



1320 Research Park Drive  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

## **MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. The State Conservation Commission meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner, at 8:33 a.m., Tuesday, July 31, 2018, via conference call hosted by the Kansas Department of Agriculture in Room 322, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, Kansas.

2. **ATTENDANCE:**

**Elected Commissioners:**

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

**Ex-Officio & Appointed Members:**

Dan Devlin, Director, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment (KCARE), K-State Research and Extension  
Peter Tomlinson, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Extension Specialist for Environmental Quality Agronomy Department, Kansas State University  
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Gaye Benfer, Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:**

Rob Reschke, Executive Director  
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director  
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager  
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager  
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Program Manager  
Cindy Pulse, Administrative Specialist

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### 3. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. FY 2019 Livestock Water Supply Financial Assistance Initiative – Reschke (See Attachments)

Rob thanked NRCS on the speedy processing of the request to roll out the program. 66 applications were received as of Friday; there's a possibility of receiving more.

This initiative is in response along with the NRCS initiative to the current drought concerns. Jackie McClaskey talked with Governor Colyer in response to phone calls that have been received and asked DOC to investigate how assistance can be offered. DOC is looking to SCC for advice/comments on memorandum previously provided and the content of the initiative. The initiative includes activities taking place between June 1, 2018, and July 24, 2018; it is based on retroactive activity – those already initiated.

Dave said there is currently \$170,000 available in Water Resources for 2018 carryforward. This is not county allocated, and any leftover of carryforward funds will be discussed at the August meeting.

Rob said this is a first-come-first-serve basis and that some counties are worse off than others. Based on NRCS initiative, DOC expects to see applications from those counties in emergency drought status. If DOC exceeds funding originally allocated for this, may need to investigate other funding resources

In answer to a question regarding consideration to tanks serving multiple pastures and the number of livestock, Dave made note that Number of Head is on the application.

Rob said that if projects are under contract and still being worked on during the time frame noted above, they will be eligible; DOC will work on clarifying the wording on that.

Gaye stated that applicants will have to request a waiver on those projects that were started before the EQIP contract was signed.

Rob said that D3 counties included in this initiative were derived from the Drought Monitor, which is used to declare drought emergency. Contiguous counties (those that touch D3 counties) are included in the initiative as well.

Peter explained that a group from NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) takes input from our state climatologist and other information to develop the Drought Monitor map, which is published on a weekly basis.

As per Gaye, another program will have to be used if additional counties are added to the D3 status in order to become eligible for EQIP.

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John suggested in the future looking at emergencies and having parameters in place so that there is a better chance of getting the criteria and ranking set in a shorter time period. He is not sure how to defend being looked at as a first-come-first-serve agency.

**A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the FY 2019 Livestock Water Supply Financial Assistance Initiative as presented. Ted Nighswonger seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **Discussion:**

Rod asked for any suggestions on changes that were previously discussed or if it was preferred to keep the motion as written. He suggested changing the wording to “as developed” instead of “as presented”, and that this will be discussed more at the August meeting.

Rob said that as applications come in they will be ranked on first-come-first-serve basis and that applications will be accepted through August.

Peter expressed his concern about applications being rejected if producers don't meet practice codes, and if this is not an issue, the concern with practice codes being lifted and how that affects other programs.

Dave responded by saying that bills for tanks and pipe will be accepted and that DOC cannot expect producers to meet practice code design since this is retroactive.

The intent is to roll this out August 1, 2018, to begin sign-up period.

**A motion was made by John Wunder to amend the previous motion made and to strike the words “as presented” and replace them with “as developed”. Ted Nighswonger seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

There was no further discussion.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT:**

**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 9:10 a.m.**



Rob Reschke  
Executive Director



# STATE OF KANSAS

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GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.  
JACKIE MCCLASKEY, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

## Memorandum

**To:** Kansas Conservation Districts

**From:** Rob Reschke, Executive Director

**Date:** August 1, 2018

**Re:** Livestock Water Supply Financial Assistance Initiative

The Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation is pleased to announce the availability of funds to assist landowners that have previously drilled livestock water supply wells in response to the ongoing drought. Previously installed livestock water supply pipeline and tanks are also eligible for funding. The State Conservation Commission took action on July 31, 2018 to approve funding that will provide financial assistance for livestock water supply wells, pipeline and tanks installed after June 1, 2018 and before the announcement of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Drought Initiative by NRCS on July 24, 2018.

Following is additional program guidance on the Retroactive Livestock Well Incentive Payment Initiative:

- Applications will be accepted from August 1<sup>st</sup> thru August 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.
- Eligible livestock wells, pipeline and tanks must serve pastures 40 acres or larger with a permanent perimeter fence.
- Landowners must provide a copy of the completed WWC-5 Water Well Record form for all wells drilled.
- Landowners must provide copies of all bills pertaining to drilling the livestock wells, installing livestock water supply pipeline and installing tanks.
- Landowners must certify that these practices are being used for livestock water supply and no other purpose.
- Eligible areas will be the same as the NRCS EQIP 2018 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Drought Initiative. These eligible areas are located in the following Kansas counties:
  - Barber, Barton, Butler, Chase, Clark, Clay, Coffey, Comanche, Cowley, Dickinson, Edwards, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Geary, Grant, Gray, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearney, Kingman, Kiowa, Lincoln, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Meade, Morris, Morton, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pottawatomie, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Seward, Shawnee, Stafford, Stanton, Stevens, Sumner, and Wabaunsee.

- The DOC will approve applications until all specified funds are allocated at the end of the sign-up period.
- Districts will need to accept applications for the full 30-day sign-up period and forward all applications to the DOC at the end of the sign-up period. This will allow the DOC to have an accurate inventory of applications.
- The DOC will approve applications as soon as possible after the sign-up ending date.
- The DOC does not guarantee adequate funds will be available to fund all eligible applications.
- **Practice Code 642 (Water Well) will have a statewide county average cost of \$25.00 per linear foot of depth with a cost-share percentage of 50% under this initiative.**
- **Practice Code 516 (Pipeline) will have a statewide county average cost of \$3.00 per linear foot with a cost-share percentage of 50% under this initiative.**
- **Practice Code 614 (Watering Facility) will have a statewide county average cost of \$1.50 per gallon with a cost-share percentage of 50% under this initiative.**
- **The total landowner limit for financial assistance will be \$6,000 under this initiative.**

Attached is a spreadsheet that you can use to submit applications for the retroactive livestock well payment initiative. Please submit the applications via email to [David.Jones@ks.gov](mailto:David.Jones@ks.gov).

If you have any questions on the retroactive livestock well payment initiative, contact Dave Jones with our office at 785-564-6623.

RR: daj

cc: NRCS State Office

NRCS Area Offices

SCC Commissioners

Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

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**Kansas**  
Department of Agriculture  
*Division of Conservation*

I certify that the Watering Facility (Tank) installed on June/July \_\_\_, 2018 located in the \_\_\_ Quarter of Section \_\_\_ Township \_\_\_ Range \_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County Kansas will be used exclusively for livestock water supply.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**R**

MASTIA MER ASPERA  
Kansas  
Department of Agriculture  
Division of Conservation

I certify that the well(s) drilled on June/July \_\_\_\_, 2018, located in the \_\_\_\_ Quarter of Section \_\_\_\_  
Township \_\_ Range \_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ County Kansas will be used exclusively for livestock water  
supply.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

R

F





**Kansas**  
Department of Agriculture  
*Division of Conservation*

I certify that the pipeline installed on June/July 2018 located in the      Quarter of Section       
Township      Range      in                      County Kansas will be used exclusively for livestock water  
supply.

\_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**R**

