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Kansas
Department of Agriculture

900 SW Jackson, Room 456
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-3556

Mike Beam, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. The State Conservation Commission meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner, at 9:06 a.m., Monday, July 29, 2019, via teleconference.

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:

Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality Agronomy Department, Kansas State University
Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension
Gaye Benfer, Assistant State Conservationist for Management & Strategy, Natural Resources Conservation Service in place of Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Rob Reschke, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the May 13, 2019, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Legislative/Kansas Water Authority update
- Rob Reschke displayed the following web page on Zoom Meeting to show the SCC changes in the Kansas Water Authority: HTTPS://KWO.KS.GOV/ABOUT-THE-KWO/KANSAS-WATER-AUTHORITY

b. RAC meeting attendance update
- Rob Reschke informed the SCC that he and other DOC staff had attended all of the most recent RAC meetings so that potential budget questions could be answered.

c. Budget Update (**See Attachment A)**

d. Discuss September 11, 2019, SCC/KACD Joint Meeting in McPherson
- Brad Shogren indicated that he had some potential meeting sites in mind and that he would be in contact with the DOC about the meeting agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Water Resources and Non-Point Source Carryover Reallocation Update
- Dave Jones presented the WR and NPS Carryforward Funds Plan. (**See Attachment B)**

A motion was made by John Wunder to recommend the approval of the Water Resources and Non-Point Source Carryover Reallocation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried (4-1, Commissioner Shogren opposed).

b. Policy Discussion: Out-of-State Cost-Share Policy Addition to DOC Programs Manual
- Dave Jones shared the current DOC Out-of-County Cost-Share Policy and a DRAFT of the proposed Out-of-State Cost-Share Policy. (**See Attachment C)**

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to recommend the approval of the Out-of-State Cost-Share Policy Addition to the DOC Programs Manual as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

c. Sustainable Phosphorus Management with Enhanced Soil Health Grant Partnership Update
- Peter Tomlinson provided an update on the Sustainable Phosphorus Management with Enhanced Soil Health Grant proposal. The DOC is a potential partner in this grant if it is approved. (**See Attachment D)**

7. UPDATES:

a. Ex-Officio and Appointed Member Updates:
- Gaye Benfer (USDA, NRCS): Kansas NRCS is finishing up the current fiscal year. Cell phones have been purchased for NRCS and partnership technicians. Kansas NRCS is currently advertising some positions. (**See Attachment E)**

- Peter Tomlinson (KSU Research & Extension): Currently wrapping up the current funding on the watershed research project. Mickey Ransom is the interim department head. Still trying to fill regional agronomist positions.
- Dan Devlin (KSU, KCARE): Ernie Minton has been named the new Dean of the College of Agriculture. Currently experiencing a 4.3% budget cut.

b. Elected Commissioner Area Updates:

- Ted Nighswonger (Area 1): It has been very dry. DOC audits have discovered cost share overpayments in Area 1. Discussed the out-of-state cost-share issue on the phone with DOC staff.
- Andy Larson (Area II): The river has been dry for over a month; had 2-3 inches of rain last week but it was very spotty.
- Brad Shogren (Area III): Things have been very busy. The gates at Kanopolis will be shut down on August 1. Streambank site evaluations will be conducted this week.
- John Wunder (Area IV): Attended the Kansas RAC meeting in Holton. Will be meeting with the Jefferson County Commissioners this afternoon. There is a good relationship between the conservation district and the county commission. Jefferson County CD is participating in a soil health meeting with Atchison county. The district is also talking with extension about participating in their tailgate talks.
- Rod Vorhees (Area V): There is currently bank full releases coming from the reservoirs. Quite a bit of sheet and gully erosion from the rains this spring. Fall area workshops are coming up in August.

8. ADJOURN:

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

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2019, at the **Cottonwood Court Building, Kansas State Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, Kansas**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Rob Reschke
Executive Director

State Water Plan Fund Transfer Request (SGF/EDIF)

FY2021 Agency Funding Requests

RAC Recommendations	
=	Agrees with Funding Level
+	Recommends Additional Funding
*	Comment Provided

Kansas Water Office

Funding Agency	*Description*	*FY2020 Approved*	*FY2021 Request*	*RAC Input*	*Explanation and Justification*
KWO	Assessment & Evaluation	$ 700,000	$ 700,000	CIM*	Provide the Water Planning and Vision process with the background information necessary to make decisions and improve implementation of projects. KWO contracts consultants, universities/research entities for a variety of data collection and studies.
KWO	MOU - Storage Operation & Maint.	$ 410,000	$ 480,100		Operation and Maintenance costs associated with reservoir water storage paid to the Corps of Engineers for water supply for storage not yet dedicated to a water marketing customer or water assurance district.
KWO	Watershed Conservation Practice	$ 700,000	$ 1,800,000	EQW* KS= NEO= VER=	To protect water supply storage and improve water quality in reservoirs across Kansas that provides water to municipal and industrial customers through implementation of watershed conservation practices within Vision priority watersheds.
KWO	Water Injection Dredging (WID)		$ 1,500,000	EQW= KS= NEO= VER=	WID injects water in the bottom of the reservoir, creating hereby density currents which are capable of transporting large amounts of sediment. The sediments are sluiced out of the reservoir.
KWO	Future Use Storage Purchase		$ 2,358,300	KS*	Call into service storage not needed for water quality purposes in Milford & Perry Reservoirs. This is currently shown as an unfunded liability with a end of contract balloon payments in 2034 and 2041, respectively.
KWO	Milford Lake Watershed RCPP	$ 200,000	$ 200,000	SR=	Nutrient runoff within the Milford Lake watershed in Kansas is a source of nutrient loading contributing to aquatic conditions which promote formation of harmful algal blooms (HABs) within Milford Lake. This RCPP project will look to implement conservation practices within the Milford Lake watershed to decrease nutrient runoff, thus decreasing the introduction of new nutrient loading contributing to the formation of HABs in Milford Lake.
KWO	Equus Beds Chloride Plume Project	$ 50,000	$ 100,000	EQW=	Chloride contamination within the Equus Beds Aquifer resulting from previous oil field production has resulted in areas of groundwater which is unsuitable for most uses. Remediation of areas of high chloride concentrations within the Equus Beds would help generate an additional water supply source as well as help protect and prolong the useable lifespan of groundwater wells around areas of chloride contamination.
KWO	Water Technology Farms	$ 75,000	$ 250,000	CIM* EQW= MO+ NEO= USH=	Continued development and enhancement of demonstration farms that allow the installation and testing of the latest irrigation technologies and soil moisture management, as well as the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practice implementation in reducing sediment and nutrient runoff on a whole field scale. Enhancement to include Water Quality Tech Farms.
KWO	Vision Education Strategy	$ 100,000	$ 250,000	CIM= NEO= SR=	Raise awareness of water issues within the state and increase the knowledge of those working within water-related careers. Partnering State Agencies: KDA, KDHE, KDWP&T, and KWO
KWO	Streamgaging	$ 423,130	$ 430,000	MO+ NEO= RH* VER=	Support the continuous monitoring of streamflow's on key streams and rivers in Kansas, to determine flood stages for various streams and to help forecast when and where streams will crest during floods.
KWO	Technical Assistance to Water Users	$ 325,000	$ 425,000		Per K.S.A 82a-2101, Not less than 15% of the Clean Drinking Water Fee shall be used for technical assistance to water users to aid such systems in conforming to responsible management practices and complying with regulations of the United States environmental protection agency and rules and regulations of the department of health and environment.
KWO	Reservoir & Water Quality Research	$ 350,000	$ 350,000		Continued coordination with KBS/KGS for support and implementation of reservoir-related data collection, analysis and research of sediment and HABs, research related to sediment-reducing practices such as streambank stabilization projects, as well as the continuation of the Kansas River Alluvial Index Well Network and the associated stream aquifer model. See Research Proposals.
	KWO SUBTOTAL	**$ 3,333,130**	**$ 8,843,400**		

Attachment A

State Water Plan Fund Transfer Request (SGF/EDIF)

FY2021 Agency Funding Requests

RAC Recommendations	
=	Agrees with Funding Level
+	Recommends Additional Funding
*	Comment Provided

KDHE - Environment

Funding Agency	*Description*	*FY2020 Approved*	*FY2021 Request*	*RAC Input*	*Explanation and Justification*
KDHE	Contamination Remediation	$ 1,088,301	$ 1,088,301	UR=	Evaluation, monitoring, and remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater sites when the responsible party is unknown or is unable to undertake the necessary action.
KDHE	Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAPS)	$ 730,884	$ 730,884	EQW* KS= MdC= MO+ NEO= VER=	WRAPS contributes to the Kansas NPS Management Plan through the implementation of a voluntary targeted watershed-based program funded by CWA 319 and State Water Plan Funds. This program is unique because it works to seek citizen and stakeholder input and participation on watershed management and protection issues.
KDHE	Drinking Water Protection	$ 350,000	$ 350,000	UR=	The program purpose is to insure all Kansas communities have a source of clean, healthy, affordable drinking water by planning and implementing strategies to prevent and mitigate contamination.
KDHE	Harmful Algae Bloom Pilot	$ 450,000	$ 450,000	SR=	Investigate and demonstrate in-lake treatment options such as ultrasound, superoxide or other chemical treatments in Reservoir. The objective is to assess the effectiveness of such treatment options at minimizing the impact of Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs).
KDHE	TMDL Initiatives	$ 278,029	$ 278,029	MdC=	Monitoring and assessment program to track trends and conditions in surface waters to achieve the objective of the Kansas Water Plan and maintain state primacy for administration of federal water quality programs. The section has primary responsibility for surface water chemical and biological monitoring and assessment, the 303(d) and TMDL programs, as well as the water quality standards program.
	KDHE SUBTOTAL	**$ 2,897,214**	**$ 2,897,214**		

State Water Plan Fund Transfer Request (SGF/EDIF)

FY2021 Agency Funding Requests

RAC Recommendations	
=	Agrees with Funding Level
+	Recommends Additional Funding
*	Comment Provided

Department of Agriculture

Funding Agency	*Description*	*FY2020 Approved*	*FY2021 Request*	*RAC Input*	*Explanation and Justification*
KDA	Subbasin Water Resources Mgmt	$ 608,949	$ 608,949		Provides enhanced water management by conducting hydrologic analyses at the subbasin level, developing decision support information and products, and performing enhanced water right protection through enforcement. The program funds 5.5 FTEs.
KDA	Interstate Water Issues	$ 490,007	$ 490,007	UR=	Provides state and consulting expertise to protect Kansas's interest in the Kansas-Colorado Arkansas River Compact and the Kansas-Colorado-Nebraska Republican River Comact. Staff and experts perform physical inspections across state lines and perform independent water accounting to ensure compliance. Staff and experts also review Colorado and Nebraska statutes, rules and regulations, and participate in water-related meetings throughout the basin to maintain good relationships and represent Kansas's interest. Funds 3 FTEs and an engineering consultant contract.
KDA	Water Quality Buffer Initiative	$ 200,000	$ 200,000	EQW* KS= MO+	Voluntary incentive program for landowners and operators who enroll in, or are eligible to enroll in the federal Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP). The Initiative provides state payments in addition to the CCRP annual payments for establishing either grass filter strips or riparian forest buffers in High Priority TMDL Watersheds.
KDA	Water Use Study	$ 72,600	$ 72,600		Kansas has the most thorough and accurate water use reporting system in the nation. Recently, funding from the Water Use Study Program helped develop an online water use reporting system to further improve the accuracy of our water use data and the efficiency reporting it. This year over 90% of mandatory reports were submitted through the online system increasing the accuracy of the data and making it available sooner. Funds a contract with the Kansas Geological Survey to maintain and enhance the online water use reporting system, and a contract with the United States Geological Survey to perform independent quality control on the water use data.
KDA - 1	Water Conservation Specialists *Subbasin Water Resources Mgmt*		$ 300,000	CIM= UR= USH=	Funding for three ($300,000) Water Conservation Specialists. Two working in Garden City. One working in Stockton. These positions specialize in WCAs and LEMAs. These positions promote, monitor and conduct the technical work of the management programs. These positions are currently implementing Vision goals and objectives of water management. The WCAs are a voluntary program.
KDA - 2	Water Structures Professional Engineer *Interstate Water Issues*		$ 100,000		Water Structures Engineer for activities which include independent review of complex engineering calculations and constriction documents for dams, channel changes, stream obstructions, floodplain fills and levees in order to process water structure permits. The work includes field inspections of construction and completed projects, safety inspections, resolution of conflicts and communication with landowners, contractors and other engineers. This position would ensure that succession in staff is appropriately and responsibly planned for.
KDA - 3	Water Resource Cost Share	$ 2,448,289	$ 2,948,289	EQW* KS= MdC= MO+ RH= SR= VER=	To increase implementation of voluntary best management conservation practices that reduce sediment, soil erosion, phosphorus and other specified pollutants above federal reservoirs and in high priority HUC 12 watersheds. Management practices such as the adoption of no-till, soil testing and prescribed grazing are offered along with structural practices to assist local conservation district boards and landowners accomplish water quality and quantity goals.
KDA - 4	Aid to Conservation Districts	$ 2,192,637	$ 2,492,637	EQW* KS= MdC= MO+ VER=	To maintain and enhance conservation district operations by addressing annual inflationary costs. This enhancement provides opportunities for matching by county governments as per K.S.A. 2-1907b.
KDA - 5	CREP	$ 299,745	$ 699,745	GBP+	Retire 6,186 ac-ft of water rights in Zone D with targeted enrollment of 4,124 irrigated acres in the Rattlesnake Creek impairment area [7,732 ac-ft & 5,155 irrigated acres with $500,000 total]. DOC will partner with landowners, TNC, WaterPACK, GMD#5 and other interest groups to reduce pumping and conserve limited water resources.
KDA - 6	Crop and Livestock Research	$ 350,000	$ 350,000	GBP* USH*	Work on research projects as identified by industry. See below for some current ideas.
KDA - 7	Interstate Water Engineer *Interstate Water Issues*		$ 100,000		To enhance the existing interstate team to help administer and enforce the Kansas-Colorado Arkansas River Compact.

State Water Plan Fund Transfer Request (SGF/EDIF)

FY2021 Agency Funding Requests

RAC Recommendations	
=	Agrees with Funding Level
+	Recommends Additional Funding
*	Comment Provided

Department of Agriculture (cont.)

Funding Agency	*Description*	*FY2020 Approved*	*FY2021 Request*	*RAC Input*	*Explanation and Justification*
KDA - 8	Water Transition Assistance Program		$ 200,000	GBP+ USH=	Retire irrigation water rights in proximity to municipal water wells in the Wichita / Greeley counties RCPP project (Playas Recharging Kansas Communities). DOC will partner with NRCS, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and other interest groups to reduce pumping and increase recharge in targeted areas.
KDA - 9	Watershed Dam Construction	$ 550,000	$ 1,450,000	EQW+ GBP+ MO= VER=	To meet needs in unfunded dam construction (3 new sites: Marmaton WJD 102, Allen Creek WD 89 and Mill Creek WD 98) and rehabilitation of 8-10 existing flood control dams. State cost-share for New Construction and Rehabilitation are capped at $120,000 per site per district.
KDA - 10	Real-Time Water Mgmt - telemetry		$ 125,000	CIM= UR=	Purchase equipment to replace aging and deteriorating water pressure transducers, rate loggers, data loggers, and telemetry. Would be same equipment as KGS uses to bring consistency to mutual data collection efforts and economy of scale for maintenance.
KDA - 11	Non-Point Source Pollution	$ 1,857,836	$ 2,157,836	EQW= KS= MdC= MO+ NEO= RH= SR=	To implement additional soil health education activities in 105 county conservation districts as well as increasing landowner/operator scholarships to soil health educational seminars such as the annual No-Till on the Plains Conference ($100K). Fund technical assistance in high priority areas through the use of contribution agreement conservation technician positions in partnership with NRCS ($200K) without having to reduce Cost-Share funds.
KDA - 12	Riparian and Wetland	$ 154,024	$ 404,024	EQW* MO+ NEO	Open the Initiative up to the remaining targeted watersheds in Kansas for enrollment. These funds would have the potential to promote conservation efforts on 1,100-1,500 acres in areas targeted by the State of Kansas for Sediment and Nutrient Impairment.
KDA - 13	Water Supply Restoration		$ 465,000		Partner with the City of Augusta to rehabilitate Santa Fe Lake which serves as one of their water supply reservoirs.
KDA - 14	Irrigation Technology	$ 100,000	$ 200,000	CIM= UR= USH=	To increase the implementation of practices that aid in the conservation of surface and ground water through the adoption of irrigation technology such as automated soil moisture probes, remote sensing units and mobile drip irrigation systems.
KDA - 15	Streambank Stabilization	$ 500,000	$ 1,500,000	MO+ NEO= SR+	The Kansas Interagency Streambank Team has a total of 22 project sites that are being designed for construction or are seeking landowner contracts. These project are estimated to reduce sedimentation by 85,878 tons/year with projects located in all 3 of the priority watersheds. Current estimated cost of completion for these 22 projects is approximately $3,750,000. Ground truthing for additional sites will continue in SFY2020.
KDA - 16	Water Conservation Manager *Subbasin Water Resources Mgmt*		$ 125,000	USH=	To support, coordinate and supervise water conservation specialists in the field offices by performing targeted outreach and promotion for WCAs and LEMAs. Cost includes travel.
KDA - 17	DWR Application Specialist *Subbasin Water Resources Mgmt*		$ 85,000		Programmer that will work on WRIS, WRIS Mobile, WSI, and GIS-related applications.
KDA - 18	Public Access to Water Right Info. *Subbasin Water Resources Mgmt*		$ 150,000		To preserve and provide comprehensive public access to water right information by scanning existing paper files and making them electronically accessible through online services
	KDA SUBTOTAL	**$ 9,824,087**	**$ 15,224,087**		
	SWPF TOTAL	**$ 16,054,431**	**$ 26,964,701**		

State Water Plan Fund Transfer Request (SGF/EDIF)

FY2021 Research Funding Requests

Funding Agency	*Requesting Agency*	*Description*	*FY2020 Approved*	*FY2021 Request*	*Explanation and Justification*
KWO	KGS	Streambank Stabilization Effectiveness *Reservoir & Water Quality Research*		$ 100,000	Contributes to data collection/analyses and helps identify relations between reservoir conditions and environmental change/watershed management to this collaborative effort. (5 year study for a total of $500,000)
KWO	KGS	Kansas River Alluvial Aquifer *Reservoir & Water Quality Research*		$ 60,000	FY2020-2023 1. Development of Observation Well Network in the Kansas River Alluvial Aquifer 2. Development of a Groundwater Model of the Kansas River Alluvial Aquifer.
KWO	KBS	Sediment Coring for HAB Trends *Reservoir & Water Quality Research*		$ 200,000	Serve as a direct measure of infill thickness and a layered timeline of sedimentation and harmful algal bloom (HAB) events. Planned FY 2020: Kanopolis, Webster, Lovewell, Cheney FY 2021-2024 @ 200K: Coring 4 lakes/ year for historical HAB trends
KWO	KBS	Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Mitigation Experiments *Reservoir & Water Quality Research*		$ 100,000	Examining long-term HAB trends using sediment cores and conducting cause-and effect and mitigation experiments in large tanks and ponds at the KU Field Station.
KWO	KBS	Real-time Flood Mapping *Reservoir & Water Quality Research*		$ 75,000	The next phase of this work is implementation, which includes portable, stand-alone mapping tool development and research into calibration improvements. In addition, ongoing LiDAR updates warrant inundation library updates.
KWO	KWO	Bathymetry & Storage Evaluation *Reservoir & Water Quality Research*		$ 50,000	The Bathymetry and Storage Evaluation (BaSE) program will increase the rate of bathymetric data collection for Kansas water supply reservoirs as recommended by the Kansas Water Authority in the 2010 Kansas Reservoir Roadmap.
KDA	KSU	Irrigation & Crop Research *Crop and Livestock Research*		$ 300,000	Increased Adoption of Water Efficient Crops, Developing and increasing utilization of new forages and feed grains for Livestock Production, Develop and Promote Advanced Irrigation Efficiency Technologies (5-year)

* FY2020 Project Funding to be determined by the Research Coordination Group

***Crop and Livestock Research Potential Projects**

Advanced Crop Improvement Technology for Sorghum
Leveraging DH and CRISPR Gene Editing Sorghum
Double Haploid Technology for Sorghum
Water Recycling Systems for KLA
Change in Use Made of Water for KLA
Water Conservation Areas for KLA
Water Cycle in Agriculture for KLA
Water Comparison Study for Industrial Hemp by K-State Agronomy
Water Use Studies by Kansas Soybean
Cotton and Corn have interest. Kansas Corn indicated they are engaged in a financial partnership for the Water Tech Farms.

RAC	*Additional Requests*
Great Bend Prairie	Increase the funding under water management by $25,000 to provide GMD5 partial funding to update, calibrate and make a run of the GMD5 model, noting this contributes directly to the sustainability goal.
Marais des Cygnes	Request funding to be considered for the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program within the KDWP&T. The funding should support public education about ANS, as well as resources to allow the KDWP&T staff to conduct boat checks at recreational lakes and engage with lake users." There was no discussion and unanimous approval was given.
Missouri	Funding for a Resiliency Study of Public Water Supply Systems and assistance to implement.
Missouri	Additional funding for cover crops
Red Hills	Continued support for produced water pilot project within region
Red Hills	Funds for lake project noted within Regional Goal #2
Red Hills	Funding support noted for streamgaging not restricted to USGS-type streamgages.
Smoky Hill-Saline	RAC concurs with the proposed state water plan budget and encourages KWA to seek full restoration of the State Water Plan Fund as well as develop resources to responds to unforeseen disasters.
Upper Arkansas	The Upper Arkansas RAC requests a funding line to be established for new sources of supply for the region. As groundwater supplies continue to decline there is concern about the future of irrigated agriculture as the basis of the region's economy. Obtaining new sources of supply is the highest priority for this region, and is important to fund in order to accomplish and carryout the goals and action plan of the Upper Arkansas RAC.
Upper Republican	RAC supports the proposed budget and would like to highlight a need for additional funding for Western Kansas.
Verdigris	Assessment and Evaluation to optimize reservoir operations using. Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) and structures that improve efficiencies during dry periods.
Verdigris	RAC supports for funding positions related to Vision implementation.

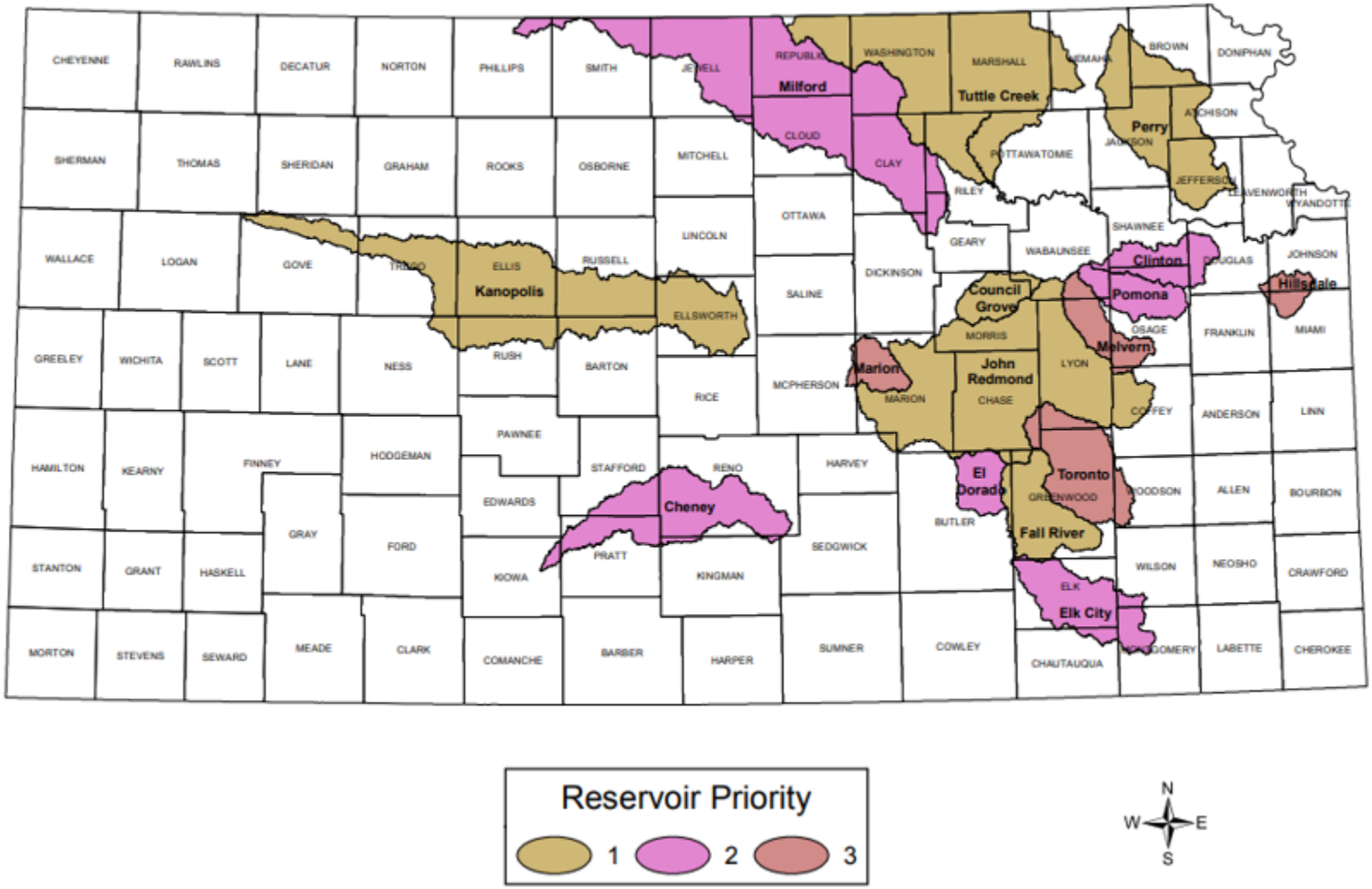
RAC INDEX	
CIM	Cimarron
EQW	Equus-Walnut
GBP	Great Bend Prairie
KS	Kansas
MdC	Marais des Cygnes
MO	Missouri
NEO	Neosho
RH	Red Hills
SH	Smoky Hill-Saline
SR	Solomon-Republican
UA	Upper Arkansas
UR	Upper Republican
USH	Upper Smoky Hill
VER	Verdigris

NPS Carryforward Funds Plan

$393,717.76 available

- **Prioritize the KWO Tier 1 Federal Reservoirs**

Kansas Water Office Priority Federal Reservoirs



Attachment B

- **Utilize a call for projects that were not funded with initial NPS allocation**
- **Pasture and Rangeland Management and Riparian Area Protection project type requests will be eligible for the funding**
- **9-Element Plans were used to identify the livestock priority HUC 12 watersheds for each of the tier 1 reservoirs**
- **The Tuttle Creek 9-element plan did not prioritize livestock practices**
- **OSW applications not eligible for this funding**

Eligible HUC 12 Watersheds

Kanopolis:

HUC 102600060601 (Oak Creek)

HUC 102600060401 (Landon Creek)

HUC 102600060501 (Thielen Airport)

HUC 102600070305 (Town of Munjor)

HUC 102600070303 (Hays Consolidated)

HUC 102600070304 (Hays Consolidated)

John Redmond:

HUC 110702020106

HUC 110702020107

HUC 110702020108

HUC 110702020201

HUC 110702010301

HUC 110702010302

Fall River:

HUC 110701020105

HUC 110701020107

HUC 110701020108

HUC 110701020204

HUC 110701020203

Perry:

HUC 102701030201 (Mission Lake)

HUC 102701030202 (Upper Grasshopper Creek)

HUC 102701030203 (Otter-Clear Creek)

HUC 102701030101 (Upper Delaware aka Webster Creek near Sabetha)

HUC 102701030102 (Cedar Creek)

HUC 102701030103 (Squaw Creek)

HUC 102701030104 (Plum Creek)

HUC 102701030105 (Gregg Creek)

HUC 102701030301 (Spring Creek)

HUC 102701030107 (Upper Muddy Creek)

HUC 102701030108 (Wolfley-Barnes Creek)

HUC 102701030109 (Lower Muddy Creek)

HUC 102701030304 (Upper Elk Creek)

Council Grove:

HUC 110702010101

HUC 110702010102

HUC 110702010104

WR Carryforward Funds Plan

$172,943.77 available

- Combine these funds with the existing $100,000 Irrigation Technology Initiative for FY 2020
- FY 2019 Irrigation Technology Initiative saw heavy demand
- The program can be expanded with the addition of these funds

Attachment C

Current DOC Policy for Out of County Contracts:

WRCSP Out of County Contracts

1. WRCSP contracts for which the legal description is located in an adjacent Kansas county may be submitted to the DOC for approval provided that:

    a. Conservation district has policy to accept out of county contracts.

    b. The cost-share applicant participates in USDA programs through the NRCS or FSA office located in the county.

    c. The landowner applicant/contract has been coordinated with and consent given by the conservation district where the legal description is located.

    d. The landowner can only receive cost-share assistance from one conservation district.

DRAFT DOC Policy for Out of State Contracts:

1. WRCSP contracts for which the legal description is located in an adjacent state to Kansas may be submitted to the DOC for approval provided that:

    a. Conservation district has policy to accept applications that contain land in a contiguous state.

    b. The cost-share applicant participates in USDA programs through the NRCS or FSA office located in the county.

    c. Conservation practices are installed in the same field that lies in Kansas and a contiguous state.

    c. The conservation practice installed on land lying in a contiguous state is found by NRCS to be a necessary component of a conservation system installed on land lying in the same field located in the State of Kansas.

Attachment D

Sustainable phosphorus management with enhanced soil health

N.O. Nelson, P.J. Tomlinson, D.R. Presley, K.L. Roozeboom, E.A. Yeager, and G.J. Kluitenberg

Abstract

Perpetuation of culturally ingrained phosphorus (P) management paradigms, such as the build and maintain P management approach, causes inefficient production systems with unnecessarily high P inputs that can mask and even negate the benefits of soil health on P cycling. We hypothesize that benefits of enhanced soil health on P cycling can only be realized when P is managed on the margins through a sufficiency management approach. Our proposed project will fill research gaps related to how soil health promoting practices interact with P management strategies to influence the soil physical, biological, and chemical processes relevant to P availability, P use efficiency, and P cycling. We will identify the mechanisms by which soil health systems influence the bioavailability of inorganic and organic soil P. The results from our research will adapt the existing technologies of cover crops and sufficiency P management through "re-imagined innovation" and create a new synergistic best management practice system to enhance soil health, decrease P inputs, reduce environmental impacts, and improve the economic competitiveness of crop production. We will blend applied and basic research to promote immediate adoption of the soil health and P management systems and facilitate future innovation in the soil health arena.

Duration

Start Date:	July 1, 2020
End Date:	June 30, 2025
Duration:	60 months

Budget

Total FFAR Ask :	$750,000
Total Cash Match:	$750,000
Total In-Kind Match	$0
Total Match:	$750,000
Total Project Budget:	$1,500,000

Matching Sources

Kansas Corn Commission:	$30,000/yr
Kansas Soybean Commission:	$30,000/yr
Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation:	$30,000/yr
Kansas State University:	$60,000/yr

United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the meeting of the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCE
July 29, 2019

MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY

- NRCS is in the middle of Phase 3 of the Field Workload Cycle Time Study (WCTS). Phase 1 of the State, Area, and Team (SAT) WCTS will begin on August 19 and run through November 10, 2019. The SAT WCTS will allow NRCS to capture the amount of time per work product that State, Area, and Team staff spend in support of field staff, or performing field level work
- NRCS is in the process of working with several partners on accepted Conservation Collaboration Grants or Agreements (CCGA) proposals that will bring additional technical assistance to the field. Partner employees will be starting across the State assisting with soil health, grazing lands, wetlands, and easements later this year.
- NRCS is working on process for new State and local level MOUs and Agreements for sharing resources. A joint memo with KACD, KACD-EO, and KDA-DOC has been prepared and we will be issuing guidance to field offices soon.
- Implementing the STC's commitment to safety and to keep Kansas at the forefront of technology, we are purchasing iPhones for all NRCS field employees and partner technicians. These should be received and out to the field by late summer.
- NRCS just advertised 17 positions (8 soil conservationists and 9 soil conservationist technicians) with an additional 6 positions to be advertised later this month.
- NRCS will be participating at the All-University Career Fair at Kansas State University on September 24, 2019 in Manhattan, Kansas.
- There is a total of 12 students this summer comprised of: 4 new, 3 returning, 2 through Texas A&M's Natural Resource Career Development Program (NRCDP), 1 OneUSDA, and 2 MLRA/Soils.
- Retirements:
    - David Jacobson, Soil Conservation Technician, Effingham
    - Erin Batman, Supervisory District Conservationist, Pratt
    - Kevin Buntin, Engineering Technician (Civil), Emporia

PROGRAMS

- NRCS is working on the second round of EQIP funds received to get those contracts obligated.
- There are several different programs with associated deadlines for each:
    - Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) application deadline July 14, 2019.
    - CSP Grassland Conservation Initiative application deadline is July 19, 2019.
    - EQIP Disaster Flood Recovery Initiative application deadline is July 26, 2019.
    - RCPP-CSP Monarch Butterfly application deadline is July 26, 2019.

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- The schedule and location of the NRCS Farm Bill Rollout Training from Headquarters is still to be determined.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- Easement staff are processing FY2019 Agricultural Conservation Easement Applications (ACEP). 23 applications have been submitted.
- FY 2018 ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) enrollments have boundary surveys and title commitments completed.
- All FY 2017 ACEP-WRE have been acquired and restoration has begun in some of the drier areas of the State.
- One ACEP-Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) application was submitted by a land trust for funding in FY 2019 on a 642-acre parcel of grassland with special environmental significance.

RESOURCES

GIS

- NRCS will be making a transition from Customer Service Toolkit to Conservation Desktop as the centric planning tool for all NRCS activities this fall. Field training has recently been completed.
- Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART) is set for deployment this fall as well. CART will enable planners to assess and document resource concerns using geospatial and in-field assessments, assist the planner develop alternatives based on producer objectives, and quickly screen and rank applications for NRCS programs.

ECS

- Staff continues to work with KSU to develop and improve nutrient management strategies and develop a framework using precision ag for conservation purposes.
- National NRCS Cover Crop Termination Guidelines have been revised to include cover crops as good agricultural practice, guidelines will be in place soon.
- NRCS continues to work with critical partners to evaluate and re-design the Working Lands for Wildlife Program, Lesser-Prairie Chicken Initiative.
- With the release of the 2018 Farm Bill, the Conservation Reserve Program opened to accept applications for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). NRCS provides critical technical assistance to plan for all CRP, as such, field staff are working to service applications and will continue through the remainder of the summer.

PMC

- With the wet weather, the PMC staff are moving quickly to install cover crop plots at the center and at field plot locations.
- PMC has been working on annual rye varietal study, results are promising on performance and roles of multiple rye varieties.

SOILS

- Data collection for the grazing lands onsite survey is underway. Scientists from SES, Inc. have been busy in eastern Kansas and have already completed 25 segments in Areas 3 and 4. They will focus most of their next efforts in Area 2 and southern portions of Area 1. They may reach out to field offices as they work through the access records that FO staff collected earlier this spring. They work quickly and typically complete multiple segments each day.

ENGINEERING

Watershed Operations

- Watershed districts and local NRCS field offices are working together on annual inspections for all NRCS-assisted flood control structures. For calendar year (CY) 2019, 552 of 830 dams remain under active operation and maintenance (O&M) agreements. To date for CY2019, 47 have been received for review and filing at the State office.
- NRCS is currently accepting proposals for FY2019 watershed operation project funding. Deadline for applications is July 24, 2019. Proposals can be for backlog/existing projects or new projects through PL-566.

Watershed Rehabilitation

- Kansas continues work on 5 watershed rehabilitation projects. Planning has been completed on all 5 sites (4 work plans). Three of the sites are now in design phase and the two supplemental plans finalized this spring are currently being routed for NRCS Chief authorization.
- Kansas NRCS received FY19 funding approval for 12 dam assessments for existing PL-566 flood control dams. Assessments will be completed over the next 12 months.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)

- NRCS continues its work with the City of Manhattan relating to flood damages from September of 2018. The project agreement has been executed and designs are nearly completed with permitting and construction to occur later this summer.
- May 2019 storm events have NRCS staff working with local public sponsors to evaluate damages eligible through EWPP. Currently, there are 42 potential sites with rough cost estimates of $5.5 million.

OUTREACH

- NRCS will be participating at the Cattle U and Trade Show on July 31 to August 1, 2019 in Dodge City, Kansas.

EVENTS

- Senator Moran will be hosting his 14th Annual Conservation Tour planned for September 4, 2019. More details will be forthcoming.

NEWS RELEASES

NRCS, UC Davis Announce Release of *SoilWeb* 2.0 App Update

SoilWeb brings valuable Soil Survey information to the 21st century and makes it available at your fingertips on your mobile device for any location you chose in the United States. ***SoilWeb*** *is* available as a free app available for download from GooglePlay (Android) and the Apple App Store (iOS).

With its embedded GPS system, ***SoilWeb*** provides convenient, instantaneous soil information from the exact soil the user is standing on. The app gives users greater accessibility to NRCS' soil survey information that has been collected across the United States since the late 1890s. The app presents the data in mobile form, helping users make better-informed decisions about the location they are researching.