



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

MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner at 9:12 a.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 SW 9th St., 4th Floor Conference Room, Topeka, Kansas.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

Elected Commissioners:

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

Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:

Eric Banks, State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality Agronomy Department, Kansas State University (KSU)
Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

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

Guests:

Pat Lehman, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD)

SCC MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2014

Page 2

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

**Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the April 7, 2014 minutes, as mailed.
Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.**

4. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS: None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. Brad Shogren and Rod Vorhees discussed a meeting they attended regarding the Kansas Conservation Districts *"Sustaining a Legacy of Local Governance."*
- b. Yolanda Torres, Accountant, is retiring effective June 7, 2014. Yolanda has been employed with the State Conservation Commission for over 40 years. A plaque was made and contained the inscribed words *"Kansas State Conservation Commission In Recognition For Distinguished Service Presented To Yolanda Torres Accountant For Over 40 Years of Outstanding And Dedicated Service To The State Conservation Commission 1973-2014 - Signed by Rod Vorhees, Chairman."*
- c. Greg Foley provided an overview of the April 11, 2014 Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas Workshop, in Manhattan, Kansas.
- d. Discussion on the new location of the Hodgeman County Conservation District.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Final 2014 legislative report and FY 2015 budget – Greg Foley.

House substitute for SB 147 did not pass. The DOC received an enhancement of \$750,000 in the Riparian and Wetland Protection Program for the Delaware River Phase III Streambank Restoration and Protection Projects.
- b. Review conservation technician position accomplishments, review future workload areas, future oversight and training – See Attachment A - Don Jones.
- c. Update on 2014 SCC/KACD Joint Annual meeting – See Attachment B – Pat Lehman.

The tentative schedule for KACD Area Fall meetings was discussed. The schedule is as follows:

Area IV Meeting – July 29th – Topeka, Kansas
Area V Meeting – July 30th – Fredonia, Kansas
Area I Meeting – August 5th – Colby, Kansas
Area II Meeting – August 6th – Garden City, Kansas

SCC MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2014

Page 3

Area III Meeting – August 7th – Salina, Kansas

- d. Review final direction on KACD Luncheon – Greg Foley.

Greg Foley will be in contact with possible KACD Luncheon speakers.

- e. Status of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invitation to be a cooperating agency (letter to BLM from Greg) – See Attachment C – Steve Frost.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – See Attachment D – Steve Frost.

Report on May 7, 2014 field tour.

- b. Water Resources Cost-Share Program (WRCSP) – See Attachment E – Don Jones.

Review and take possible action on FY 2015 (WRCSP) county allocations.

Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the FY 2015 WRCSP county allocations as presented in attached handout. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

- c. Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program (NPSPCP) – See Attachment F – Don Jones.

Review and take possible action on FY 2015 (NPSPCP) county allocations.

Motion by John Wunder to approve the FY 2015 NPSPCP county allocations as presented in attached handout. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

- d. Watershed Dam Construction Program (WDCP) – See Attachment G – Hakim Saadi.

Review and take possible action on FY 2015 WDCP applications for new dam construction.

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the FY 2015 WDCP applications, in the amount of \$99,025, as presented in attached handout. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

- e. Water Supply Restoration Program (WSRP) – Hakim Saadi.

Review and take possible action on FY 2015 WSRP amendment.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2014

Page 4

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the FY 2015 WSRP contract amendment for Osage City Lake, in the amount of \$258,156 or the proportionate reduction from the signed FY 2015 appropriations bill. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

f. Administration.

Review and authorize Commissioner and Staff travel.

Motion by Andy Larson to approve Hakim Saadi to attend The Association of State Dam Safety Officials conference, at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California on September 21-25, 2014. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

8. REPORTS:

a. Agency Reports:

- i. NRCS – Eric Banks. See Attachment H.
- ii. KCARE/KWRI – Dan Devlin. Dan reported he is working with the City of Wichita on storm water management, and some economic studies have been completed. He continues to get plans for the Herschel George’s poultry litter storage sites. Dan also commented that a new research site is going in to study cover crops, and the sensor project is forthcoming in Garden City.
- iii. K-State Agronomy – Peter Tomlinson. Peter reported that he continues to be involved with the USDA Southern Plains Climate Hubs. They are in the formation phase and he wants to engage with the SCC.

b. Staff reports:

- i. Move Coordination – Scott Carlson reported that the move coordination committee tasks are going well and continue to be worked on daily. The Department of Agriculture will be closed on Friday, June 13, 2014, for the move to Manhattan. The agency will be back open for business on Monday, June 16, 2014 in Manhattan. The new address is 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, KS 66502. New telephone numbers will be finalized in the upcoming weeks.
- ii. Watershed Programs – Hakim Saadi reported that the Operation and Maintenance Spring 2014 workshops were successful. Seventeen Watershed Districts were in attendance.
- iii. Greg Foley reported that the “Issues in Water of the US” written report is due by June, 6 2014.
- iv. CD Document Submittal Summary – See Attachment I - Donna Meader.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2014

Page 5

Donna reported that she continues to scan required documents into DocuWare to prepare for the move to Manhattan.

c. Commissioner Reports:

- i.** Area I – Ted Nighswonger. None.
- ii.** Area II – Andy Larson. None.
- iii.** Area III – Brad Shogren. None.
- iv.** Area IV – John Wunder. Reported that many linear feet of terraces have been installed in his local area..
- v.** Area V – Rod Vorhees. Reported that there will be a Kansas Prescribed Fire Council meeting on Thursday, May 29, 2014 in Yates Center, Kansas.

9. ADJOURN:

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for July 27 – 28, 2014 in Clay Center, Kansas.

**Motion by Andy Larson to adjourn. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.**



Greg A. Foley.
Executive Director



Kansas T/A Partnership Report

May 13, 2014

NRCS Contribution Agreement:

- **Conservation Technicians – 11 Total Positions**

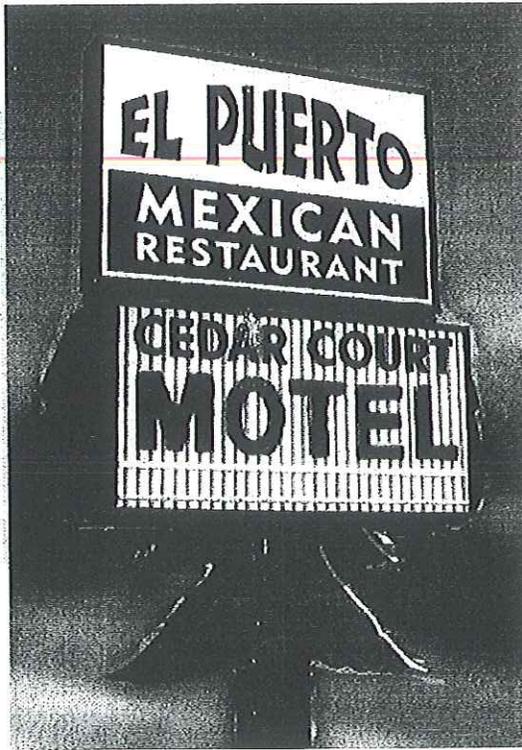
- Nine Conservation Technicians are on staff at this time.
 - Atchison, Bourbon, Jefferson, Kiowa, Saline, Lyon, Marshall, Osage, Wilson
- The tenth position in Pottawatomie County is vacant at this time.
 - NRCS recommends moving the position to Riley County.
 - NRCS and DOC are looking at possibly moving the Conservation Technician from Emporia to Manhattan. NRCS has indicated that they will not want to refill the position in Emporia. NRCS will look to see what other management unit that may need additional T/A.
- The Eleventh position in Ness County is vacant at this time.
 - Ness County is ready to start the process to refill the position.
- FY 2011 Accomplishments:
 - Farm Bill Acres – 58,375; State Program acres – 10,686; Other Acres – 6,101
 - Total Acres – 75,162
 - Landowner contacts – 1,145
- FY 2012 Accomplishments:
 - Farm Bill Acres – 16,823; State Program acres – 19,461; WRAPS – 853; Other Acres – 7,854
 - Total Acres – 44,901
 - Landowner contacts – 1,342
- FY 2013 Accomplishments:
 - Farm Bill acres – 28,820; State Program acres – 16,925; WRAPS – 499; Other Acres -23,552
 - Total acres – 69,776
 - Landowner contacts – 1,600
- FY 2014 Accomplishments to date:
 - Farm Bill Acres –19,885; State Program acres – 3,761; WRAPS – 3279; Other acres – 2,500
 - Total acres – 26,189
 - Landowner contacts – 1,373

KDHE EPA-319 Grant:

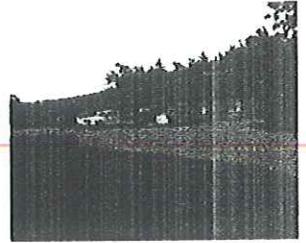
- The KDHE grant will be used to fund the eleven Conservation Technician positions in FY 2015 and beyond.
- The funding from KDHE will be state water plan funds which will help to meet the 50% non-federal match to the NRCS federal funds.

Conservation Technician Training:

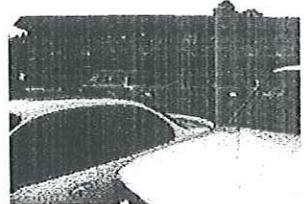
- DOC, NRCS, Pheasants Forever, KDWP&T, and KDHE staff provided a two day training for Conservation Technicians and PF Wildlife Biologist last December in Salina.
- Training emphasis was water quality information, program information, and having the Conservation Technicians and PF Wildlife Biologist develop goals for the next year.



905 Crawford Street
Clay Center, KS. 67432
785-632-2148
FAX: 785-632-5299



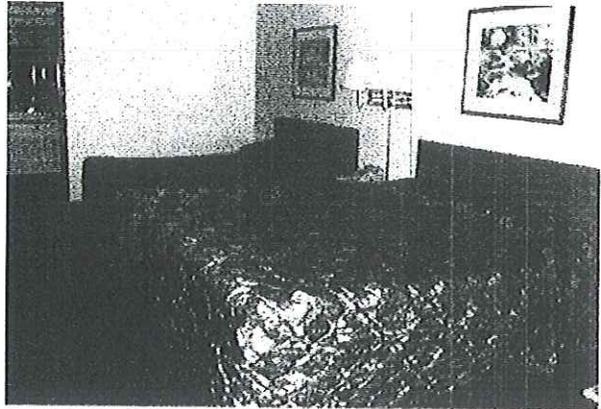
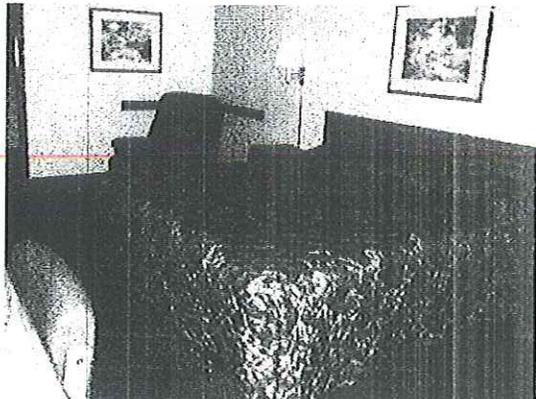
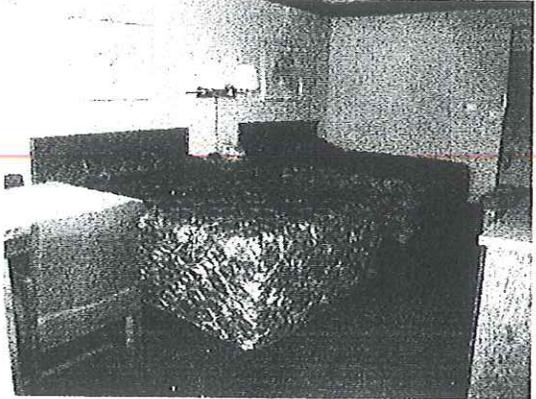
- *Free Continental Breakfast
- *Free High-Speed Wireless Internet
- *Refrigerators In All Rooms
- *Pet Friendly
- *Outdoor Pool
- *Truck Parking



Call today and make your Reservation at 1-800-999-5774
Contact Us!
Mike and Sandy Rothfuss-Owners
Lanita Laffery-Manager

70.02/night

cedarcourt motel claycenter ks@gmail.com



Pat Lehman

From: Meek, Tom - NRCS, Clay Center, KS [Tom.Meek@ks.nacdn.net]
Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 2:47 PM
To: Pat Lehman (ptlehman@sunflower.com)
Subject: Sunday night
Attachments: Brady's Menu.pdf

Pat,

I talked with Brady Rush about the Sunday evening meal on July 27th. There is a \$75 charge for using his restaurant for a private party. He will put out a buffet with items you choose from his menu. To get a price on the meal per person, I think we'd just need to pick a menu and run it past him.

Tom Meek, District Manager
Clay County Conservation District
610 5th St.
Clay Center, KS 67432
(785) 632-3550 ext 3

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March 2014

Brady Rush
 420 Lincoln Ave.
 Clay Center, KS 67432
 Phone: (785) 777-2800
 Email: bradysmokehouse@yahoo.com

<u>Hickory Smoked Meat</u>	<u>Small Sandwich (4" Bun) or Plate-Price Per Serving</u>	<u>Large Sandwich (4.5" Bun) or Plate- Price Per Serving</u>	<u>Price Per Pound</u>
Prime Rib	call for quote		
Brisket	\$5.79	\$6.79	\$13.29
Pulled Pork	\$4.79	\$5.79	\$11.29
Pulled Chicken	\$4.79	\$5.79	\$11.29
Pulled Beef	\$4.79	\$5.79	\$12.29
¾" Cured Smoked Pork Chop		\$6.50	
Chicken Quarters (leg/thigh or one breast per serving)		\$3.99	
Pork Ribs (Approximately 3.5 servings/slab, sold in slabs only.)		\$19.99/slab	

(Plate price per serving is for choice of one meat and includes a Dinner Roll with Butter and Brady's BBQ Sauce. Sandwich includes a Bun, Brady's BBQ Sauce and Pickle Slices. Meat by the pound includes meat only, sauce will need to be purchased separately.)

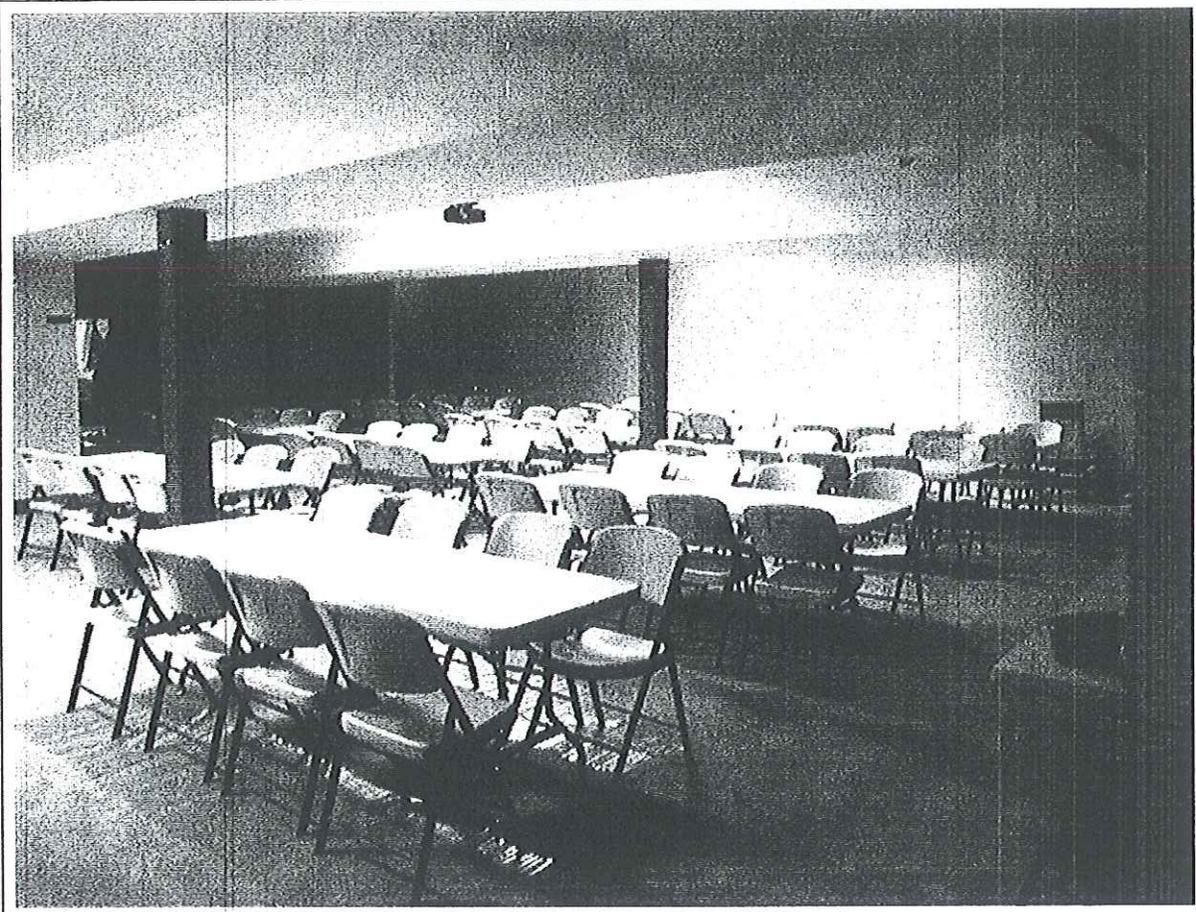
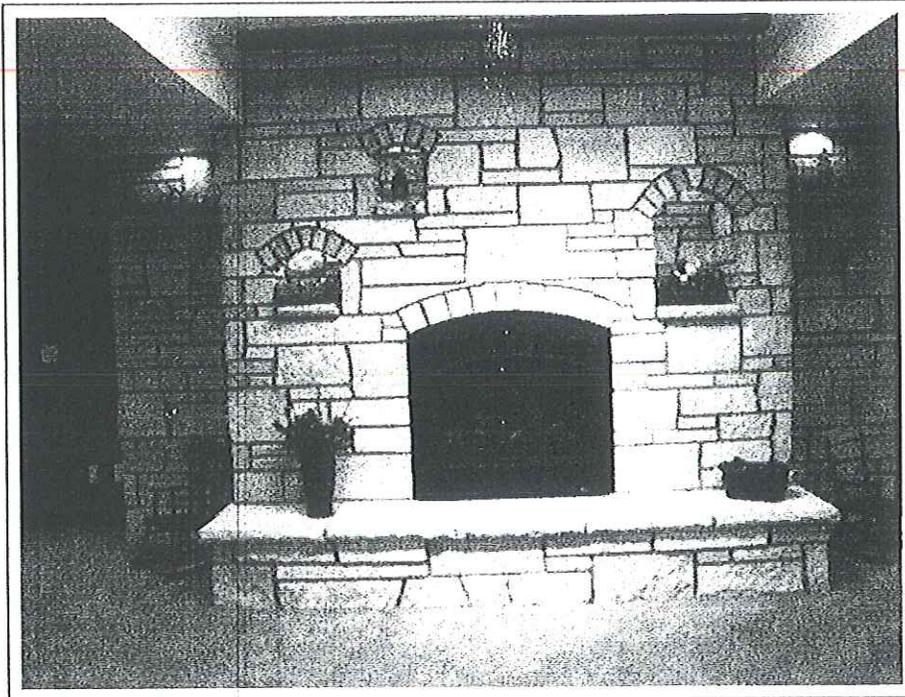
<u>Brady's BBQ Sauce</u>	<u>Per Serving</u>	<u>Per Pint</u>	<u>Per Gallon</u>
Hot or Sweet		\$4.59	\$30.00
Homemade Sides			
Smoked Beans	\$2.19	\$4.49	\$30.00
Seasoned Green Beans	\$2.19		\$30.00
Cole Slaw	\$2.19	\$4.49	\$30.00
Potato Salad	\$2.19	\$4.49	\$30.00
Creamy Corn	\$2.19		
Baked Potato	\$2.19		
Seasoned New Potatoes	\$2.49		
Combination Salad with Dressing	\$2.49		
Cheesy Potatoes (9X13 deep pan-feeds approximately 20)	\$60.00 per pan		
Dessert			
Chocolate Cake	\$2.00		
Brownie	\$2.00		
Fruit Cobbler-Peach, Apple or Cherry (sold in 9X13 or 11X19 pans only)	\$36.00 and \$60.00 per pan		
Beverages			
Iced Tea & Water (add Lemonade &/or Coffee for an additional \$.50/serving)	\$1.25 disposable glasses/cups and ice included		
Table Service			
Heavy Duty Disposable Plates, Utensils, and Napkins	\$ 0.99 per person		
Clear Disposable Plates, Silver Utensils, and Napkins	\$2.25 per person		
Catering Fees and Options			
Catering at location includes serving table set-up and server for meat	\$0.50 per person or \$80 minimum		
Delivery Only or Pick-Up	\$0.00		
Mileage from Clay Center	\$1.00 per mile both ways		

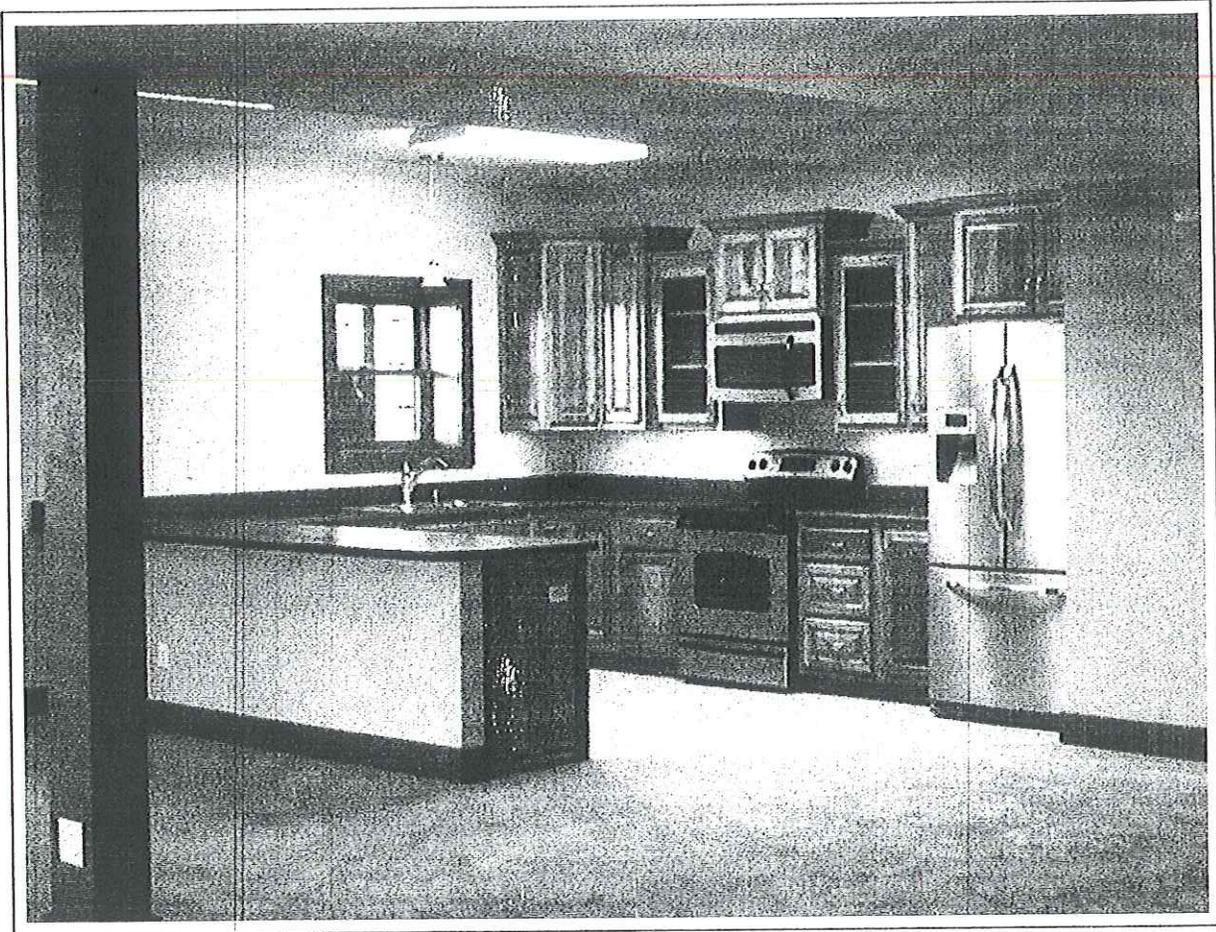
Any charges to me by the facility or meeting place will be passed on to you. Sales tax has not been added to above prices. The number of meals or servings that you order is the amount prepared and that you will be charged for. Fifty percent of estimated cost is due to hold the date. We request a two week minimum notice for catering functions. Balance and sales tax will be invoiced and due at the function.

These are our most popular menu items but if there is something specific that you would like, ask us about it. We do our best to serve.

**Gratuities are not included. Prices may vary slightly if there is a large increase in meat costs between now and the function.*

Thank You for letting Brady's Smoke House help with your event!





2014 KACD CONVENTION

November 23-25, 2014

THEME:

"Happy 70th Birthday, KACD!"

Convention will celebrate KACD's 70th birthday, primarily at the awards banquet on Monday evening, November 24, 2014. Attending dignitaries will make remarks and banquet activities (including possible entertainment such as an actor impersonating President Franklin D. Roosevelt) will tie in with theme. Longtime supervisors can share memories and speak about major changes over the decades. *Usual awards and recognitions will be moved to lunch (this year only) in order to prevent an overly long banquet.* We're looking into a donation of a small piece of equipment or implement to give away or raffle off as part of an effort to maximize attendance at this year's convention celebration.

Invited Dignitaries:

Earl Garber, NACD President
Irene Moore, NCDEA President
Jason Weller, Chief, NRCS
Deb Bogar, Region Rep, NACD
Senator Pat Roberts
Congressman Kevin Yoder
Congressman Mike Pompeo

John Larson, NACD CEO
Tom Vilsack, Secretary, USDA
Sam Brownback, Kansas Governor
Senator Jerry Moran
Congressman Tim Huelskamp
Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins
President Barack Obama (?)

Possible Breakouts:

1. Rex Buchanan, KGS – report on induced seismicity
2. Rep. Tom Sloan – update on Kansas wind energy projects
3. Mike Houts, KBS – update on KARS (Kansas Applied Remote Sensing) Natural Resource Planner
4. Janet Barrows – Women in Agriculture
5. Women Producers' Panel
6. Local Operational Agreement (with repeat session)
7. Dr. Charles Rice, K-State – report on multi-state partnership grant to find ways for cattle producers to adapt to climate extremes in grazing operations
8. ~~Kevin Riche~~ Kevin Riche, K-State – crop monitoring drones



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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



In Reply Refer To:
1610

March 14, 2014

REC'D MAR 19 2014

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

Dear Mr. Voorhees:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Tryon
Field Office Manager

Enclosure
1 – Draft MOU



109 SW 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66612
Jackie McClaskey, Secretary
Greg Foley, Executive Director

Phone: (785) 296-3600
Fax: (785) 296-6172
www.agriculture.ks.gov
Sam Brownback, Governor

April 8, 2014

Stephen G. Tryon, Field Office Manager
Oklahoma Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
7906 East 33rd Street, Suite 101
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74145

RE: EIS Project; Cooperating Agency Invitation

Dear Mr. Tryon,

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation gratefully acknowledges your invitation to participate in the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement project in the Oklahoma Field Office region. Although we recognize the effort to be an important one which is a mutual concern to both of our organizations, we must respectfully decline the opportunity to participate at this time.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is presently undergoing a transition of historic significance as the entire agency headquarters is being moved to Manhattan, Kansas over the next several months. We fully anticipate that the normal regimens and limitations for staffing, travel and related expenses will be even more challenged over the remainder of the year.

While we may not be able to provide a full-time commitment to the revised planning process as a Cooperating Agency, please let us know if we can present any particular resource or information which can possibly aid the effort. Likewise, we would appreciate being kept apprised of your progress with meeting agendas and records, and being notified of any particular extraordinary or sensitive issues which may be resulting within the final, proposed plan.

Thank you for your consideration, and as always, we look forward to working with you in the future! Please write or call if you have any questions or if I can ever be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Greg A. Foley
Executive Director

pc: skf: Jackie McClaskey, Secretary - KDA
Rod Vorhees, Chairman - SCC
Laurence Levesque, Project Lead - BLM



The Garden City Telegram



THURSDAY, May 1, 2014

75 cents

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14 pages

GCTelegram.com

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Kansas, Colorado groups aim to save Southwest Chief

By PATRICK MALONE
The Santa Fe New Mexican

(MCT) — A coalition of communities and private organizations in Western Kansas and Southern Colorado announced Tuesday that it has pledged \$9 million and is pursuing \$24.5 million in federal grants to keep Amtrak's Southwest Chief on its current route through those areas and Northern New Mexico.

No such steps have been taken in New Mexico, where a state study is underway to determine the economic benefits, infrastructure needs and costs, and possible constitutional constraints, but Gov. Susana Martinez's administration is hopeful for federal intervention.

U.S. Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, both New Mexico Democrats, have urged a Senate committee to set aside funds for capital improvements for long-distance rail operations throughout the country, including the Southwest Chief passenger line.

"That's the most logical," said Tom Church, Martinez's Cabinet secretary for transportation. "That's the way it's always been funded."

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, which owns the track along the Southwest Chief route, has said it would stop maintenance on the tracks in January 2016. An estimated

See Amtrak, Page A5

Commerce unveils plans for local headquarters

By RENÉE JEAN
rjean@gctelegram.com

In Monopoly, when you get the chance to purchase a hot property, it's always a good idea to snap it up if you can, even if you don't put anything on it right away.

Six years ago, Commerce Bank snapped up the Bank of America location at 1515 E. Kansas Ave. Rich Harp, president of the Garden City branch of Commerce Bank, said Commerce did so with an

its demographics, and now Commerce is announcing that it is ready to put something on the property it purchased.

It will be the home of a brand new headquarters featuring a contemporary design with a full-service banking center, as well as a drive-through with four lanes and an ATM. Inside, the facility will be designed to offer a more intimate customer experience with more privacy. There will be a technology bar with computer workstations for custom-

on a broad variety of factors, including positioning the company for long-term growth in the market."

Harp pointed out there are many successful businesses in Garden City, and the market continues to gain economic strength.

"It really is a real plus for any business out there," Harp said. "There are a lot of things going on in Garden City, and it's just nice to be a part of it."

Last year it was reported in The Telegram that the facil-

blowing away. "Looking around right now, it is just brown. It is brown all around us, all over us — just dirt blowing."

No, it's not the Dust Bowl conditions of the 1930s — or even close. But four years of deep drought have taken a toll on the land. It is dry enough that residents across southwest Kansas say more tumbleweeds are blowing around than normal, hitting fence posts, blocking roadways and filling up yards. It's also dry enough that concern looms for the upcoming wheat crop and the dried-up pastures that should be stocked with cattle.

Now, it is dry enough that, coupled with heftier-than-normal winds this year, the soil is blowing and, as a result of the multiyear drought, there is little residue left to stop it.

"We are farming better, using less tillage; we are trying to keep more residue in the ground," said John Holman, a southwest Kansas agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extension. "But the problem is when you have no rain, you have no crop growth. You have no crop growth, you have nothing protecting the soil."

gone in Kansas — especially in this seemingly arid southwest corner of the state.

In the 1930s, drought and winds created rolling walls of dust that spread across the Great Plains, causing nearly a quarter of southwest Kansas' population to leave, according to the book "Rooted in Dust: Surviving Drought and Depression in Southwestern Kansas."

Now, the same area that was the epicenter of the 1930s event is suffering from the 21st century drought.

Drought began to set in during the summer of 2010, the

Scarred land

Droughts have come and

See Drought, Page A5

Seeking a bigger bang with CVB resources

By SCOTT AUST
saust@gctelegram.com

The Finney County Convention and Visitors Bureau is considering making some changes to its grant program intended to allow it more flexibility in attracting bigger events to the community.

a board or committee comprised of people with vision or passion for their event.

CVB takes applications from those seeking event funding twice per year. Applications are scored based on a variety of factors such as how many people it will draw and how great an economic impact the event would have. New grants are eligible



Brad Nading/Telegram

Cracks from the drought form in the soil Wednesday along the edge of a farm field northwest of Garden City.

Drought continues to deepen in western Kansas

By AMY BICKEL
Special to The Telegram

In western Kansas, it seems like the wind will never quit.

And during the past few days, the wind has been relentless. Topsoil is blowing, covering the sky and everything else in its path. Farmers in tractors dot the landscape, chiseling fields to help stop the erosion.

Still, dust blows as the prolonged drought continues to bear down on the High Plains.

"A lot of ground is turned loose," said Stanton County farmer Steve Shepard, who has spent three or four days in the tractor seat himself trying to keep a couple of fields from

blowing away. "Looking around right now, it is just brown. It is brown all around us, all over us — just dirt blowing."

No, it's not the Dust Bowl conditions of the 1930s — or even close. But four years of deep drought have taken a toll on the land. It is dry enough that residents across southwest Kansas say more tumbleweeds are blowing around than normal, hitting fence posts, blocking roadways and filling up yards. It's also dry enough that concern looms for the upcoming wheat crop and the dried-up pastures that should be stocked with cattle.

Now, it is dry enough that, coupled with heftier-than-normal winds this year, the soil is blowing and, as a result of the multiyear drought, there is little residue left to stop it.

"We are farming better, using less tillage; we are trying to keep more residue in the ground," said John Holman, a southwest Kansas agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extension. "But the problem is when you have no rain, you have no crop growth. You have no crop growth, you have nothing protecting the soil."

gone in Kansas — especially in this seemingly arid southwest corner of the state.

In the 1930s, drought and winds created rolling walls of dust that spread across the Great Plains, causing nearly a quarter of southwest Kansas' population to leave, according to the book "Rooted in Dust: Surviving Drought and Depression in Southwestern Kansas."

Now, the same area that was the epicenter of the 1930s event is suffering from the 21st century drought.

Drought began to set in during the summer of 2010, the

Scarred land

Droughts have come and

See Drought, Page A5

Seeking a bigger bang with CVB resources

By SCOTT AUST
saust@gctelegram.com

The Finney County Convention and Visitors Bureau is considering making some changes to its grant program intended to allow it more flexibility in attracting bigger events to the community.

a board or committee comprised of people with vision or passion for their event.

CVB takes applications from those seeking event funding twice per year. Applications are scored based on a variety of factors such as how many people it will draw and how great an economic impact the event would have. New grants are eligible

Drought: Dry condition continue in western Kansas

Continued from Page A1

pardon, either, with Garden City receiving 30 percent of normal precipitation and just 45 percent for the wheat-growing season that starts in September.

The U.S. Drought Monitor lists the entire state as in some form of drought. Nearly 20 percent is listed as extreme, with western Kansas hit the hardest.

It's not a pretty picture, Holman said, but it could be worse. Conditions aren't as bad as during the 1930s—the Dust Bowl era—or even the 1950s, he said. The 1930s had nearly 10 years of below-normal precipitation, and the 1950s had five.

Still, Holman added, year four of drought has taken a toll on the thirsty land. The wheat crop is in poor shape. Pastures are dried up, and some native

stands are bad enough they are blowing.

One thing that could be different, however, is the wind. Kansas State Climatologist Mary Knapp said 2014 already has been a third windier than historical averages.

Wind gusts into the 50- and 60-mph range have been ripping across southwest Kansas since Saturday, said Shepard's wife, Glenda. Visibility has been bad enough that there have been times while driving that it's been hard to see the road.

It was windy and dirty enough Tuesday that Stanton County's school system canceled classes. Superintendent Angela Lawrence said at times she can't see the elementary school out her window, which is just a half-block away.

There have been few breaks from the unyielding wind, said Michele

Boy, a writer and farm wife in Hamilton County.

"A lot of farmers were out chiseling yesterday," she said, noting that her husband was one of them. "But the dirt is piling up."

The wind is becoming hard to take, she said. It's the kind of wind that gives you headaches, leaves a layer of dust on the furniture and walls, and keeps you and the kids inside.

Moods are somber. "This is your livelihood," she said, later adding, "It's a disaster here. The wheat is coming up, but the wind is burning up what is there."

Rain needed

State officials began their annual cross-country tour of the state's wheat fields Tuesday. Scars of the drought and

the cold winter already are evident, however.

The Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service rates 37 percent of the state's wheat as poor or very poor and 42 percent as fair.

Holman said several southwest Kansas wheat fields would be zeroed out because of the lack of moisture. The area could see anywhere from fields not harvested to some dryland fields averaging 25 to 30 bushels an acre.

Drought has ravaged the region far too long, but there is some hope on the horizon. As farmers often say, each day is one closer to rain, and Holman notes that forecasters talk of a possible El Nino, which would bring fall and winter moisture to Kansas.

Yet, for now, forecasters predict gusting wind through today, at least. Gusts on Tuesday hit 65

mph in Garden City—the fourth day of wind speeds reaching above 45 mph.

Rain would solve many issues, Shepard said. Nevertheless, on Tuesday it spit rain for just a few minutes, enough to cause muddy clods to fly with the wind. Moreover, with the wind, evidence that it had ever rained disappeared as quickly as it fell.

Shepard and fellow farmers discussed the situation over coffee, peering out the window at the implement dealership 300 yards away.

However, there were times he couldn't see it as the dust roared by the window.

"We don't know where to begin now," he said of farmers and their tractors and chisels, out trying to stop the dirt. "Everything in the country is moving, and, really, it is coming from everywhere."

Rainfall in western Kansas

By **KELTON BROOKS**
kbrooks@gctelegram.com

Since 2010, western Kansas has endured conditions ranging from moderate, severe and even extreme drought.

Mary Knapp, state climatologist, said western Kansas is one of the regions that is experiencing extreme drought and is far behind normal year-to-date rain totals.

"It's going to take a considerable amount of rainfall," Knapp said. "A week of rain just won't do it."

Knapp hopes El Nino will have a beneficial effect on Kansas. El Nino is a warming of the central Pacific once every few years, from a combination of wind and waves in the tropics. It shakes up climate around the world, changing rain and temperature patterns.

Knapp said that the drought shrunk in 2012 from Elkhart to Garden City because of a wetter winter, but degraded to severe drought the following year.

As of Wednesday the driest area is in Liberal, at 8 percent of the normal rainfall year-to-date total, and the wettest is Tribune at 63 percent of normal rainfall year-to-date totals.

Here's a look at rain totals, in inches, for counties in southwest Kansas since Jan 1:

County	Year to date	April	Normal to date
Clark	1.51	.32	4.74
Finney	1.44	.69	3.96
Ford	1.85	.74	4.67
Grant	1.94	1.04	3.30
Gray	1.93	.99	4.71
Greeley	2.31	.99	3.68
Hamilton	1.39	.733	3.31
Haskell	1.32	.56	3.53
Hodgeman	2.15	.71	5.18
Kearny	1.70	.98	3.31
Lane	2.44	.92	4.67
Meade	1.98	.41	4.95
Morton	.67	.12	3.82
Ness	1.52	.42	4.88
Scott	1.03	NA	4.38
Seward	.31	NA	4.14
Stanton	1.11	.66	3.13
Stevens	1.77	1.10	3.48
Wichita	1.66	.90	4.33

Amtrak: Kansas, Colorado groups aim to save Southwest Chief

Continued from Page A1

from each of the two railroads and three states involved would be necessary to keep Amtrak from bypassing the portion of the Southwest Chief's route that runs from Western Kansas through Southern Colorado and the Northern New Mexico communities of Raton, Las Vegas and Lamy, the closest Amtrak station to Santa Fe for the passenger trains connecting Chicago and Los Angeles.

As part of the coalition announced Tuesday, BNSF committed to contributing \$2 million, Amtrak \$4 million and the Kansas Department of Transportation \$3 million. These would be matching funds toward federal Transportation Infrastructure Generating Economic Recovery grants, known as Tiger grants. Kansas previously applied unsuccessfully for a Tiger grant to help fund its share of costs for keeping the Southwest Chief on its current route.

Garden City Mayor

Roy Cessna said the city is working on trying to keep the Southwest Chief going through Garden City. He said the city will provide matching funds should the grant application be successful, but didn't have a breakdown of the city's share of the proposed match.

The city applied for a Tiger grant last year and did not receive funding. This year, the city hired the Seneca Group, grant writers based in Washington, D.C., who wrote the grant application.

Ashley Freburg, communications specialist with the city of Garden City, said four Kansas communities—Garden City, Dodge City, Newton and Hutchinson, each have agreed to provide \$12,500 toward the local matching amount.

"The match improves the chances of getting the grant," Freburg said. "If we get the grant, then we will pay that much toward the project."

Garden City and Finney County officials traveled to Washington, D.C. in March as part of the annual western

Kansas legislative delegation. As part of that trip, officials met with the Seneca Group, Amtrak and BNSF representatives about the Southwest Chief and the Tiger grant, according to Freburg.

If awarded, the funds would restore 54.9 miles of track between Hutchinson and Las Animas, Colo.

Church said New Mexico is pursuing five Tiger grants on its own, but none of them would benefit the Southwest Chief. He said local governments, regional tourism cooperatives and private organizations contributing funds can only help the other states' efforts to land Tiger grants, but even then, it's not guaranteed.

Attempts in the New Mexico Legislature's session earlier this year to secure funding for the state's estimated \$40 million share to keep the Southwest Chief on its current route failed. The Martinez administration has not been satisfied that preliminary cost estimates for making necessary repairs to the tracks are accurate.

"We just don't know how they came up with the infrastructure costs," Church said. "While we'd like to see the Southwest Chief continue, the fact remains that there's not full understanding of what the costs would be."

That's why the Governor's Office favored studying the project before funding it. "Our plan is to have a more detailed analysis of this situation for both the governor and the Legislature so that they can make a policy decision during the next session," Church said.

In Colorado, legislation that would help identify a funding stream for that state's share of keeping the Southwest Chief on track is pending.

Former Colorado lawmaker Sal Pace, now a Pueblo County commissioner, was instrumental in forging the coalition that pledged funds to the project. The proposed legislation in Colorado would expand the Southwest Chief line to add a stop in Pueblo that would increase the costs of the overall project by

an estimated \$31 million, according to an economic study by Colorado State University-Pueblo. The study says Colorado would see an estimated return of about 2-to-1 on its investment in keeping the Southwest Chief.

Pace said he hopes the commitments in Colorado and Kansas will push New Mexico to get on board.

"I feel confident that we're going to box them in, where they're going to have to step up or be the last ones who ultimately kill this line," Pace said. "And I don't think anyone in New Mexico wants to be personally responsible for killing the Southwest Chief."

Staff writer Scott Aust contributed to this story.

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Commerce: Big changes to come in near future

for the new 11,300-square-foot structure, which will
Continued from Page A1

begin construction in January 2015 on the southeast corner of the tract. Weather permitting, that will put the opening date for Commerce Bank's new headquarters in July 2015.

"We feel we can get more efficiencies out of a brand new facility, and it will have exactly the square footage we need," Harp said. "The heating and cooling in the building will be a state-of-the-

facility at 1601 E. Kansas Ave. will remain open until the new headquarters is complete, after which they will close. The 512 N. Seventh St. location will remain open once the headquarters is complete.

The downtown location has been on the market for about a year. It was listed as one property with Regan and Company Real Estate for \$1.175 million, but has since been split into two separate properties. The north side property at 221 N. Main is listed for \$390,000, and the south side, at 214 N Main,

GARDEN CITY AREA ENTERTAINMENT

May 1 - May 7

Monday Night BUNGO: Bingo 7pm
New Games Higher Payouts

Thursday Night - Texas Hold-Em
Now booking Weddings & Other Events. We have the best dance floor in town. For details contact Judy Smith at 620-276-3732.

Thursday COUNTRY Night

Eagles Lodge N. Highway 83 and Mary 620-276-7361

May 1 - Open 4pm; Aerie Trustee Mtg 7pm; Aerie Mtg 7:30pm
May 2 - Open 4pm;
May 3 - Open 4pm;
May 4 - Chuckwagon Supper 4:30-7:00pm
May 5 - CLOSED
May 6 - Open 4pm; Ladies Auxiliary Mtg 7:30; Shuffleboard
May 7 - Open 4pm; Bingo/Pull Tabs Mini- 6:30 Reg. - 7:00pm

Mon-Fri: **Happy Hour** 5-9pm \$1 Off Drafts & Pitchers Of Beer Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, &

Center Pivot Country: Southeast Kearny County, Kansas – March, 2014





CREP Fields: Southeastern Kearny County – August, 2013 to May, 2014



CREP Fields: Southeastern Kearny County – May, 2012 to May, 2014



CREP Fields: Southwestern Gray County – August, 2012 to May, 2014



Native Areas: Southeastern Kearny County – August, 2012 to May, 2014



Test Plot – Native Sand Reed: Southeastern Kearny County – August, 2012



Native Sand Reed – Southeastern Kearny County – August, 2013

WRCSP FY 2015 Allocations May 13, 2014 \$1,606,392 - Total Available for Allocation

FY 2014 Allocations			FY 2015 Allocations				
COUNTY	DNA	TMDL	FY 2014	DNA	TMDL	FY 2015	Inc/Dec
			Total			Total	
ALLEN	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
ANDERSON	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
ATCHISON	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
BARBER	19,962	\$0	\$19,962	17,621	\$0	\$17,621	\$2,341
BARTON	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
BOURBON	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
BROWN	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
BUTLER	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
CHASE	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
CHAUTAUQUA	15,181	\$0	\$15,181	13,400	\$0	\$13,400	\$1,781
CHEROKEE	13,815	\$0	\$13,815	12,194	\$0	\$12,194	\$1,621
CHEYENNE	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
CLARK	19,962	\$0	\$19,962	17,621	\$0	\$17,621	\$2,341
CLAY	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
CLOUD	17,230	\$0	\$17,230	15,209	\$0	\$15,209	\$2,021
COFFEY	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
COMANCHE	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
COWLEY	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
CRAWFORD	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
DECATUR	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
DICKINSON	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
DONIPHAN	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
DOUGLAS	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
EDWARDS	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
ELK	15,181	\$0	\$15,181	13,400	\$0	\$13,400	\$1,781
ELLIS	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
ELLSWORTH	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
FINNEY	20,645	\$0	\$20,645	18,224	\$0	\$18,224	\$2,421
FORD	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
FRANKLIN	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
GEARY	15,181	\$0	\$15,181	13,400	\$0	\$13,400	\$1,781
GOVE	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
GRAHAM	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
GRANT	17,230	\$0	\$17,230	15,209	\$0	\$15,209	\$2,021
GRAY	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
GREELEY	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
GREENWOOD	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
HAMILTON	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
HARPER	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
HARVEY	15,181	\$0	\$15,181	13,400	\$0	\$13,400	\$1,781
HASKELL	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
HODGEMAN	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
JACKSON	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
JEFFERSON	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
JEWELL	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
JOHNSON	15,181	\$0	\$15,181	13,400	\$0	\$13,400	\$1,781
KEARNY	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
KINGMAN	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
KIOWA	17,230	\$0	\$17,230	15,209	\$0	\$15,209	\$2,021
LABETTE	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
LANE	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
LEAVENWORTH	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
LINCOLN	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
LINN	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
LOGAN	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
LYON	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
MARION	17,230	\$0	\$17,230	15,209	\$0	\$15,209	\$2,021
MARSHALL	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101

WRCSF FY 2015 Allocations May 13, 2014 \$1,606,392 - Total Available for Allocation

FY 2014 Allocations			FY 2015 Allocations				
COUNTY	DNA	TMDL	FY 2014	DNA	TMDL	FY 2015	Inc/Dec
			Total			Total	
MCPHERSON	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
MEADE	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
MIAMI	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
MITCHELL	17,230	\$0	\$17,230	15,209	\$0	\$15,209	\$2,021
MONTGOMERY	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
MORRIS	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
MORTON	17,230	\$0	\$17,230	15,209	\$0	\$15,209	\$2,021
NEMAHA	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
NEOSHO	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
NESS	19,962	\$0	\$19,962	17,621	\$0	\$17,621	\$2,341
NORTON	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
OSAGE	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
OSBORNE	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
OTTAWA	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
PAWNEE	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
PHILLIPS	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
POTTAWATOMIE	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
PRATT	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
RAWLINS	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
RENO	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
REPUBLIC	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
RICE	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
RILEY	15,864	\$0	\$15,864	14,003	\$0	\$14,003	\$1,861
ROOKS	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
RUSH	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
RUSSELL	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
SALINE	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
SCOTT	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
SEDGWICK	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
SEWARD	17,230	\$0	\$17,230	15,209	\$0	\$15,209	\$2,021
SHAWNEE	15,181	\$0	\$15,181	13,400	\$0	\$13,400	\$1,781
SHERIDAN	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
SHERMAN	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
SMITH	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
STAFFORD	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
STANTON	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
STEVENS	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
SUMNER	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
THOMAS	19,279	\$0	\$19,279	17,018	\$0	\$17,018	\$2,261
TREGO	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
WABAUNSEE	16,547	\$0	\$16,547	14,606	\$0	\$14,606	\$1,941
WALLACE	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
WASHINGTON	17,913	\$0	\$17,913	15,812	\$0	\$15,812	\$2,101
WICHITA	18,596	\$0	\$18,596	16,415	\$0	\$16,415	\$2,181
WILSON	15,181	\$0	\$15,181	13,400	\$0	\$13,400	\$1,781
WOODSON	14,498	\$0	\$14,498	12,797	\$0	\$12,797	\$1,701
WYANDOTTE	15,861	\$0	\$15,861	13,802	\$0	\$13,802	\$2,059
	\$1,820,075	\$0	\$1,820,075	\$1,606,392	\$0	\$1,606,392	\$213,683
				TMDL Allocation			\$200,000
				Morris	Twin Lakes Watershed		
				Osage	110 Mile Creek Watershed		
				Washington	Peats Creek Watershed		
FY 2015							
DNA	\$1,606,392						
TMDL Allocation:	\$200,000						
Total Allocation:	\$1,806,392						

FY 2015 NonPoint Source Pollution Control Program Allocations:

May 13, 2014 SCC Meeting

\$1,439,350- Total Available for Allocation

FY 2014 Allocations			FY 2015 Allocations				
County	Base Cost-Share	Total TMDL	FY2014 Total Cost-Share	Base Cost-Share	Total TMDL	FY2015 Total Cost-Share	Inc/Dec
Allen	\$14,442	\$0	\$14,442	\$13,356	\$0	\$13,356	\$1,086
Anderson	\$14,442	\$0	\$14,442	\$13,356	\$0	\$13,356	\$1,086
Atchison	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Barber	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Barton	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Bourbon	\$14,442	\$0	\$14,442	\$13,356	\$0	\$13,356	\$1,086
Brown	\$16,662	\$0	\$16,662	\$15,408	\$0	\$15,408	\$1,254
Butler	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Chase	\$19,992	\$0	\$19,992	\$18,486	\$0	\$18,486	\$1,506
Chautauqua	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Cherokee	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Cheyenne	\$10,002	\$0	\$10,002	\$9,252	\$0	\$9,252	\$750
Clark	\$14,072	\$0	\$14,072	\$13,014	\$0	\$13,014	\$1,058
Clay	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Cloud	\$16,292	\$0	\$16,292	\$15,066	\$0	\$15,066	\$1,226
Coffey	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Comanche	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Cowley	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Crawford	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Decatur	\$11,482	\$0	\$11,482	\$10,620	\$0	\$10,620	\$862
Dickinson	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Doniphan	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Douglas	\$16,662	\$0	\$16,662	\$15,408	\$0	\$15,408	\$1,254
Edwards	\$13,332	\$0	\$13,332	\$12,330	\$0	\$12,330	\$1,002
Elk	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Ellis	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Ellsworth	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Finney	\$11,112	\$0	\$11,112	\$10,278	\$0	\$10,278	\$834
Ford	\$13,332	\$0	\$13,332	\$12,330	\$0	\$12,330	\$1,002
Franklin	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Geary	\$16,662	\$0	\$16,662	\$15,408	\$0	\$15,408	\$1,254
Gove	\$11,112	\$0	\$11,112	\$10,278	\$0	\$10,278	\$834
Graham	\$14,072	\$0	\$14,072	\$13,014	\$0	\$13,014	\$1,058
Grant	\$10,742	\$0	\$10,742	\$9,936	\$0	\$9,936	\$806
Gray	\$11,112	\$0	\$11,112	\$10,278	\$0	\$10,278	\$834
Greeley	\$10,372	\$0	\$10,372	\$9,594	\$0	\$9,594	\$778
Greenwood	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Hamilton	\$10,372	\$0	\$10,372	\$9,594	\$0	\$9,594	\$778
Harper	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Harvey	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Haskell	\$10,372	\$0	\$10,372	\$9,594	\$0	\$9,594	\$778
Hodgeman	\$12,592	\$0	\$12,592	\$11,646	\$0	\$11,646	\$946
Jackson	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Jefferson	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Jewell	\$16,292	\$0	\$16,292	\$15,066	\$0	\$15,066	\$1,226
Johnson	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Kearny	\$10,742	\$0	\$10,742	\$9,936	\$0	\$9,936	\$806
Kingman	\$16,292	\$0	\$16,292	\$15,066	\$0	\$15,066	\$1,226
Kiowa	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Labette	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Lane	\$10,372	\$0	\$10,372	\$9,594	\$0	\$9,594	\$778
Leavenworth	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Lincoln	\$14,072	\$0	\$14,072	\$13,014	\$0	\$13,014	\$1,058
Linn	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Logan	\$11,112	\$0	\$11,112	\$10,278	\$0	\$10,278	\$834
Lyon	\$19,992	\$0	\$19,992	\$18,486	\$0	\$18,486	\$1,506
Marion	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Marshall	\$16,292	\$0	\$16,292	\$15,066	\$0	\$15,066	\$1,226

FY 2015 NonPoint Source Pollution Control Program Allocations:

May 13, 2014 SCC Meeting **\$1,439,350- Total Available for Allocation**

FY 2014 Allocations			FY 2015 Allocations				
County	Base Cost-Share	Total TMDL	FY2014 Total Cost-Share	Base Cost-Share	Total TMDL	FY2015 Total Cost-Share	Incl/Dec
McPherson	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Meade	\$11,112	\$0	\$11,112	\$10,278	\$0	\$10,278	\$834
Miami	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Mitchell	\$14,072	\$0	\$14,072	\$13,014	\$0	\$13,014	\$1,058
Montgomery	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Morris	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Morton	\$10,742	\$0	\$10,742	\$9,936	\$0	\$9,936	\$806
Nemaha	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Neosho	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Ness	\$12,592	\$0	\$12,592	\$11,646	\$0	\$11,646	\$946
Norton	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Osage	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Osborne	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Ottawa	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Pawnee	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Phillips	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Pottawatomie	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Pratt	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Rawlins	\$10,002	\$0	\$10,002	\$9,252	\$0	\$9,252	\$750
Reno	\$17,772	\$0	\$17,772	\$16,434	\$0	\$16,434	\$1,338
Republic	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Rice	\$14,072	\$0	\$14,072	\$13,014	\$0	\$13,014	\$1,058
Riley	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Rooks	\$13,332	\$0	\$13,332	\$12,330	\$0	\$12,330	\$1,002
Rush	\$13,332	\$0	\$13,332	\$12,330	\$0	\$12,330	\$1,002
Russell	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Saline	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Scott	\$10,742	\$0	\$10,742	\$9,936	\$0	\$9,936	\$806
Sedgwick	\$16,292	\$0	\$16,292	\$15,066	\$0	\$15,066	\$1,226
Seward	\$11,482	\$0	\$11,482	\$10,620	\$0	\$10,620	\$862
Shawnee	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Sheridan	\$11,482	\$0	\$11,482	\$10,620	\$0	\$10,620	\$862
Sherman	\$10,742	\$0	\$10,742	\$9,936	\$0	\$9,936	\$806
Smith	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Stafford	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Stanton	\$10,002	\$0	\$10,002	\$9,252	\$0	\$9,252	\$750
Stevens	\$10,742	\$0	\$10,742	\$9,936	\$0	\$9,936	\$806
Sumner	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Thomas	\$11,482	\$0	\$11,482	\$10,620	\$0	\$10,620	\$862
Trego	\$14,812	\$0	\$14,812	\$13,698	\$0	\$13,698	\$1,114
Wabaunsee	\$18,882	\$0	\$18,882	\$17,460	\$0	\$17,460	\$1,422
Wallace	\$11,112	\$0	\$11,112	\$10,278	\$0	\$10,278	\$834
Washington	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Wichita	\$10,742	\$0	\$10,742	\$9,936	\$0	\$9,936	\$806
Wilson	\$15,552	\$0	\$15,552	\$14,382	\$0	\$14,382	\$1,170
Woodson	\$14,442	\$0	\$14,442	\$13,356	\$0	\$13,356	\$1,086
Wyandotte	\$12,993	\$0	\$12,993	\$12,364	\$0	\$12,364	\$629
TOTAL	\$1,556,031	\$0	\$1,556,031	\$1,439,350	\$0	\$1,439,350	\$116,681

	FY 2015		TMDL Allocation	\$100,000
NPS Base	\$1,439,350		Morris	Twin Lakes Watershed
TMDL	\$100,000		Osage	110 Mile Creek Watershed
Total Allocation	\$1,539,350		Washington	Peats Creek Watershed

WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

New Dams Construction

DOC FY-2015 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

	District	Site	County	Basin	Detention	Drainage	Cost-share		B/C
					(ac-ft)	(acres)	Requested	Recommended	
1	Marmaton WJD 102 *	B-4	BB	MDC	125	908	\$102,295	\$46,860	1.77
2	Marmaton WJD 102 *	Robinson	BB	MDC	76	420	\$107,600	\$52,165	1.19

(*) Partially funded in FY 2014

Total Funding	=	\$99,025
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**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOPEKA, KANSAS
May 13, 2014**

PERSONNEL

New Hires: Andrew J. Klein, Soil Conservation Technician, Westmoreland

Details: Marty A. Comstock, Agricultural Engineer, Columbia, Missouri, to Acting State Conservation Engineer, Salina State Office

Reassignments
and/or Promotions: Josue D. Gandia-Rivera, Soil Conservationist, McPherson, to Soil Conservationist, Lyons
Marie A. Faatuala, Soil Conservationist, Wellington, to Soil Conservationist, Hays
Kyle J. 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
Zachary G. Roth, Soil Conservation Technician, Phillipsburg, to Soil Conservation Technician, Hays

Retirements: Donald D. Newell, Soil Conservation Technician, WaKeeney

OPERATIONS

The Kansas Operational Structure Team (KOST) provided a short-term and long-term recommendation for addressing a decreasing budget to the State Conservationist (STC) in late April. The short-term recommendation looked at this year's proposed budget and where any shortfalls could be addressed. The long-term recommendation focused on what needed to be considered for future reductions. The STC has asked the KOST to move forward with the long-term recommendation in looking at what changes may need to be made in the current structure, while ensuring that we continue to provide technical assistance in all counties. A plan will be delivered to the STC by July 31.

Due to the new Farm Bill, we have not yet received our final budget allocations for this fiscal year. It does appear that we will have sufficient funding to cover salaries and some support costs. The amount of funding available for agreements is still in question. We have had significant reductions in our two largest programs—Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

PROGRAMS

NOTE: The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) are no longer programs under the new Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) but NRCS will honor existing CCPI and AWEP agreements through fiscal year (FY) 2014.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

- The field offices have certified and made payments on 2010 contracts for \$45,371,034.
- There are 270 applications being considered for CStP signup 2014-1.
- The CStP timeline for obligations for the CStP 2014-1 signup was sent out in a statewide bulletin to all field offices. All applications must be ranked by May 23 with obligations expected to take place in August.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

- The updated Kansas Emergency Recovery Plan (ERP) that provides guidance for technical and financial assistance through EWP is accessible on the Kansas USDA/NRCS Web site.
- Kansas currently has no eligible EWP projects.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Kansas received a total of 1,582 EQIP General applications with an estimated cost of \$12.6 million.
- Kansas received a total of 36 Agricultural Water Enhancement Project applications with an estimated cost of \$1.6 million.
- Kansas received a total of 107 Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) project applications. Conservation planning and the ranking of CCPI applications are currently in process.
- **EQIP—Initiatives**
All application cutoff deadlines have ended.

NRCS Easement Programs

- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)**
 - ACEP is the new easement program created under the 2014 Farm Bill.
 - New program guidance has been provided to states.
 - Two eligible entities submitted one parcel each for funding consideration for FY2014 under ACEP-ALE. Total acres for the two easements are 2208 acres.
 - Landowners can submit applications for ACEP-WRE at local field offices.

- Our national ranking cutoff deadline is June 6, 2014, for consideration for easement funding in FY2014. Any projects submitted after June 6 will be considered for next year's funding cycle.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities

- Kansas NRCS recently received additional FY14 funds for five new NRCS-assisted project dam rehabilitation planning requests. An interdisciplinary team is currently working on the statement of work to get these projects contracted. NRCS NHQ is currently working with states to prioritize and fund additional projects including dam assessments, planning, design and construction, with funding authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill.
- The Spring Creek Watershed District in Sedgwick County continues to move forward with rehabilitation of their R-1 Dam near Garden Plain, Kansas. A pre-construction meeting was held in April with construction targeted to begin in May and completed fall 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 O&M Agreements. To date, 46 EAPs have been developed.
- Kansas NRCS, with help from several state and local partners, conducted three Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Workshops during April focusing on Annual Dam Safety Inspections. A total of 91 individuals participated including 17 watershed district representatives, 60 NRCS employees, and 7 conservation partners.
- Watershed districts and local NRCS field offices are working together to conduct annual inspections on all NRCS-assisted flood control structures. As of May 1, 2014, approximately 10 percent of the 751 dam inspections that need completed this calendar year have been submitted to the Salina State Office.

TECHNOLOGY

Resource staff has been providing lesser prairie-chicken information to field staff recently. Information includes technical assistance as described in the FSA CRP biological opinion.

Soil health activities included technical training to field staff and a central high plains cover crop symposium focused on bringing the research community together to discuss current and future research.

Division of Conservation (DOC) Streambank Agreements

The last project from the DOC agreements is in construction and scheduled to be completed this spring.

Architect and Engineer (A&E) Contracts

Construction of the assigned streambank protection projects is continuing. One more project has been completed. Two projects are wrapping up checkout and as-built documentation. This leaves one project in construction. All task orders should be completed by late spring.

Planning and Applying Conservation Practices Workshop

This workshop is scheduled for October 6-10, 2014, in Salina. It is for relatively new NRCS and conservation partner employees.

OUTREACH

NRCS and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) at the Grassland, Soil and Water Research Laboratory in Temple, Texas, are working together to evaluate the Soil Health Nutrient Tool. Producers commonly refer to the Soil Health Nutrient Tool developed by ARS as the “Haney soil test.” NRCS and ARS have agreed to a five-year study to review the Soil Health Nutrient Tool across the nation on multiple soils and under different kinds of crop rotations and management. NRCS in Kansas has 32 sites being sampled. These sites include well-managed and overgrazed range, long- and short-term No-till and cultivated crop fields. The study is measuring how well the Soil Health Nutrient Test quantifies soil health for soils in different stages of soil health.

The Kansas Envirothon was held on April 30, 2014, at the Webster Conference Center, Salina. Chapman High School won the event this year and will compete at the 2014 Kansas Heartland Regional Envirothon Competition, July 21-25, at Rock Springs 4-H Center.

NRCS celebrated National Volunteer Week April 6-12, 2014, and honored Earth Team volunteers for their dedicated service and commitment to conservation. Last year, 2,582 Earth Team volunteers donated 19,190 hours in Kansas.

News Releases

Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP)

**Conservation District Documents
Not Received by the DOC as of 5/12/14**

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

Barber County – January 2014 and February 2014
Chautauqua County – January 2014
Cherokee County – December 2013
Clark County – January 2014 and February 2014
Cowley County – January 2014 and February 2014
Elk County – January 2014
Ellis County – February 2014
Haskell County – February 2014
Marion County – January 2014 and February 2014
Meade County – February 2014
Mitchell County – December 2013
Morton County – February 2014
Phillips County – December 2013, January 2014, and February 2014
Reno County – February 2014
Scott County – February 2014
Sheridan County – February 2014
Stafford County – January 2014 and February 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
Coffey County
Comanche County
Finney County
Harper County
Harvey County
Haskell County
Johnson County
Kearny County
Meade County
Mitchell County
Pratt County
Riley County
Rooks County
Scott County
Sherman County
Stafford County
Thomas County

2013 Annual Report (due March 1, 2014)

Barber County

Butler County

Coffey County

Cowley County

Finney County

Haskell County

Meade County

Mitchell County

Neosho County

Norton County

Pratt County

Scott County

Sedgwick County

Sheridan County

Sumner County