

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., Thursday, May 28, 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

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:

Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension (left at 10:40)
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Troy Munsch, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, Natural Resources Conservation Service in place of Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service (left at 10:40)

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Scott Carlson, Acting Executive Director
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Cindy Pulse, Conservation District Program Coordinator
Cathy Thompson, Program Consultant
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Program Manager
Christy Koelzer, Administrative Specialist

Guests:

Mike Beam, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture (arrived at 10:20)
Kelsey Olson, Assistant Secretary Kansas Department of Agriculture (arrived at 10:20)
Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director, KACD (left at 10:40)
Amanda Scott, President, KACD-EO
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW)
Robert Atchison, Rural Forestry Program Coordinator, Kansas Forest Service

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3. AMENDMENT TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

An amendment was made to the agenda to add:

7. New Business

d. Executive Session to discuss Personnel

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 April 15, 2020, minutes as emailed. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. KDA COVID-19 Operations

i. Mike Beam, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture—KDA COVID-19 Update. The Department of Administration is determining how to proceed. The doors remain locked and visitors must make an appointment. Temperature checks and screening questions continue upon entry. Mike commended the Division of Conservation on their ability to accomplish work remotely. KDA will continue to work remotely through June. Plans are in development for spacing of cubicles and installing plexiglass for protection in preparation for more people to return to headquarters in July. The Phases of reopening were terminated at the state level and now provide guidance at the county level. Legislature will return on June 3 for another session and will address what is correct state law for governor executive orders in emergencies. The budget projections for FY 2021 and 2022 are down \$1.3 billion. All state agencies are anticipating budget cuts. The legislature left budget cuts to the Governor. KDA anticipates we'll have to make reductions.

b. KDA/DOC Discretionary Spending Update

i. Scott Carlson spoke to the impact COVID-19 has had on operations pertaining to discretionary spending. There is no overnight travel. There is a significant shortfall in the budget. It is yet unknown how severe the budget cuts will be.

ii. Secretary Beam said that all agencies are to avoid discretionary spending. There has been no travel since March. When asked by John Wunder if unspent FY 2020 funds would be carried forward, Secretary Beam responded that he believes so. Historically, we've been able to carry forward if it was budgeted to a specific program.

c. Conservation District Employee Update (Attachment A)

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- i. Cindy Pulse provided a handout and update on new district managers and new district employees for the first and second quarters.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. FY 2020 WR and NPS Cost-Share Balance update (Attachment B)
 - i. Dave Jones provided a handout and update on FY 2020 WR and NPS Cost-Share Balance. As of 5/27/2020, the WR uncommitted balance is \$26,293.73 and the NPS uncommitted balance is \$16,377.84. DOC has worked to cancel and reallocate funds to get money out to the districts.
- b. FY 2021 SWP Budget Enhancement update
 - i. Scott Carlson provided an update on FY 2021 SWP budget enhancements. Due to the shortfalls created by COVID-19, Governor Kelly has gone back to FY 2020 budget figures. DOC will not have enhancements for the FY 2021 budget and is waiting on further guidance and final figures. A redirection within KDA crop and livestock research funds was made. \$100,000 went to CREP and WTAP. \$200,000 from streambank went to watershed.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Water Resources Cost-Share Program allocation and county allocation update (Attachments C and D)
 - i. Dave Jones provided handouts and an update on Water Resource Cost-Share Program allocations for FY 2021. FY 2021 figures are based on FY 2020 figures. \$50,000 for CSIMS maintenance in FY 2020 was moved to NPS in FY 2021. DNA allocation is \$300,000 higher for FY 2021, while High Priority TMDL is \$0 for FY 2021, compared to \$250,000 for FY 2020. Total Cost-Share allocation FY 2021 is \$2,301,392.

A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the Water Resources Cost-Share allocations as recommended. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

- b. Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program allocation and county allocation update (Attachments E and F)
 - i. Dave Jones provided handouts and an update on Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program allocation. Dave reviewed obligations for funding Conservation Technician, Conservation Easement Specialist and Soil Health Specialist positions. Changes for FY 2021 include moving CSIMS to come out of water resources and taking out High Priority TMDL. A breakdown of allocations by county was provided. Cover crops will be in the program manual. County developed programs are due July 1. CS-2's have to be approved. Counties can utilize a 60-day review period.

A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the allocations for FY 2021 Non-Point Source Programs as recommended. The motion was seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

- c. Virtual Meetings Initiative Discussion (Attachment G)

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- i. Scott Carlson shared a handout and led a discussion on a Virtual Meetings Initiative. Key motivating factors include the lingering COVID-19 Pandemic; possibility of future pandemics or other social/economic crisis; cost savings of not assembling; increases outreach to conservation district supervisors; increasing the capacity of conservation partners; increased timeliness of new district manager training. Virtual training of new managers is key during a time when there has been 20% turnover, one person covers training for the entire state and no overnight travel is currently allowed. Virtual training allows face-to-face contact and sharing of documents. DOC has been utilizing Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings and NRCS has Microsoft Teams on their computers. KDA is the only state agency fully equipped to work remotely, a testament to the strength of support from the KDA IT department. One identified weakness is conservation districts' having the necessary technology. Troy shared with Scott that six NRCS conference centers are currently equipped with big screen televisions and cameras. It would be beneficial to have these in all districts. The impact of engaging conservation districts and supervisors is significant. The cost savings of virtual meetings versus meeting in person and travel expenses is staggering.
- ii. In response to Troy's question on how the virtual manager training has worked, Cindy Pulse shared that she has emailed the information to managers ahead of time allowing them to review and list questions; training takes place in two-hour increments so it is less overwhelming than an all-day training, increasing retention of knowledge; the virtual training allows for face-to-face personal interaction versus a phone call and documents can be shared on the screen for training purposes.
- iii. Ted Nighswonger pointed out that virtual training for groups could be a way to answer the same questions for many all at once.
- iv. John Wunder stressed how important a face-to-face meeting is.
- v. Brad Shogren said virtual meetings allow people that couldn't attend in person a chance to still attend a live "virtual" meeting; virtual meetings allow sharing of messages in a broad manner, increasing outreach to managers and supervisors.
- vi. Dan Meyerhoff shared that while many people were uncomfortable with virtual meetings at first, the more meetings you get on, the more comfortable you become. He has had as many as three meetings in one day and if he'd had to attend those meetings in person it would have taken three whole days of his time. Virtual meetings save time and are more efficient. And it makes a lot of sense to train someone for an hour or two so they can absorb what they've learned.
- vii. Scott discussed DOC's desire to develop webinars and training videos to upload to CSIMS. Cindy could record manager trainings and post as a resource for managers. Fall meetings could be recorded. If managers couldn't attend, they could play video at board meetings. DOC would help with resources from KDA for training on use of technology and TEAMS. DOC would like to explore cost of televisions and cameras for conference rooms in service centers, how to get the IT support for installation, and ways to fund this effort.

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- viii. Brad said it would be nice if recordings could be heard on the radio or podcast for listening while in a tractor or vehicle.
 - ix. Terry Medley shared that YouTube is a great resource for posting videos.
 - x. Amanda Scott said virtual meetings would be very beneficial for training and for fall meetings that people may not be able to attend in person. DOC could have the ability to attend monthly board meetings virtually. Some concerns are for districts not in a service center and for rural counties that don't have great internet service, as well as to not lose the importance of a live face-to-face meeting.
 - xi. Scott said DOC could allow up to \$500 to go to hardware and maybe get help from other partners for funding.
 - xii. Ted said he would like to see some figures. Maybe counties could partner with NRCS.
 - xiii. Scott asked Troy about cost for the six systems they currently have. Troy wasn't sure of cost, but systems are 10 years old. Troy pointed out importance of determining what needs are before purchasing equipment and agrees virtual meetings are efficient and NRCS will be using and doing more and more. They plan to record trainings for employees.
 - xiv. Rod Vorhees said in his area the internet was down 50% of the day yesterday and pointed out some of the rural areas of the state will have challenges. Virtual meetings provide effective outreach and during this time it's important to use the virtual face-to-face to build relationships. Virtual meetings are more efficient economically. The more we use, the better it will work.
 - xv. Brad said we need to communicate with all partners on what is working or not working and share with all.
 - xvi. John said we need to address internet and bandwidth access issues in NRCS offices.
- d. Executive Session to discuss Personnel—Elected Commissioners/Secretary Beam/Deputy Secretary Olson

Brad Shogren moved to enter executive session via conference call with the Elected Commissioners, Secretary Beam and Deputy Secretary Olson at 10:45 and reconvene at 11:05 a.m. Ted Nighswonger seconded the motion. Motion carried. Reconvene Microsoft Teams meeting at 11:18 a.m.

8. UPDATES:

- a. Comments from Guests
 - i. Amanda Scott, President, KACD-EO (Attachment H) provided a handout with June 2020 KACD-EO updates. She attended a KACD Board Zoom meeting on April 23. Some districts are transitioning back to offices. Amanda will be back in the office Monday. Next meeting will be on June 18; Amanda will send out details to all partners.

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- ii. Herb Graves (SAKW) shared that two months ago he had never heard of Zoom or Teams meetings. It will be interesting as the pandemic winds down to get reports of the effectiveness of these meetings. He witnessed a 6-inch rain gauge overflow at Chapman Creek and commented on the expense for crop loss and erosion, protection of watershed districts in local area, and amazing how much you can get done working from home.
- iii. Dan Meyerhoff (KACD) shared that the NACD fly-in was cancelled due to the pandemic. Instead they met remotely. They received funding for additional seven technician positions. Land 'O Lakes and NACD are adding agronomist positions. In the second year of the KDHE/WRAPS partnership they have \$70,000 in applications and \$135,000 under review. Running applications and payments through CSIMS has been very helpful. KACD is turning in a grant proposal to NRCS entitled *Enhancing Capacity to Deliver Quality Technical Assistance to Kansas Landowners and Operators*. Funding would be used to train employees and supervisors.
- iv. Robert Atchison, (KFS) shared that foresters were getting back in the field the first week of May, practicing social distancing. They are getting Equip and Cost-Share practices on the ground. KFS continues to work remotely except for those that are planting trees. Project funding is taking applications; opportunities for partnerships; will keep everyone posted. Appreciates partner input as finish KS Forest Action Plan.

b. DOC Staff Updates

- i. Scott Carlson shared that DOC is applying for four more technician positions through the CCGA grant. DOC would like to use indirect from federal grant funds to hire a half time grant specialist to relieve Steve of some of the administrative work as number of technicians increases.
- ii. Cindy Pulse has been doing virtual new manager training utilizing Microsoft Teams and continues training Christy Koelzer on Administrative Specialist duties.
- iii. Cathy Thompson was the co-lead for the KDA assistance on the DOL COVID-19 phone bank from the end of March through May 15. 64 KDA employees helped on the phone bank. She is encumbering funds.
- iv. Hakim Saadi shared that the revised Watershed District Handbook is posted and available for viewing on the KDA website. He has attended Watershed meetings via Zoom.
- v. Steve Frost shared that they are still in negotiations with FSA to amend CREP to include Rattlesnake Creek area. Things are looking promising. Funding for CREP and WTAP would be helpful. DOC is helping support a total of 40 technician positions.
- vi. Dave Jones shared there has been a lot of contact with the Water Office and KDHE on the Reservoir Protection Initiative to add additional priority areas and adjust payment by load reduction. Dave thanked Cathy for her work and time on cost-share to counties.

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vii. Christy Koelzer thanked the Commissioners for their cooperation and support for the virtual Teams meeting.

c. Ex-Officio and Appointed Member Updates:

- i. Troy Munsch (USDA, NRCS) shared that it will be a challenge to get offices open. Local workshop meetings may have to be virtual. USDA has a three-phase plan for re-opening. FSA is taking lead on pandemic coordination. Phase I is working remotely, limit of 10 people in the office, no visitors. Phases will consist of two-week periods with several criteria to meet to move forward. Movement through the phases is on a county-by-county basis. Local meetings requests go to him for approval. There are limited field visits at this time.
- ii. Terry Medley (KDA, DWR) (Attachment I) shared a handout and highlighted these points: LiDAR data from Atlantic has errors and they don't know where they are going with the contract at this point; National Dam Safety Awareness Day is May 31, 2020; DWR hosted a Western Kansas Hydrology meeting on April 23; the Lyon County Flood Insurance Rate Map went preliminary on May 22, 2020; they have hired Cheyenne Sun Eagle as the National Flood Insurance Specialist; NRCS & DWR hazard classifications don't always match up so they would like to make their definitions consistent.

d. Elected Commissioner Area Updates:

- i. Ted Nighswonger (Area 1): No longer on the Water Authority. Allen Roth took his place. Terrace work going on.
- ii. Andy Larson (Area II): Complimented Christy on her efforts to help the Commissioners with Microsoft Teams. Amazing help was offered by KDA to the DOL phone bank. They have had four inches of rain since the first of the year. District managers have had lots of communication regarding how to cope and get things done.
- iii. Brad Shogren (Area III): 2/3 are done with planting. There is lots of conservation work to do. The river is finally down low enough they can get in the river and do evaluation on streambank sites. Letting water out of the dam. Grant has expired—they will do final assessments and move on to other river projects.
- iv. John Wunder (Area IV): There has been four to five inches of rain in the last couple of days. It has been wet in NE Kansas for the past 18 months. Local work on terraces, water ways and ditches. Their cost-share project is half completed and he is glad to have flexibility to encumber funds. He appreciates everyone's flexibility and patience and encourages everyone to keep up the good work.
- v. Rod Vorhees (Area V): There has been small windows of opportunity between rains. He was on conference call with legislators in Washington and was impressed with their answers; there is lots of uncertainty and they didn't make promises. He thinks Conservation Districts have adapted well to the challenges of the time. They have longstanding relationships with landowners and producers and are finding ways to communicate with producers. The DOC staff has done a good job getting things done in a time when there could have been a crisis, but there hasn't been.

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9. ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting date was not set. It may be the joint meeting in July or early August. Dan Meyerhoff said the KACD Fall Meetings may be virtual, a decision has not been made yet.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Carlson", is centered on the page.

Scott Carlson
Acting Executive Director

District Manager Updates

(as of 5-27-20)

1st Quarter (January 1, 2020, to March 31, 2020)

New District Managers

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
1	Rawlins	Lori Poore	3/4/2020
2	Stanton	Samantha Haugen	3/23/2020
3	Mitchell	Linda Deneke	1/13/2020
3	Saline	Diana Harden	2/10/2020

Resigned District Managers

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>End Date</u>
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Upcoming Vacancies

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>End Date</u>
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District Employee Updates

(as of 5-27-20)

1st Quarter (January 1, 2020, to March 31, 2020)

New District Employees

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
1	Wallace	Kathleen Johnson	DOC Technician	2/10/2020
4	Doniphan	Luke Burns	District Technician	2/5/2020
5	Bourbon	Mitchell Crystal	District Technician	1/6/2020

2nd Quarter (April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020)

New District Managers

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
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Resigned District Managers

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>End Date</u>
1	Phillips	Jacque Bretton	5/4/2020
2	Grant	Miranda Bowen	5/22/2020
4	Atchison	Tiffany Hoffman	4/3/2020
4	Jefferson	Tari Stutz	5/15/2020
4	Leavenworth	Tari Stutz	5/15/2020

Upcoming Vacancies

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>End Date</u>
3	Marion	Betty Richmond	June 30, 2020 (?)

2nd Quarter (April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020)

New District Employees

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
1	Thomas	Ryan Burton	DOC Technician	5/11/2020
2	Ness	Makenna Fritts	District Technician	5/1/2020

FY 2020 NPS DOC Uncommitted Balance as of 5/27/2020

Fund Source Codes

Allocation = \$1,640,970.21

Committed = \$1,624,592.37

UnCommitted = \$16,377.84

Fund Source	Allocation	Committed	Uncommitted	Options
110M_NPS	\$8,757.20	\$705.40	\$8,051.80	
AFO_NPS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	
BANNER_NPS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
COAL_NPS	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	
CREP_NPS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
LABETTE_NPS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Livestock_Water_Assist_NPS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
NPS_NPS	\$1,575,970.21	\$1,572,644.17	\$3,326.04	
PEAT_NPS	\$16,242.80	\$16,242.80	\$0.00	
POULTRY_NPS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TWINL_NPS	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	
WILDFIRE_NPS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

FY 2020 WR DOC Uncommitted Balance as of 5/27/2020

Fund Source Codes

Allocation = \$2,430,522.32

Committed = \$2,404,228.59

UnCommitted = \$26,293.73

Fund Source	Allocation	Committed	Uncommitted	Options
110M_WR	\$31,758.74	\$31,758.74	\$0.00	
BANNER_WR	\$3,230.99	\$3,230.99	\$0.00	
COAL_WR	\$3,293.59	\$3,293.59	\$0.00	
DNA_WR	\$2,294,787.48	\$2,294,787.48	\$0.00	
LABETTE_WR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Livestock_Water_Assist_WR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
MILFORD_RCPP	\$27,451.52	\$1,157.79	\$26,293.73	
PEAT_WR	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	
TWINL_WR	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	
WILDFIRE_WR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

FY 2021 WR DNA Allocations

County	FY 2021 WR DNA Allocation	County	FY 2021 WR DNA Allocation
Allen	18,332	Linn	\$18,332
Anderson	18,332	Logan	\$23,514
Atchison	20,059	Lyon	\$20,923
Barber	25,241	Marion	\$21,786
Barton	22,650	Marshall	\$22,650
Bourbon	18,332	McPherson	\$22,650
Brown	20,923	Meade	\$24,377
Butler	22,650	Miami	\$20,059
Chase	20,059	Mitchell	\$21,786
Chautauqua	19,196	Montgomery	\$18,332
Cherokee	17,469	Morris	\$20,923
Cheyenne	24,377	Morton	\$21,786
Clark	25,241	Nemaha	\$22,650
Clay	22,650	Neosho	\$18,332
Cloud	21,786	Ness	\$25,241
Coffey	20,059	Norton	\$23,514
Comanche	24,377	Osage	\$20,059
Cowley	22,650	Osborne	\$24,377
Crawford	18,332	Ottawa	\$22,650
Decatur	23,514	Pawnee	\$23,514
Dickinson	22,650	Phillips	\$24,377
Doniphan	20,923	Pottawatomie	\$22,650
Douglas	20,059	Pratt	\$20,923
Edwards	20,923	Rawlins	\$24,377
Elk	19,196	Reno	\$22,650
Ellis	24,377	Republic	\$20,923
Ellsworth	22,650	Rice	\$20,923
Finney	26,104	Riley	\$20,059
Ford	24,377	Rooks	\$23,514
Franklin	20,059	Rush	\$23,514
Geary	19,196	Russell	\$22,650
Gove	24,377	Saline	\$22,650
Graham	23,514	Scott	\$22,650
Grant	21,786	Sedgwick	\$22,650
Gray	22,650	Seward	\$21,786
Greeley	22,650	Shawnee	\$19,196
Greenwood	20,923	Sheridan	\$23,514
Hamilton	23,514	Sherman	\$24,377
Harper	23,514	Smith	\$23,514
Harvey	19,196	Stafford	\$20,923
Haskell	23,514	Stanton	\$22,650
Hodgeman	22,650	Stevens	\$22,650
Jackson	20,923	Sumner	\$24,377
Jefferson	20,059	Thomas	\$24,377
Jewell	23,514	Trego	\$23,514
Johnson	19,196	Wabausee	\$20,923
Kearny	22,650	Wallace	\$23,514
Kingman	23,514	Washington	\$22,650
Kiowa	21,786	Wichita	\$23,514
Labette	18,332	Wilson	\$19,196
Lane	22,650	Woodson	\$18,332
Leavenworth	20,059	Wyandotte	\$20,061
Lincoln	22,650	Total	\$2,301,392

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Cost-Share Program (NPS) FY 2021 Allocation Worksheet

FY 2021 NPS Budget: \$1,860,023

- Obligations**
1. Funding for all 105 counties in FY 2021
 2. Fund 25 Conservation Technician positions in 24 NRCS Management Units identified by the workload analysis with a Contribution Agreement with NRCS. NPS portion, \$300,000. T/A Funding Partnership: Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE), Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism (KDWP&T), NRCS, DOC.
 3. Fund 7 Conservation Technicians in 7 management units identified by NRCS with a contribution agreement KACD. (NPS portion included in the \$300,000)
 4. Fund 3 Conservation Easement Specialists and 1 Soil Health Specialist in locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS.

FY 2021 Allocation:

FY 2020 Allocations		FY 2021 Allocations Projected		Adjustment from FY 2020	
NPS Base	\$ 1,269,644	NPS Base	\$ 1,269,644		\$ -
T/A	\$ 300,000	T/A	\$ 300,000		\$ -
TMDL	\$ 50,000	High Priority/TMDL	\$ -		\$ (50,000)
Supplemental LWS	\$ 50,000	Supplemental LWS	\$ 50,000		\$ -
Soil Health Education	\$ 50,000	Soil Health Education	\$ 50,000		\$ -
NPS Operations	\$ 90,379	NPS Operations	\$ 90,379		\$ -
CSIMS	\$ 50,000	CSIMS	\$ 100,000		\$ 50,000
Streambank	\$ -	Streambank	\$ -		\$ -
Total	\$ 1,860,023	Total	\$ 1,860,023	Total	\$ -

FY 2021 NPS Base Allocations

County	FY 2021 NPS Base Allocation	County	FY 2021 NPS Base Allocation
Allen	\$11,781	Linn	\$12,687
Anderson	\$11,781	Logan	\$9,066
Atchison	\$14,497	Lyon	\$16,308
Barber	\$12,083	Marion	\$14,497
Barton	\$12,083	Marshall	\$13,290
Bourbon	\$11,781	McPherson	\$12,083
Brown	\$13,592	Meade	\$9,066
Butler	\$14,497	Miami	\$12,687
Chase	\$16,308	Mitchell	\$11,480
Chautauqua	\$12,687	Montgomery	\$14,497
Cherokee	\$14,497	Morris	\$14,497
Cheyenne	\$8,160	Morton	\$8,764
Clark	\$11,480	Nemaha	\$15,403
Clay	\$12,687	Neosho	\$12,687
Cloud	\$13,290	Ness	\$10,273
Coffey	\$14,497	Norton	\$12,083
Comanche	\$12,083	Osage	\$15,403
Cowley	\$14,497	Osborne	\$12,687
Crawford	\$12,687	Ottawa	\$12,083
Decatur	\$9,367	Pawnee	\$12,083
Dickinson	\$14,497	Phillips	\$12,083
Doniphan	\$12,687	Pottawatomie	\$15,403
Douglas	\$13,592	Pratt	\$12,687
Edwards	\$10,876	Rawlins	\$8,160
Elk	\$15,403	Reno	\$14,497
Ellis	\$12,083	Republic	\$12,687
Ellsworth	\$12,687	Rice	\$11,480
Finney	\$9,066	Riley	\$15,403
Ford	\$10,876	Rooks	\$10,876
Franklin	\$14,497	Rush	\$10,876
Geary	\$13,592	Russell	\$12,083
Gove	\$9,066	Saline	\$12,687
Graham	\$11,480	Scott	\$8,764
Grant	\$8,764	Sedgwick	\$13,290
Gray	\$9,066	Seward	\$9,367
Greeley	\$8,462	Shawnee	\$15,403
Greenwood	\$15,403	Sheridan	\$9,367
Hamilton	\$8,469	Sherman	\$8,764
Harper	\$12,687	Smith	\$12,687
Harvey	\$12,687	Stafford	\$12,687
Haskell	\$8,462	Stanton	\$8,160
Hodgeman	\$10,273	Stevens	\$8,764
Jackson	\$15,403	Sumner	\$12,083
Jefferson	\$15,403	Thomas	\$9,367
Jewell	\$13,290	Trego	\$12,083
Johnson	\$12,687	Wabausee	\$15,403
Kearny	\$8,764	Wallace	\$9,066
Kingman	\$13,290	Washington	\$12,687
Kiowa	\$12,083	Wichita	\$8,764
Labette	\$12,687	Wilson	\$12,687
Lane	\$8,462	Woodson	\$11,781
Leavenworth	\$14,497	Wyandotte	\$10,876
Lincoln	\$11,480	Total	\$1,269,644

Conducting Kansas Conservation Partnership Meetings Virtually

A Draft Initiative Prepared by the Division of Conservation, KDA – May 2020

- I. **Issue:** Due to the current pandemic there is an increased need to accelerate discussion and planning to explore alternative methods of communication among the Kansas Conservation Partnership. In addition to the acute situation we currently find ourselves there are other motivating factors to pursue an effective alternative to physical assembly. Factors such as:
 - a. Lingering COVID-19 Pandemic
 - b. Possibility of future pandemics or another social/economic crisis
 - c. Cost savings of not assembling
 - d. Increased outreach to conservation district supervisors
 - e. Increasing the capacity of conservation partners
 - f. Increased timeliness of new district manager training
- II. **Scope:** Besides the obvious illness prevention that social distancing provides there are other considerations for changing our meeting paradigms. Whether multiple district and agency meetings, area meetings or statewide meetings, the cost in time and money for centralized physical assembly is great. Additionally, virtual meetings would enable all Kansas conservation district supervisors for the first time since adoption of conservation district law the ability to attend and participate virtually in partnership meetings. This would greatly increase the capacity of all partnership members on subjects of program efficiencies and district administration. This initiative would also be inclusive of watershed districts.
- III. **Solutions:** Adopting virtual meeting capabilities across the partnership. This would entail identification of appropriate hardware and software requirements. In addition, the identification of appropriate locales for participating in virtual meetings are required such as USDA service center conference rooms. An implementation and training strategy would also need to be developed and adopted.
- IV. **Who:** The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) is the only state agency in Kansas that is fully equipped to work remotely. As a Division of the KDA, the DOC is supported by the KDA IT Division which will be a valuable asset to advise the DOC in its efforts to lead this initiative. The DOC can identify common hardware and software availability in the partnership as well as coordinate and conduct training activities for partnership members.
- V. **Implementation:** Agreement and participation in adopting a virtual approach would be required of all partner members. Rollout of this initiative could begin in May 2020 with basic agreement in principle of partnership members. The DOC would begin discussions with technical IT personnel within KDA and the partnership to identify requirements for hardware, software and communication bandwidth. An implementation and training plan would also be developed by the DOC to include costs associated with implementation.
- VI. **Timeline:** CY 2020
 - a. May – Introduce initiative to partner members
 - b. May – DOC begins discussions with IT Professionals
 - c. June – Detailed implementation and training plan presented to conservation partnership
 - d. July – Trial runs and testing of chosen software with select partnership members
 - e. July – DOC conducts statewide training through webinars and chosen virtual software
 - f. August -First statewide implementation (KACD Fall meetings if not physically assembling)

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Employees' Organization

AMANDA SCOTT, President



June 2020

- I attended the KACD board Zoom meeting on April 23, 2020.
- I responded to the request on input from the Division of Conservation regarding Conservation Virtual Meetings.
- Some districts are continuing to work from home while others have started transitioning back into offices following recommended social guidelines.
- The KACD-EO Executive Board will meeting in Salina, June 18, 2020. The meeting location is still being determined.

As always, if anyone has any questions, concerns or needs assistance please contact myself or any of the Area KACD-EO Representatives for assistance.

LiDAR: The request for NRCS extension for hydrorenforcement was only granted for 1 year (Feb 2021) and was not authorized until Oct 2021 as requested. Trying to discuss with contractors how to meet the deliverables due to continued delays by Atlantic. A letter was sent to Atlantic on February 28 outlining frustrations with the delays. We have started slowly receiving blocks of data, but the data has errors. A meeting was held May 26 to discuss the errors with Atlantic

2020 State Dam Safety Program Performance Questionnaire: The call for data was received on April 20 and the data was submitted May 14, 2020. The response to these questions will be used to calculate the numbers for the state assistance grant performance metrics. ASDSO also uses this information for their state-by-state performance reports.

County Consultation Coordination Officer's (CCO) meetings: The Coffey County CCO meeting was held May 12. The Osage County CCO meeting was held May 14. The meetings are to explain the post-preliminary and due diligence portions of the mapping projects. The DWR explained the appeal period, public notification, the Letter of Final Determination (LFD), community adoption of the new map and other community responsibilities. At the CCO Meetings, DWR explained the administrative steps that are now required to make the map official. The goal of the meetings is to ensure that communities understand the process and what they will be responsible for over the next year and a half.

House Science Committee: Terry Medley and Tara Lanzrath briefed Rep. Marshall's office on 2019 Kansas flooding and Kansas floodplain mapping procedures. The House Science Committee held a Joint Environment and Oversight hearing on floods and floodplain mapping on February 27, 2020. During the hearing multiple references to Kansas flooding and floodplain mapping procedures were mentioned.

Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team: The Kansas Hazard Mitigation team meeting was held March 3. Terry Medley gave a presentation on the Kansas Dam Safety Program.

Flood Risk Review/Discovery meetings: Discovery meetings for the Walnut Custom Watershed was held March 4. The Verdigris Discovery meeting was held April 21. The Base Level Engineering (BLE) phase marks the first stage of updating floodplain maps and will be further enhanced through Data Development that is scoped in FFY20. It will be a few years before there are new effective maps. These initial draft floodplains are not yet ready to be released to the public since they will be further enhanced and potentially modified due to comments. It is important for communities be involved early in this process to begin reviewing the data, provide feedback to DWR and to be aware of the project as it moves forward. DWR also used this meeting to discuss any technical assistance needs and to look at possible mitigation actions.

Dam Safety Conference: The DWR dam safety conference was held March 11, 2020 in Topeka at the Washburn Memorial Student Union. Approximately 160 people attended.

National Dam Safety Awareness Day: National Dam Safety Awareness Day is May 31, 2020.

Western Kansas Hydrology: DWR hosted a Western Kansas Hydrology meeting on April 23. Various contractors and state agencies participated in the meeting. The goal of the meeting was to determine how to handle stream flows in Western Kansas. The big question is if it is appropriate to use the entire data set to calibrate models or post 1978 data.

Lyon County FIRM: The Lyon County Flood Insurance Rate Map went preliminary on May 22, 2020.

Budget: The NOFO for the FFY 20 has been posted. Kansas took a big reduction in the grant. The projected amount for Kansas is \$203,000. The application is due June 6.

Staffing: We have hired Cheyenne Sun Eagle as the National Flood Insurance Specialist. We still have a vacant engineering associate on the stream permitting team.