that there will be a Subsurface Drip Irrigation field day on August 6, 2014. The field trip will be touring the first system installed in Colby, Kansas, which is still operational to this day.
- b. Staff reports:
- i. Land Reclamation – Scott Carlson reported he is still receiving past due *Annual Mine Reports and Site Registration Renewal* forms and Tonnage payments from producers. Overall the total deposits are comparable to last year's deposits.
 - ii. Water Supply Restoration Program – Hakim Saadi - See Attachment E.
 - iii. CD Document Submittal Summary - Donna Meader – See Attachment F.
- c. Commissioner Reports:
- i. Area I – Ted Nighswonger. Reported that there are a lot of conversations about water taking place in his area.
 - ii. Area II – Andy Larson. Reported that Finney County looks green.
 - iii. Area III – Brad Shogren. Reported that he is still working on the irrigation district.
 - iv. Area IV – John Wunder. Reported that the crops look good in his area. He also stated that he believes the Kansas Water Vision very is important.
 - v. Area V – Rod Vorhees. None.
- d. Poultry Litter Nutrient Management Initiative status update.
- i. The sites have been located and equipment has been ordered for the research project.
- e. Greg Foley gave an update on the Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas.
- f. Greg Foley gave an overview on the Resource Conservation Partnership Proposals (RCPP). – See Attachment G.

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11. ADJOURN:

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Pride of Kansas Building, Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson, Kansas.

Motion by Andy Larson to adjourn. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg A. Foley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a stylized "F".

Greg A. Foley
Executive Director

**DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2014 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014**

1.	Program/Fund	Budget Unit	Appropriation/ Allocation	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		Uncommitted Balance
						Committed/ Encumbered	Encumbered	
	STATE GENERAL FUND - 1000							
	a. Office Operations	0053	472,497.00	472,497.00	100.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND		\$472,497.00	\$472,497.00	100.0%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	STATE WATER PLAN FUND - 1800							
	a. Water Resources Cost-Share							
	(1) WR - Office Operations		127,059.84	112,915.96	88.9%	100.00	100.00	14,043.88
	(2) WR - Webelan Programming		15,000.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
	(3) KSU-Irrigation Water Probe Sensor Demo Project		4,000.00	0.00	0.0%	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
	(4) WR CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		2,238,700.65	1,288,797.68	57.6%	585,407.05	585,407.05	364,495.92
	WR - TOTAL	1205	2,384,760.49	1,401,713.64	58.8%	589,507.05	589,507.05	393,539.80
	b. Non Point Source Pollution Control							
	(1) NPS - Office Operations		2,000.00	1,867.44	93.4%	0.00	0.00	132.56
	(2) NPS - Webelan Programming		15,000.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
	(3) NPS - Engineering Services - Watershed Institute		61,105.76	23,060.30	37.7%	38,045.46	38,045.46	0.00
	(4) KSU - Poultry Litter TA - Herschel George		17,172.00	0.00	0.0%	17,172.00	17,172.00	0.00
	(5) KSU - Poultry Litter Research - Peter Tomlinson		50,412.00	22,685.00	45.0%	27,727.00	27,727.00	0.00
	(6) NPS - Wyandotte County CD - I&E Funds		12,993.00	12,020.38	92.5%	0.00	0.00	972.62
	(7) NPS/TA - Conservation Technician Positions		148,684.73	148,684.73	100.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(8) No Till Education Funds/Conference Registration		42,500.00	36,441.06	85.7%	0.00	0.00	6,058.94
	(9) NPS CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		1,864,051.26	1,058,099.88	56.8%	458,528.05	458,528.05	347,423.33
	NPS - TOTAL	1210	2,213,918.75	1,302,858.79	58.8%	541,472.51	541,472.51	369,587.45
	c. Aid to Conservation Districts	1220	2,326,147.00	2,322,690.83	99.9%	0.00	0.00	3,456.17
	d. CREP/WTAP							
	(1) Office Operations		90,737.00	90,324.79	99.5%	0.00	0.00	412.21
	(2) WR/CREP - CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		142,930.40	37,677.40	26.4%	0.00	0.00	105,253.00
	(3) WTAP Projects		265,910.60	265,910.60	100.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
	CREP/WTAP - TOTAL	1225	499,578.00	393,912.79	78.8%	0.00	0.00	105,665.21
	e. Watershed Dam Construction							
	(1) Watershed Dam Cost-Share Assistance		273,200.00	112,180.45	41.1%	161,019.55	161,019.55	0.00
	(2) Rehabilitation		368,315.98	85,406.22	23.2%	276,099.22	276,099.22	6,810.54
	(3) Reserve (PAYBACK)		(971.98)	(971.98)	100.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
	WATERSHED PROGRAM - TOTAL	1240	640,544.00	196,614.69	30.7%	437,118.77	437,118.77	6,810.54
	f. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative	1250	295,393.51	254,493.83	86.2%	0.00	0.00	40,899.68
	g. Riparian and Wetland Protection							
	(1) RW - OOE		300.00	150.00	50.0%	0.00	0.00	150.00
	(2) RW - KSU/KFS Riparian Forest Buffer Restoration		170,362.34	0.00	0.0%	170,362.34	170,362.34	0.00
	(3) RW CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		838.20	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	838.20
	RW - TOTAL	1260	171,500.54	150.00	0.1%	170,362.34	170,362.34	988.20
	h. Lake Restoration-Water Supply Program	1275	286,868.00	0.00	0.0%	286,868.00	286,868.00	0.00
	TOTAL - STATE WATER PLAN FUND		\$8,818,710.29	\$5,872,434.57	66.6%	\$2,025,328.67	\$2,025,328.67	\$920,947.05

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2014 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2013 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014

FEE FUND PROGRAMS	Budget Unit	Fee Deposit Accounts	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		Cash Flow
					Committed/	Encumbered-Contingent	
					Encumbered-Contingent		
1. AG Lime Program - 2118	1200	30,163.52	717.62	2.4%	0.00	0.00	29,445.90
2. KDWP - Conservation Technicians - 2517	2510	75,000.18	75,000.18	100.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. KDHE - Conservation Technicians - 2517	2515	50,000.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
4. LAND RECLAMATION FEE FUND - 2542	2090	234,782.35	154,835.33	65.9%	0.00	0.00	79,947.02
5. KDHE/EPA - FEDERAL FUNDS - 3889						REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST	
a. KDHE/NPS Conservation Tech	3880	40,196.48	40,196.48	100.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL KDHE-TA - 3880		40,196.48	40,196.48	0.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
b. KDHE/Buffer Indirect Funds	3705	43,530.05	26,397.00	60.6%	0.00	0.00	17,133.05
c. KDHE/NPS Indirect Funds	3705	4,500.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	4,500.00
TOTAL KDHE-INDIRECT FUNDS - 3705		48,030.05	26,397.00	55.0%	0.00	0.00	21,633.05
TOTAL- FEDERAL FUNDS - 3915		88,226.53	66,593.48	75.5%	0.00	0.00	21,633.05
6. NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS - 3715						REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST	
a. NRCS/NPS Conservation Tech	3825	207,997.59	184,126.06	88.5%	0.00	0.00	23,871.53
TOTAL NRCS-TA/ENGINEERING - 3825		207,997.59	184,126.06	88.5%	0.00	0.00	23,871.53
b. NRCS/WQ Indirect Funds	3800	53,739.71	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	53,739.71
TOTAL NRCS-INDIRECT FUNDS - 3800		53,739.71	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	53,739.71
TOTAL- NRCS FUNDS - 3917		261,737.30	184,126.06	70.3%	0.00	0.00	77,611.24
7. WR_WSD DROUGHT PROGRAM - 7305	7000	90,000.00	90,000.00	100.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Deposits	Total Expenditures	Funds Expended	Total Encumbered	Cash Flow Balance	
FEE FUNDS GRAND TOTAL		\$779,909.88	\$571,272.67	73.2%	\$0.00	\$258,637.21	
1. *HOSPITALITY FUND - 1000	0054	317.61	317.61	100.0%	0.00	0.00	0.00

*Paid under KDA Budget

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION: REHABILITATION

FY 2015

	Watershed District	Site	Hazard Size	S/F/P		Cost-Share Requested	Cost-Share Approved	Cumul
1	Rock Creek WJD 28 (Sup)	21	L	F		\$9,398.00	\$9,398.00	\$9,398.00
2	Rock Creek WJD 28 (Sup)	12	L	F		\$8,524.00	\$8,524.00	\$17,922.00
3	Rock Creek WJD 84	208	S	S		\$49,120.00	\$49,120.00	\$67,042.00
4	Pawnee WJD 81	2-18A	S	P		\$74,083.00	\$74,083.00	\$141,125.00
5	Delaware WJD 10	C-111	L	S		\$34,400.00	\$34,400.00	\$175,525.00
6	Pony Creek WJD 78	122	L	S		\$62,112.00	\$62,112.00	\$237,637.00
7	Long-Scott WD 93	5-29	L	P		\$61,672.00	\$61,672.00	\$299,309.00
8	Snipe Creek WD 69	SC-1	S	F		\$22,720.00	\$22,720.00	\$322,029.00
9	Delaware WJD 10	C-115	L	S		\$34,400.00	\$34,400.00	\$356,429.00
10	Snipe Creek WD 69	SC-2	L	F		\$15,180.00	\$15,180.00	\$371,609.00
11	Wet Walnut WJD 58	136	L	P		\$52,904.00	\$52,904.00	\$424,513.00
12	Wet Walnut WJD 58	137	L	P		\$43,907.00	\$43,907.00	\$468,420.00
13	Pawnee WJD 81 (*)	5-17	H	P		\$120,000.00	\$15,799.54	\$484,219.54
1	Pawnee WJD 81	5-17	H	P		\$104,200.46		
2	Switzler Creek WD 63	3	L/H	F		\$120,000.00		
3	Delaware WJD 10	A-1	L	S		\$56,486.40		
4	Rock Creek WD 45	75A	L	S		\$35,850.00		
5	Rock Creek WJD 28	20	L	F		\$24,500.00		
6	Long-Scott WD 93	1-33	L	P		\$112,911.00		
7	Snipe Creek WD 69	SA-4	L	F		\$20,584.00		
Total						\$958,751.40	\$484,219.54	

(*) Partially Funded

Funds Available: \$6,810.54 + \$477,409.00 = \$484,219.54

1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 564-6700



900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-3556

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

Governor Sam Brownback

State Conservation Commission Meeting

July 28, 2014

702 2nd Street

Clay Center, Kansas

Staff recommendations for reallocation of FY 2014 carry-forward funds:

Water Resources – \$369,927 - Reallocate to all 105 conservation district's based upon the DNA formula.

NonPoint Source - \$369,587 – Reserve \$40,000 for LWM projects, \$63,745 for oracle database processor, and \$8,985.46 for an engineering SS project in Chase County. Reallocate \$256,856 to all 105 conservation districts' based upon the NPS formula.

Reallocation will be distributed in mid-August.

Water Resources FY 2015 August Reallocation

County	FY 2015 DNA August Reallocation	County	FY 2015 DNA August Reallocation
Allen	\$2,947	Linn	\$2,947
Anderson	\$2,947	Logan	\$3,781
Atchison	\$3,225	Lyon	\$3,364
Barber	\$4,059	Marion	\$3,503
Barton	\$3,642	Marshall	\$3,642
Bourbon	\$2,947	McPherson	\$3,642
Brown	\$3,364	Meade	\$3,920
Butler	\$3,642	Miami	\$3,225
Chase	\$3,225	Mitchell	\$3,503
Chautauqua	\$3,086	Montgomery	\$2,947
Cherokee	\$2,808	Morris	\$3,364
Cheyenne	\$3,920	Morton	\$3,503
Clark	\$4,059	Nemaha	\$3,642
Clay	\$3,642	Neosho	\$2,947
Cloud	\$3,503	Ness	\$4,059
Coffey	\$3,225	Norton	\$3,781
Comanche	\$3,920	Osage	\$3,225
Cowley	\$3,642	Osborne	\$3,920
Crawford	\$2,947	Ottawa	\$3,642
Decatur	\$3,781	Pawnee	\$3,781
Dickinson	\$3,642	Phillips	\$3,920
Doniphan	\$3,364	Pottawatomie	\$3,642
Douglas	\$3,225	Pratt	\$3,364
Edwards	\$3,364	Rawlins	\$3,920
Elk	\$3,086	Reno	\$3,642
Ellis	\$3,920	Republic	\$3,364
Ellsworth	\$3,642	Rice	\$3,364
Finney	\$4,198	Riley	\$3,225
Ford	\$3,920	Rooks	\$3,781
Franklin	\$3,225	Rush	\$3,781
Geary	\$3,086	Russell	\$3,642
Gove	\$3,920	Saline	\$3,642
Graham	\$3,781	Scott	\$3,642
Grant	\$3,503	Sedgwick	\$3,642
Gray	\$3,642	Seward	\$3,503
Greeley	\$3,642	Shawnee	\$3,086
Greenwood	\$3,364	Sheridan	\$3,781
Hamilton	\$3,781	Sherman	\$3,920
Harper	\$3,781	Smith	\$3,781
Harvey	\$3,086	Stafford	\$3,364
Haskell	\$3,781	Stanton	\$3,642
Hodgeman	\$3,642	Stevens	\$3,642
Jackson	\$3,364	Sumner	\$3,920
Jefferson	\$3,225	Thomas	\$3,920
Jewell	\$3,781	Trego	\$3,781
Johnson	\$3,086	Wabausee	\$3,364
Kearny	\$3,642	Wallace	\$3,781
Kingman	\$3,781	Washington	\$3,642
Kiowa	\$3,503	Wichita	\$3,781
Labette	\$2,947	Wilson	\$3,086
Lane	\$3,642	Woodson	\$2,947
Leavenworth	\$3,225	Wyandotte	\$3,113
Lincoln	\$3,642	Total	\$369,927

NPS FY 2015 August Reallocation

County	FY 2015 NPS August Reallocation	County	FY 2015 NPS August Reallocation
Allen	\$2,382	Linn	\$2,565
Anderson	\$2,382	Logan	\$1,833
Atchison	\$2,931	Lyon	\$3,297
Barber	\$2,443	Marion	\$2,931
Barton	\$2,443	Marshall	\$2,687
Bourbon	\$2,382	McPherson	\$2,443
Brown	\$2,748	Meade	\$1,833
Butler	\$2,931	Miami	\$2,565
Chase	\$3,297	Mitchell	\$2,321
Chautauqua	\$2,565	Montgomery	\$2,931
Cherokee	\$2,931	Morris	\$2,931
Cheyenne	\$1,650	Morton	\$1,772
Clark	\$2,321	Nemaha	\$3,114
Clay	\$2,565	Neosho	\$2,565
Cloud	\$2,687	Ness	\$2,077
Coffey	\$2,931	Norton	\$2,443
Comanche	\$2,443	Osage	\$3,114
Cowley	\$2,931	Osborne	\$2,565
Crawford	\$2,565	Ottawa	\$2,443
Decatur	\$1,894	Pawnee	\$2,443
Dickinson	\$2,931	Phillips	\$2,443
Doniphan	\$2,565	Pottawatomie	\$3,114
Douglas	\$2,748	Pratt	\$2,565
Edwards	\$2,199	Rawlins	\$1,650
Elk	\$3,114	Reno	\$2,931
Ellis	\$2,443	Republic	\$2,565
Ellsworth	\$2,565	Rice	\$2,321
Finney	\$1,833	Riley	\$3,114
Ford	\$2,199	Rooks	\$2,199
Franklin	\$2,931	Rush	\$2,199
Geary	\$2,748	Russell	\$2,443
Gove	\$1,833	Saline	\$2,565
Graham	\$2,321	Scott	\$1,772
Grant	\$1,772	Sedgwick	\$2,687
Gray	\$1,833	Seward	\$1,894
Greeley	\$1,711	Shawnee	\$3,114
Greenwood	\$3,114	Sheridan	\$1,894
Hamilton	\$1,711	Sherman	\$1,772
Harper	\$2,565	Smith	\$2,565
Harvey	\$2,565	Stafford	\$2,565
Haskell	\$1,711	Stanton	\$1,650
Hodgeman	\$2,077	Stevens	\$1,772
Jackson	\$3,114	Sumner	\$2,443
Jefferson	\$3,114	Thomas	\$1,894
Jewell	\$2,687	Trego	\$2,443
Johnson	\$2,565	Wabausee	\$3,114
Kearny	\$1,772	Wallace	\$1,833
Kingman	\$2,687	Washington	\$2,565
Kiowa	\$2,443	Wichita	\$1,772
Labette	\$2,565	Wilson	\$2,565
Lane	\$1,711	Woodson	\$2,382
Leavenworth	\$2,931	Wyandotte	\$2,357
Lincoln	\$2,321	Total	\$256,856



United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the
KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT
and the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
CLAY CENTER, KANSAS
July 28, 2014

PERSONNEL

- New Hires:** Andrew J. Klein, Soil Conservation Technician, Westmoreland
 Tracey J. Weston, Office Assistant, Manhattan Area Office (from Rural Development)
- Conversions:** Rickey L. Jackson, Student Trainee, to Soil Conservationist, Lincoln
 Lisa C. Montgomery, Student Trainee, to Soil Conservationist, Burlington
 Adria E. Smith, Student Trainee, to Soil Conservationist, Wellington
- Details:** Gaye L. Benfer, Assistant State Conservationist for Operations, Salina State Office, will also serve as Acting State Conservationist for Water Resources
 Paul T. Larson, Civil Engineer, Salina State Office, to Acting State Conservation Engineer, Salina State Office
- Reassignments and/or Promotions:** Matthew G. Elliott, District Conservationist, South Hutchinson to District Conservationist, Stillwater, Oklahoma
 Marie S. Faatuala, Soil Conservationist, Wellington, to Soil Conservationist, Hays
 Kyle L. Franz, Soil Conservationist, Burlington, Colorado, to District Conservationist, Goodland
 Charley G. Hunter, Soil Conservationist, Effingham, to Soil Conservationist, El Dorado
 Jamie E. Johnson, Soil Conservationist, Holton, to District Conservationist, Holton
 Marvin A. Lewis, Soil Conservationist, Paola, to Soil Conservationist, Ness City
 Josue D. Gandia-Rivera, Soil Conservationist, McPherson, to Soil Conservationist, Lyons
 Zachary G. Roth, Soil Conservation Technician, Phillipsburg, to Soil Conservation Technician, Hays
 Bradley G. Schreck, Agricultural Engineer, Hutchinson Area Office, to Agricultural Engineer, St. Joseph, Missouri

Bradley D. Shank, Supervisory District Conservationist, Hays, to
Supervisory District Conservationist, Jetmore
Dane M. Varney, Rangeland Management Specialist, Howard, to
Rangeland Management Specialist, Iola
Kevin A. Vaughn, Soil Conservationist, Burlington, to Soil
Conservationist, Effingham

Retirements: Kayla D. Ascher, Human Resources Specialist, Salina State Office
Timothy B. Gogolski, Supervisory District Conservationist, Lyndon
Jeffrey L. Gross, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources,
Salina State Office
Greg H. Henderson, District Conservationist, Kinsley
Donald D. Newell, Soil Conservation Technician, WaKeeney
Michael W. Waite, District Conservations, Mankato

OPERATIONS

The Administrative Transformation process is still moving forward. Kansas currently has five administrative employees on detail to national teams. Due to details, transfers, and retirements, the Kansas administrative staff has been reduced by 60 percent from just a couple of years ago.

The Kansas Operational Structure Team (KOST) is continuing to work on a streamlining proposal for Kansas. They plan to offer several wide-ranging options for state conservationist's consideration.

The scheduled dates for the annual supervisory district conservationists' meeting is October 28-30, 2014.

PROGRAMS

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)

- Kansas was allocated \$2,973,000 for CStP for the 2014-1 signup.
- Kansas had 112 preapproved applications as of July 9, 2014, for a total of \$2.14 million—20 have been approved for a total of \$507,935.

- CStP contract renewal news release issued for participants with a 2010-1 and 2010-2 contract. Participants will receive letters by July 18 stating they may be eligible to renew their contract with NRCS.
- CStP deadline for contract obligations is August 8, 2014.

Easement Programs

- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program—Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)**
 - New program guidance provided to states.
 - Three eligible entities submitted one parcel each for funding consideration for FY2014 under the ACEP-ALE Grasslands of Special Environmental Significance (GSS) totaling 3,896 acres.
 - Twenty-five ACEP-WRE applications received so far this year on 2,006 acres. Of those, 17 ACEP-WRE applications and the 3 ACEP-ALE-GSS applications will be submitted to National Headquarters for funding consideration.
 - Notification of approved applications should be by the end of July.
- **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**

Assistance and reviews are being provided to Cooperating Entities as they work on various steps toward closing on conservation easements. There are 24 parcels still to close on through the FRPP.
- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**
 - All WRP enrollments in Kansas are closed and recorded at the appropriate county courthouse.
 - Workload is now focused on 24 projects that need restoration/construction work completed

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- A total of 676 applications (including initiatives) have been selected for funding for approximately \$16.6 million, covering over 121,000 acres.
- **EQIP—Initiatives**
 - Organic
 - 2 total applications.
 - 1 eligible application was funded for a total of \$31,315.
 - On-Farm Energy
 - 10 total applications.
 - 7 eligible applications were selected for funding totaling \$18,083.
 - Seasonal High Tunnel
 - 42 total applications.
 - 33 eligible applications were selected for funding for a total of \$224,834.
 - Ogallala Aquifer.
 - 43 total applications
 - All eligible High and Medium Priority applications have been selected for funding (Low Priority do not get funded in OAI).
 - 17 contracts selected for \$1,954,363.

- o Lesser Prairie Chicken
 - 13 total applications
 - 7 eligible applications were selected for funding for a total of \$375,519.
- o National Water Quality
 - Grasshopper Creek–Brown County
 - ◆ All 9 applications were eligible and selected for funding for a total of \$285,841.
 - Emma Creek–McPherson and Harvey counties
 - ◆ 8 total applications.
 - ◆ 1 eligible application was selected for funding totaling \$19,972.
 - Big Creek–Ellis County
 - ◆ 13 total applications.
 - ◆ 10 eligible applications were selected for funding for a total of \$142,250.
- o Edge of Field Water Quality Monitoring
 - The National Water Quality Initiative watershed Grasshopper Creek in Brown County was selected by the NRCS national office
 - The application cut-off date is set for July 18, 2014
 - NRCS national office will make selection from eligible applications nationwide
- o Drought Recovery Funds
 - Kansas received \$300,000 in FY2014.
 - Producers with Eligible Grazing Lands Health EQIP General applications were provided the opportunity to move their application to the Drought Recovery fund code.
 - Cutoff date was June 30, 2014, and extended to July 11, 2014, due to funds remaining available.
 - Drought Recovery funds are limited to counties with a drought condition of D4–Exceptional or D3–Extreme per the U.S. Drought Monitor dated May 27, 2014.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities

- Kansas NRCS received \$1,501,000 for FY2014. Funds have been authorized for technical assistance associated with prior year watershed rehabilitation activities and 5 new rehabilitation planning projects.
- The Spring Creek Watershed District in Sedgwick County continues forward with rehabilitation of their R-1 Dam near Garden Plain, Kansas. Construction is now targeted to begin this summer and be completed during 2014.
- 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 operation and maintenance (O&M) Agreements. To date, 46 EAPs have been developed.
- Watershed districts and local NRCS field offices continue working together to conduct annual inspections on all NRCS-assisted flood-control structures. To date 174 of 751 dam inspections have been completed and submitted to the Salina State Office during calendar year 2014.

TECHNOLOGY

Planning and design guidance on ponds has been added to Chapter 11 in National Engineering Handbook Part 650, *Engineering Field Handbook*.

Soil Health

- NRCS provided training for its Soil Health Team by inviting microbiologist, Wendy Tahari on the benefits of arbuscular mycorrhizae and from Dr. Meagan Schipanski, Agro Ecology Researcher and Associate Professor, Colorado State University, on ecosystem services regarding soil health.
- NRCS participated in a soil and water conservation district training at the Gail Fuller farm for employees on the benefits of soil health and how to provide soil health information to producers.
- NRCS is partnering with Kansas State University western extension researchers on completing research trials that will benefit the producers, regarding soil health, in the semi-arid west.
- NRCS presented Conservation Planning Part 2 Training. Participants included NRCS, conservation districts, Kansas Forest Service (KFS), and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT).
- Several soil health studies are ongoing at the Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC). Studies are evaluating cowpeas as a species for soil improvement, a rooting depth study of four species of radishes, a cover crop broadcasting study, and a sixteen-specie evaluation of summer cover crops.
- A PMC tour is planned for early August. Tour will feature soil health studies along with plantings associated with pollinators.

Lesser Prairie Chicken

- NRCS has been working hard with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and KDWPT to educate employees and the public about the “Threatened” lesser prairie chicken (LPC). The Resource Conservation Staff attended Area 1 and 2 District Conservationist Meetings in May to present guidance regarding the FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) LPC Biological Opinion (BO) and NRCS LPC Conference Opinion. The Kansas NRCS Resource Conservation Staff also participated with FSA State Office and USFWS at a May 21 meeting to present the FSA CRP LPC BO to NRCS and FSA USDA Service Center staff.
- There are good options available from NRCS, FSA, KDWPT, and the 4(d) for ranchers and farmers to carry out grazing land, cropland, and CRP activities with certainty they are not violating the Endangered Species Act.
- Dean and Andy will be attending an NRCS meeting in Amarillo about NRCS LPC operations across the 5-state region. The meeting is being held to provide education on how activities occurring in each state are progressing and to provide some uniformity of how conservation is being delivered in LPC range.

Division of Conservation (DOC) Streambank Agreements

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

Architect and Engineer (A&E) Contracts

Construction of the assigned streambank protection projects is wrapping up. Three more projects have been completed. The last project is finishing construction and will be completed soon.

OUTREACH

State and area NRCS staffs are assisting with the Kansas Heartland Envirothon taking place at Rock Springs Ranch on July 24.

The Playa Country radio series on soil health with an emphasis on cover crops series with Playa Lakes Joint Venture just wrapped up. NRCS' Chad Remley and Candy Thomas were interviewed. This series will be aired the month of July on farm and public radio stations throughout the region.

News Releases

- First Participants in Conservation Stewardship Program Can Renew for Five More Years
- Plant Materials Center to Host 40th Annual North American Butterfly Association Grant
- Kansas NRCS Provides Assistance to Producers in Drought Areas
- NRCS Announces Funding for Water Quality Program
- NRCS Announces Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Water Supply Restoration Program:**1. The WS CO RWD No.1, an FY 2009 Project (\$882,069): Alternative/New Public Water Supply System Project.**

[SO far we made payments that amounted to \$199,993 (23%)]

- The District has drilled in excess of 60 test holes and wells.
- Fortunately, it appears that these efforts have finally paid off as two well sites have been located.
- Modest production (40-45 gpm)
- Initial water quality testing indicates compliance with public water supply standards.
- These proposed wells will be located immediately along the north side of the US 36 highway R/W so access to the site is excellent.
- The overall improvements needed to construct the 2 proposed wells and tie them into the District's distribution system include the 2 new wells, a chlorination facility with telemetry controls, and approximately 6 miles of new 4 inch main to tie into the existing distribution system.
- The District has prepared an option to purchase the properties.

Path Forward:

- Water Rights (Groundwater Associates of Wichita – August 2014)
- Water Quality (KDHE: October 2014)
- Engineering Design: This process will formally begin following the approval of the DWR water appropriations and the final water quality testing. Final plans and specifications will be submitted to KDHE for review and approval. (January 2015).
- Bid Project and Complete Construction- (April-October 2015)

2. Osage City Reservoir Restoration, FY 2013, 2014 and 2015 (\$1,130,000)

A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next Thursday, July 31, 2014.

**Conservation District Documents
Not Received by the DOC as of 7/25/14**

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Reports & Unpaid Bills Reports:

Allen – April 2014

Greeley – February 2014

Kearny – March 2014

Meade County – February 2014, April 2014

Mitchell County – December 2013, April 2014

Reno County – January 2014

Scott County – February 2014

Sedgwick – March 2014

*Stafford County – January 2014, February 2014, March 2014, April 2014

Wyandotte – April 2014

2012 Audit & Notification of CD Audit Review Form (Due 1/1/2014)

Greenwood County

Harper County

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes (due 10 days after meeting)

Barber County

Comanche County

Harper County

Harvey County

Haskell County

Johnson County

Mitchell County

Riley County

Scott County

*Stafford County

2013 Annual Report (due March 1, 2014)

Finney County

Haskell County

Meade County

Mitchell County

Morton County

Scott County

*New District Manager - will compile the list of documents needed when training is provided.

KDA / DOC: Water Conservation Programs – July 28, 2014

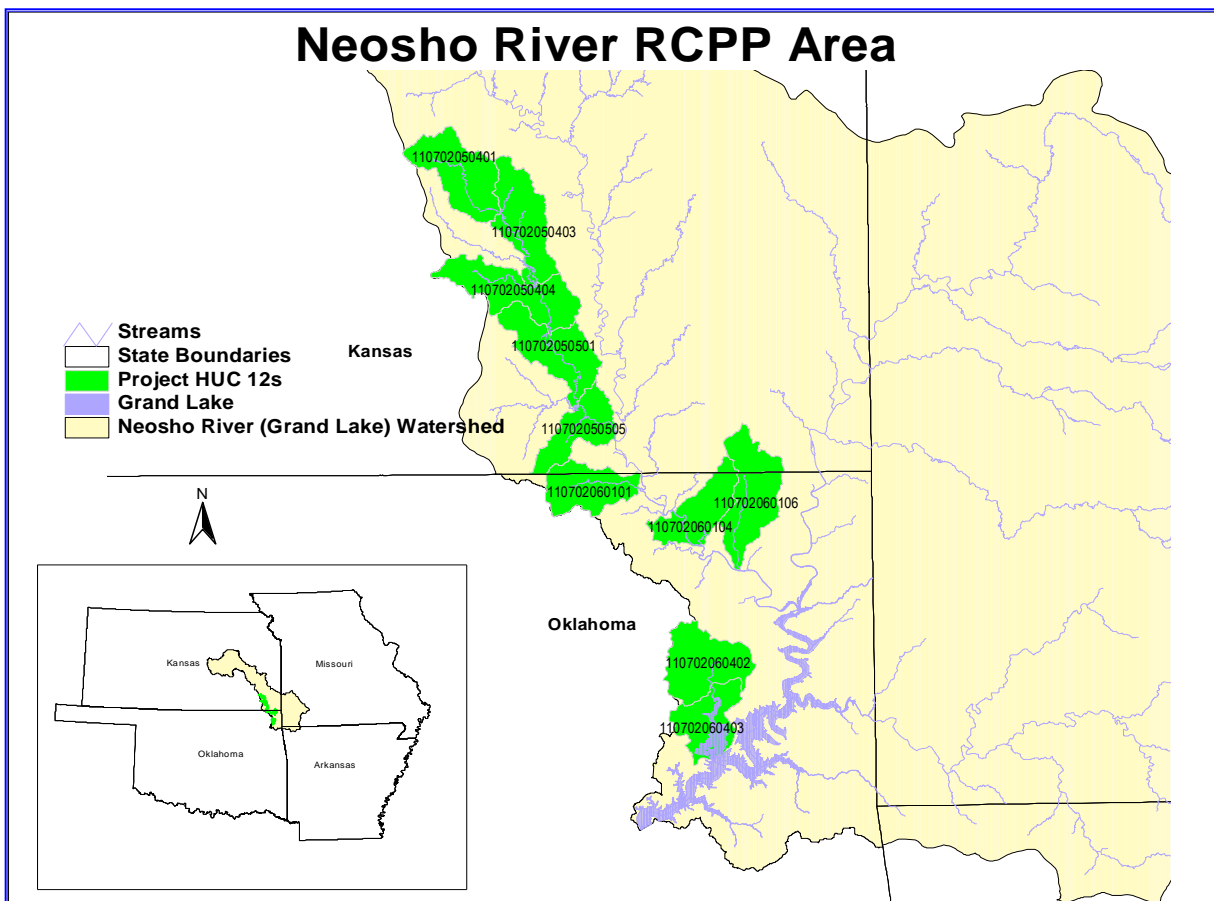
DOC has recently been involved in developing several proposals for consideration under NRCS's new Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCCP). RCCP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements: \$400 Million available - \$20 Million per project – in national, state, or critical conservation areas.

RCCP combines the authorities of four former conservation programs – the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program, the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative and the Great Lakes Basin Program. Assistance is delivered through NRCS practices in accordance with the rules of EQIP, CSP, ACEP and HFRP. At the present time, DOC is a direct applicant in three applications (and a partner in three others):

#1 - Middle and Lower Neosho River Basin Regional Conservation Partnership Program Project

Partners will work with landowners to install crop and grass practices to improve nutrient, sediment and bacteria related water quality impairments. Each state will work cooperatively to monitor effects of installed practices on instream impairments. This project is proposed under the "National" category pool.

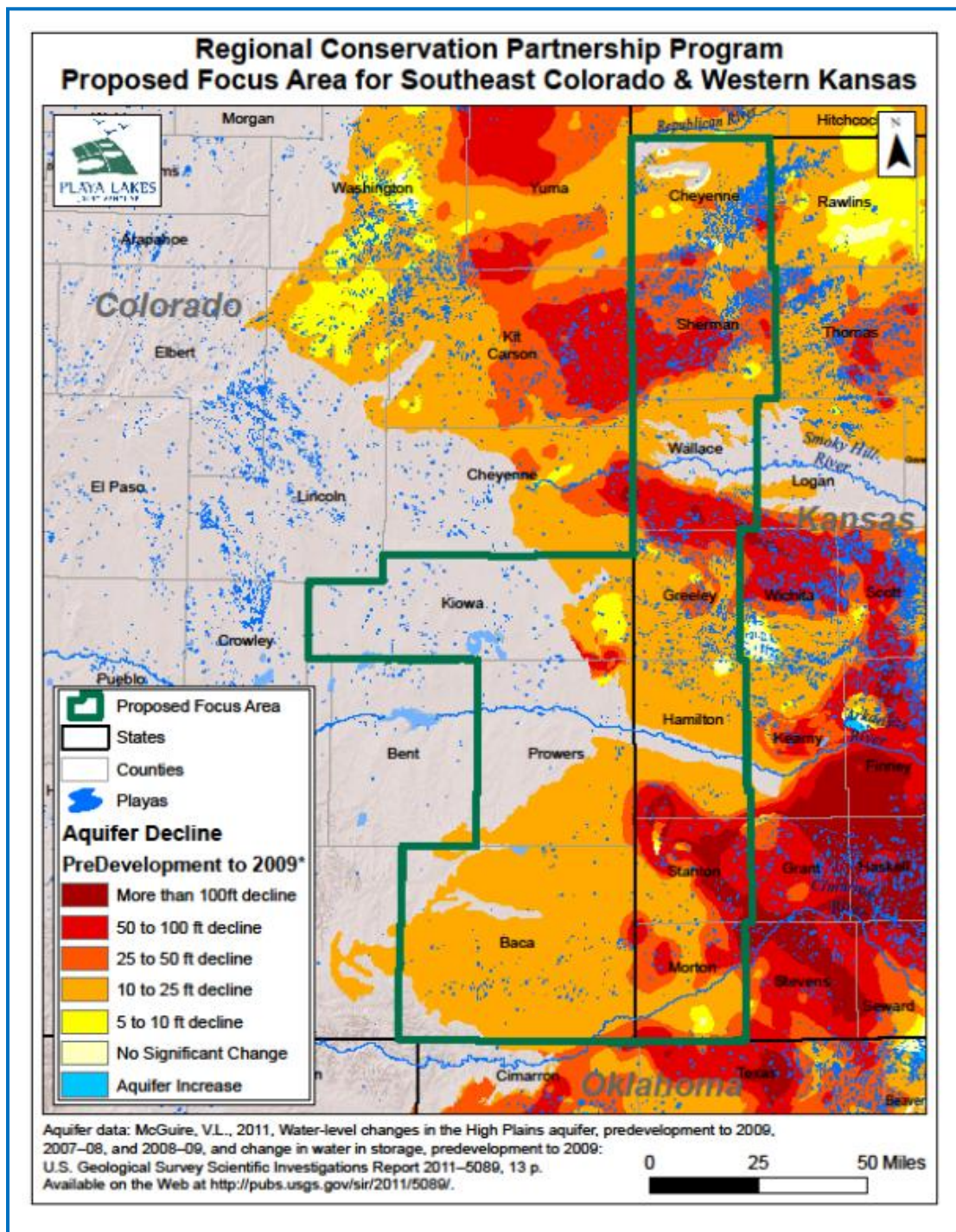
- **Kansas - \$950,000**
- **Oklahoma - \$2,675,000**
- **NRCS - \$3,850,000**
- **Total - \$7,475,000 (Financial & Technical Assistance)**



#2 - Colorado / Kansas Border Regional Conservation Partnership Program: Water & Wildlife

This interstate partnership effort is intended to address the inefficient use of irrigation water and wetland / playa habitat degradation which are both connected to water quality deterioration. The project will utilize a myriad of EQIP and CSP practices for wetland restoration and habitat management, crop rotation and conversion to dryland, irrigation technological innovation, and nutrient management. The project is proposed under the “Critical Conservation Area” category pool (Prairie Grasslands Region).

- **Kansas:** \$1 Million
- **Colorado:** \$1 Million
- **NRCS:** \$20 Million
- **Total -** \$22 Million (Financial & Technical Assistance)



#3 - "Conserve & Extend" Critical Area Irrigation Transition Regional Conservation Partnership Project

Working together, NRCS and KDA will partner with other state and local collaborators to assist irrigators with 1) reducing irrigation water use; or 2) or undergoing a complete economic / agronomic transition to dryland in WTAP, LEMA and CREP areas. The project is proposed under the "State" category pool. EQIP and CSP practices to be utilized:

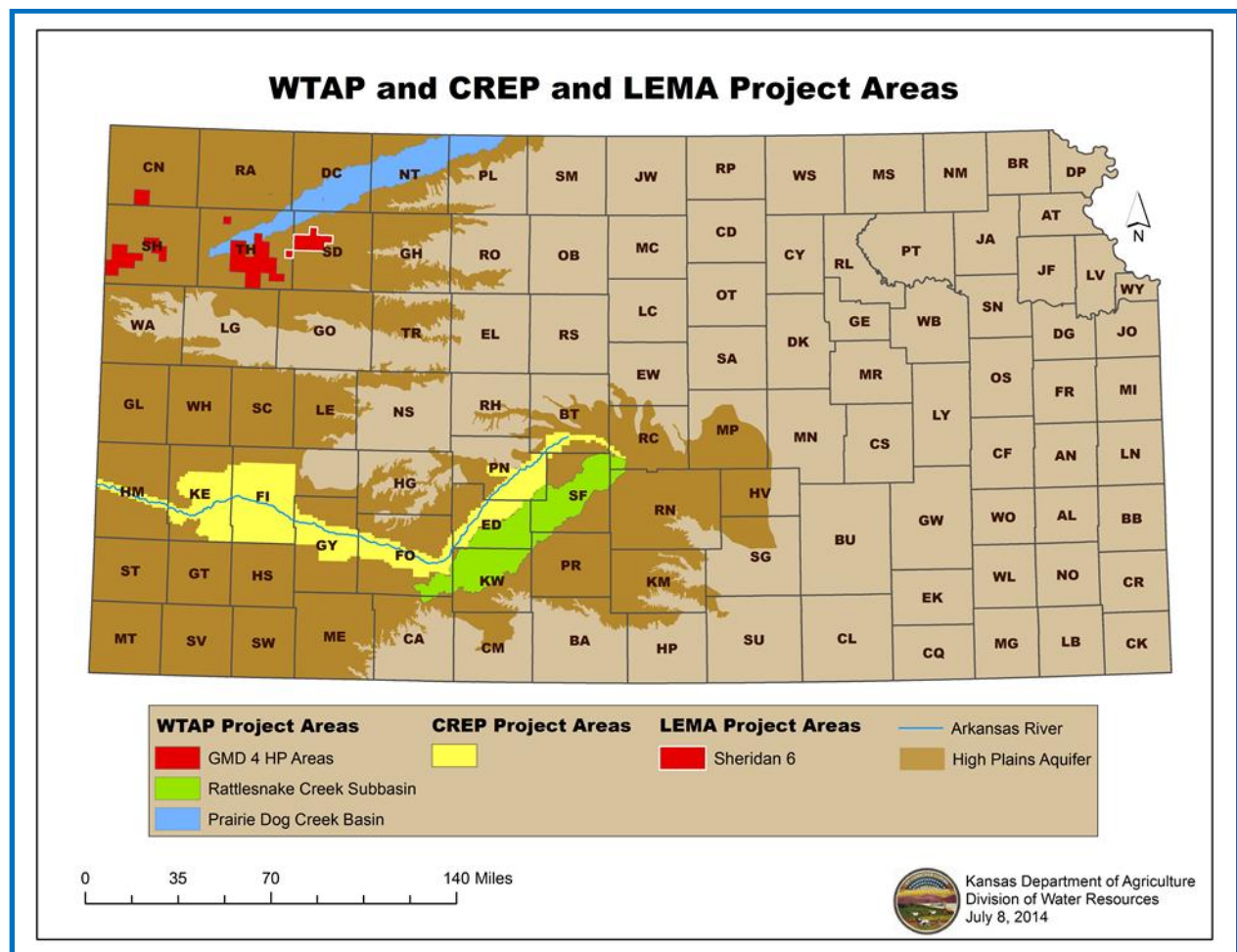
EQIP 328 - Conservation Crop Rotation (Conversion from Irrigated to Dry cropland) with payment scenarios for less water used than a last 5 year average

CSP WQT05 – Water Quantity Enhancement Activity (Remote Monitoring and Notification of Irrigation Pumping Plant Operations)

CSP WQT08 - Water Quantity Enhancement Activity (Decrease Irrigation Quantity or Conversion to Non-irrigated Crop Production)

EQIP 528 - Prescribed Grazing (Conversion from Irrigated Cropland to Grazed Range or Pasture) with payment scenarios for soils unsuitable for dryland farming

- **Kansas:** \$1 Million
- **NRCS:** \$10 Million
- **Total:** \$ 11 Million (Financial & Technical Assistance)



RCPP pre-proposals were due on July 14, 2014. If selected by NRCS for further development, a full application will be due for each RCPP project by September 26, 2014. Other RCPP pre-proposals in Kansas which include DOC as a collaborating partner have been submitted by Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS), Kansas Forest Service, and Southwest Kansas Groundwater Management District # 3.