



1320 Research Park Drive  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

## **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 9:04 a.m., Monday, April 10, 2017, at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, 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, NRCS  
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental  
Quality Agronomy Department, Kansas State University (KSU)  
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources,  
Kansas Department of Agriculture

**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  
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Program Manager  
Katie Burke, Riparian & Wetland Program Manager  
Donna Meader, CD Program Coordinator  
Cathy Thompson, Program Consultant  
Cindy Woofter, Administrative Specialist

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### Guests:

Jim Krueger, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, (KACD)  
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)

### 3. ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

a. **Removed:** “Discuss and take possible action on potential soil moisture probe pilot program” from New Business

**A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.**

### 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

**A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the February 13, 2017, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

### 5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

- a. Jim Krueger, KACD Executive Director, announced that 16 Conservation Districts had not paid their dues yet and he had been working with Dan Meyerhoff, Jim’s replacement.
- b. Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) – Herb mentioned that he enjoyed the Area IV Spring Workshop and that it was a good meeting with lots of information and he was happy to attend.

### 6. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Joan Menzie – new District Manager in Haskell County
- b. SueAnn Bolten – Temporary Helper at Wilson County
- c. Appointment of Ted Nighswonger as KACD representative on the Kansas Water Authority (See Attachment A)

### 7. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. FY 2017 financial report – Frost (See Attachment B)
  - \* Steve added an additional column on the spreadsheet entitled “Uncommitted”
  - \* Steve commended Cathy on the great job she always does on completing the financial spreadsheets – this information provides a great sense of what the DOC is involved with financially.

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### 8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Summary of 2017 Spring Workshops – Meader (See Attachment C)
  - \* Attendance was very comparable to last year
  - \* Donna e-mailed presentations to all Conservation Districts
  - \* Cindy uploaded presentations to the KDA website
  - \* Suggestions were made to consider different locations for Area 1 and Area 4 due to high facility rental rates
  - \* John and Rod reported that they were informed from attendees that these were some of the better meetings and were well worth the time
- b. Legislative update – Reschke
  - \* Bills that were introduced have not progressed since session began
  - \* Legislators have received lots of input from Districts in regards to how their funds are being used
- c. Review future SCC meeting dates and Joint Meeting plans - Reschke (See Attachment D)
  - \* The possibility of hosting the Joint Meeting in an area other than Andy's was discussed
  - \* It was suggested to have the meeting close to the wildfire area – there has been great press on what the Districts have done in working with the landowners during and after the wildfire.
  - \* Jim Krueger announced tentative KACD Fall Meeting dates:
    - August 15 – Area 3
    - August 16 – Area 2
    - August 17 – Area 1
    - August 22 – Area 4
    - August 23 – Area 5
  - \* SCC meeting dates.
    - 2018 Easter is on April 1
    - 2018 Mother's Day is on May 13
    - KDA Christmas Party/Joint Agency Meeting is on December 15
    - Brad Shogren suggested moving the May 15 date to May 1

**A motion was made by Peter Tomlinson to approve the FY 2018 meeting dates as outlined below. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

**August 7, 2017 (Joint SCC/KACD meeting)**

**September 14, 2017 (State Fair)**

**November 19, 2017 (KACD Convention)**

**January 22, 2018**

**April 16, 2018**

**May 15, 2018**

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

- d. Update on 2017 SCC/KACD Joint Annual meeting – Vorhees
  - \* Jim Krueger mentioned that the emphasis will be on strategic planning, as well as discussions regarding working with legislators

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- e. CSIMS 2.0 and RALIS update – Carlson (See Attachment E)
  - \* Scott Carlson discussed an overview of the progress of CSIMS 2.0. Lots of time, effort and money has been devoted to the project with many planning meetings, with a focus on improved checks and balances and enhancing.
  - \* Scott mentioned that RALIS is a very complex program with the goal of increased efficiency and effectiveness of the Land Reclamation and Ag Lime programs. Site visits are increasing due the implementation of RALIS and the Land Reclamation portion should be complete by the end of May.

BREAK 10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m. (Donna Meader and Jim Krueger left at this time)

### 9. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review FY 2015 and FY 2016 cost-share encumbrance and cancellation policy recommendations – Jones
  - \* Extend all FY 2015 LWM encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) until December 1, 2017.
  - \* FY 2015: 3 LWS active contracts totaling approximately \$41,000
  - \* Extend all FY 2016 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) until December 1, 2017.
  - \* FY 2016: 68 NPS active contracts totaling approximately \$200,000
  - \* Extend all FY 2016 encumbered cost-share contracts in the Water Resources Cost Share Program (WR) until December 1, 2017.
  - \* FY 2016: 128 WR active contracts totaling approximately \$298,000

**A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the FY 2015 and FY 2016 cost-share encumbrance policy recommendations until December 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.**

- b. Review FY 2017 cost-share encumbrance and cancellation policy recommendations – Jones
  - \* Dave Jones reviewed the staff recommendations as listed on the working agenda.
  - \* John Wunder – curious as to whether there is a way for Districts to encourage landowners to complete contracts in a more timely manner.
- i. Program Encumbrance
  - \* Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS)  
All On-site Wastewater System (OSW) and Abandoned Water Well Plugging (AWP) contracts will expire on June 1, 2017. Encumber all other FY 2017 NPS cost-share contracts that have not been completed until June 1, 2018, except for Livestock Waste System contracts, which will be encumbered until June 1, 2019.
  - \* Riparian and Wetland Protection Program (RWPP)  
Encumber all FY 2017 RWPP contracts until June 1, 2019.
  - \* Watershed Dam Construction Program (WDCP)  
Encumber all FY 2017 WDCP contracts until June 1, 2019.

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- \* Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WR)  
Encumber all FY 2017 WR cost-share contracts that have not been completed until June 1, 2018.
- \* Engineering Contracts in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) and Riparian and Wetland Protection Program (RWPP)  
Encumber all FY 2017 engineering contracts in the NPS and RWPP programs until June 1, 2019.

**A motion by John Wunder to approve the FY 2017 cost-share encumbrance policy recommendations. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried**

- c. Review FY 2018 program policy revisions – Jones (See Attachment F)
  - \* These were presented at the Spring Workshops but no comments were made from attendees.

**A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the FY 2018 WRCSP, NPSPCP Program policy revisions. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

- d. Determine FY 2018 cost-share cancellation/reallocation policy – Jones
  - \* Dave added language to add some flexibility to change reallocations if necessary in between normal reallocation periods.
  - \* John posed the question of wondering of how the DOC can make cost-share money work better for all conservation districts and not just a few.
  - \* Dave will do more extensive research on the subject to provide to the commissioners on reallocation to provide at the next SCC meeting.
- i. Cancel all uncommitted FY 2018 cost-share funds in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPS) on December 4, 2017, and reallocate to Livestock Waste System applications, applications in targeted TMDL watersheds, and Streambank Protection projects. Additional cancellations after December 4, 2017, can be authorized on an as needed basis as determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Water Quality Program Manager. The reallocation scenario for funds from any additional cancellation will be determined by the Executive Director.
- ii. Cancel all uncommitted FY 2018 cost-share funds in the Water Resources Cost-share Program (WR) on December 4, 2017. First priority for reallocation would be to applications in targeted TMDL watersheds. Second priority would be to reallocate statewide. Additional cancellations after December 4, 2017, can be authorized on an as needed basis as determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Water Quality Program Manager. The reallocation scenario for funds from any additional cancellation will be determined by the Executive Director.

**A motion was made by Andy Larson to table the FY 2018 cost-share cancellation/reallocation policy recommendations. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.**

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LUNCH BREAK – 11:56 a.m. to 12:49 p.m.

- e. Water Resources Cost-Share Program – Review and take possible action on FY 2018 program allocation scenario and county allocations – Jones (See Attachment G)

**A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the WRCSP FY 2018 cost-share fund allocation recommendations and county specific allocations. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.**

- \* The SCC expressed that they would like to see a breakdown per county of what cost-share dollars were returned back to the DOC
- \* Steve Frost provided a History of Appropriations (See Attachment H).
- \* It was decided that this subject needs to be re-evaluated and work on a strategy.
- \* Eric Banks asked if it was ok to share this information with NRCS and Steve said yes

- f. Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program – Review and take possible action on FY 2018 program allocation scenario and county allocations – Jones (See Attachment I)

- \* Dave reviewed the handout.
- \* Peter expressed that there is a high need of soil health money and suggested sending a questionnaire out to the Districts asking what their needs are.

**A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the NPSPCP FY 2018 cost-share fund allocation recommendations and county specific allocations. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.**

- g. Watershed Dam Construction Program – Review applications for new dam construction – Saadi (See Attachment J)

- \* Hakim discussed the handout.

- h. Discuss luncheon speaker choices for the SCC luncheon at the 2017 KACD Convention – Vorhees

- \* Who is target audience/who are you trying to inform?
- \* How do we best deliver it?
- \* Luncheon – biggest consolidated group – needs to be in coordination with KACD
- \* Have inspirational speaker – Scott asked Eric if NRCS can fund speaker to help motivate/teach his staff also – “yes, there’s a chance” per Eric
- \* Steve suggested new K-State president

- i. Discuss adding Grid Sampling practice for specific use in KS/OK RCPP program are – Jones

- j. Wildfire assistance update – Reschke (See Attachment K)

- \* Rob and Dave attended the Ashland meeting, which was a very emotional meeting.
- \* A meeting the next week had questions answered very thoroughly by NRCS and FSA.
- \* DOC has met with affected Districts.

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- \* Rob met with Jackie to discuss what DOC can do to assist affected counties.
- \* Dave has been working diligently with Districts and NRCS on how DOC can assist.
- \* KDA wildfire video was shared with the group

**A motion was made by Brad Shogren that the SCC offer support to the DOC in their assistance efforts in the wildfire situation. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.**

- k. Administration – Review Commissioner and Staff travel
  - \* National Association of State Land Reclamationists in Williamsport, PA – October, Scott
  - \* National Association of State Conservation Agencies Annual Meeting, Nebraska – September – Rob, Katie, Dave, Donna, Cindy
  - \* Association of State Dam Safety Officials annual conference, San Antonio – September - Hakim

### 10. REPORTS:

#### a. Agency Reports:

- \* NRCS – Eric Banks – Eric reviewed his report (See Attachment L)
- \* K-State Agronomy – Peter Tomlinson – The work on the National CIG on soil health and quality is under way. He attended the National Drought Monitor Forum.
- \* KDA – Terry Medley – Terry reported the following: Neosho Headwaters and Lower Cottonwood discovery meetings were held in late February. Consumptive Use are nearing completion of review with Department of Administration. Penalty regulations will be reviewed by Joint Legislative Committee on Rules and Regulations. Water use reporting penalties are being finalized by KDA legal team.

#### b. Staff Reports:

- \* Steve Frost, DOC – Passed out CD allocation sheet to discuss (See Attachment M)
- \* Hakim Saadi, DOC – Third party easement holder was approved a few months ago.
- \* Katie Burke, DOC – No big streambank project updates; 21 buffers need to be planted this spring.
- \* Cindy Woofter, DOC – Much time has been devoted to Land Reclamation for the RALIS database.
- \* Rob Reschke, DOC – Intern has been working on load reduction maps.
- \* Dave Jones, DOC – Attended KS Technical Committee subcommittee meeting.

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- \* Scott Carlson, DOC – nothing to report.
- \* Donna Meader, DOC – absent
- \* Cathy Thompson, DOC – Has attended Regional Envirothon and will help with State Envirothon.

c. Commissioner reports:

- \* Area I – Ted Nighswonger – Ted reported that since he was elected to the Water Authority all can feel free to let him know if there are any issues to convey
- \* Area II – Andy Larson – Andy reported that his area received 4.35” of rain
- \* Area III – Brad Shogren – Brad reported that his area received 4.3” of rain.
- \* Area IV – John Wunder – no comment
- \* Area V – Rod Vorhees – Rod reported that his area received 4” of rain, as well as thanking all for the great ideas and support.

### 11. ADJOURNMENT:

The next scheduled SCC meeting TBD.

**A motion was made by Andy Larson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.**



Rob Reschke  
Executive Director