



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

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 8:03 a.m., Thursday, September 15, 2011 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center, 1400 N Lorraine Street, Hutchinson, 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:

Jim Krueger, Assistant State Conservationist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Chad Voigt, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Greg Foley, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager
Dee Turner, Conservation District Program Coordinator
Donna Meader, Program Consultant

SCC MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2011

Page 2

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Andy Larson to approve the agenda as mailed. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion Carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the August 1, 2011 minutes as mailed. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

5. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS: NONE.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a.** Dee Turner retirement effective September 16, 2011.
 - i.** Chairman Vorhees presented a plaque signed by Governor Brownback and himself for over 18 years of service to the State Conservation Commission.
 - ii.** Jim Krueger, NRCS also presented a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the NRCS.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a.** FY 2013 Kansas Water Authority final budget recommendations and 2012 Legislative Strategy – Greg Foley.
 - i.** Allocations from Division of Budget.
 - ii.** Enhancements: Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Strategy from the Administration – Greg Foley.
- b.** Watershed Dam Construction Program funding recommendations for rehabilitation FY 2012 – Greg Foley. See Attachment A.

Motion by Andy Larson to authorize funding in the amount of \$126,383 from the FY 2012 Watershed Dam Construction Program for six rehabilitation applications outlined in attachment . Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2011

Page 3

8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review and assign commissioner duties for the KACD Annual Meeting, November 20 – 22, 2011, Wichita Airport Hilton, Wichita, KS – Chairman Vorhees.
 - i. Preside at Monday SCC luncheon – Rod Vorhees.
 - ii. Give invocation at Monday luncheon – Andy Larson.
 - iii. Governors Recognition award winners – John Wunder and Ted Nighswonger.
 - iv. Guest luncheon speaker introduction – Greg Foley.
 - v. Presentation of 20 year awards – Brad Shogren.
 - vi. Hold elections at area meeting for the following:
 1. KACD areas II and IV
 2. SCC areas I, III and V.
- b. Discuss KACD resolutions for the 2011 KACD Annual Meeting – Scott Carlson, Greg Foley.
- c. Authorize Commissioner and staff travel – Greg Foley.

Motion by Andy Larson to authorize Scott Carlson to attend the National Association of State Land Reclamationists (NASLR) Conference in Glade Springs, Daniels, West Virginia on September 24th – 28, 2011. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

9. REPORTS:

- a. Agency Reports:
 - i. NRCS – Jim Krueger. See Attachment B.
 - ii. KDA, DWR – Chad Voigt.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

September 15, 2011

Page 4

- b. Commissioner reports – None.
- c. Staff Reports
 - i. Dee Turner retirement – breakdown of Dee’s job duties assigned to current staff.
 - ii. Discussion on awards for Supervisors completing Supervisory Training Modules.

10. ADJOURN:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on November 20, 2011 at the Wichita Airport Hilton, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, KS.

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to adjourn. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg A. Foley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Greg A. Foley.
Executive Director

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION**

WATERSHED DAM CONSTRUCTION: REHABILITATION

FY 2012

	Watershed District	Site	County	Basin	Storage	DA	Cost-share	S - T - R	WDCP	HS	Rehabilitation
1	Allen Creek WD 89	102	LY	NEO	114	249	28,320	NW 06-29-09E	S	L2	Wave action erosion repair
2	Big Creek WJD 48	Sp-8	CF	NEO	290	480	44,000	NE 28-07-15E	S	L2	Replace Pipe
3	Little Walnut-Hickory WJD 18	30	BU	WAL	365	1,088	34,550	NW 06-18-12E	F	L1	Replace Pipe
4	Little Walnut-Hickory WJD 18 - Supp	33	BU	WAL	240	7,330	2,780	SW 06-28-08E	F	L3	Replace Pipe
5	Little Walnut-Hickory WJD 18 - Supp	34	BU	WAL	302	890	4,019	SW 09-28-08E	F	L3	Replace Pipe
6	Little Walnut-Hickory WJD 18 - Supp	40	BU	WAL	184	563	12,714	NW 30-28-07E	F	L	Replace Pipe

\$ 126,383



Natural Resources Conservation Service
760 South Broadway
Salina, Kansas 67401-4604

Phone: 785-823-4500
FAX: 785-823-4540
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov

**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS
September 15, 2011**

PERSONNEL

New Hires: Jeffrey A. Hellerich, Resource Soil Scientist, Manhattan Area Office
David B. Stephen, Soil Conservation Technician, Independence
Nola R. Walker, Soil Conservation Technician, Hugoton from Program
Technician, Farm Service Agency

Reassignments
and/or Promotions: Charles W. Atkinson, Soil Conservationist, Great Bend, to District
Conservationist, La Crosse
Ann M. Brooks, Office Automation Assistance, Hutchinson Area Office, to
Office Assistant, Hutchinson Area Office
Bruce K. Wells, Water Resources Planning Specialist, Salina State Office,
to Resource Conservationist, Emporia Area Office

Retirements: Layton C. Billips, District Conservationist, Hoxie
Thomas L. Flowers, District Conservationist, Meade
Erma J. Leuthold, Office Automation Clerk, Manhattan Plant Materials
Center

OPERATIONS

The Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has submitted its 2012 Budget proposal. This is the first time that the states prepared a budget proposal for submission and approval by the national office. The budget proposals are based on a State Resource Assessment (SRA) that was completed earlier this year, reviewed, and ranked by priority with the Kansas Technical Committee. The budget proposed targeted the major resource concerns in Kansas as identified in the SRA in regard to program and technical assistance funds and asked for funding for all current and vacant positions.

Kansas, along with several other states, experienced a Program Delivery Oversight and Evaluation review by an NRCS team from Fort Worth. As a whole, Kansas NRCS looked fairly good, but does have a few environmental compliance and contracting issues to address through a Corrective Action Plan (CAP), which is standard operating procedure after a review.

The Pheasants Forever partnership biologists located in Abilene and Seneca resigned and replacements have been hired. Ryan Miller started in Abilene on September 1 and Holly Wilkens will start in Seneca on September 26.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Kansas made three requests through a special conservation technical assistance grant process with NRCS. These approved grants will guarantee funding through December 2012 for the 10 employees through the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Division of Conservation Soil Conservation Technician Agreement, the 8 employees through the Pheasants Forever Agreement, and the 5 area biologists through the agreement with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism.

Replacement computers for NRCS and conservation district (CD) employees have been ordered and should begin arriving any day. They are to replace those computers that are going off of warranty. The order included 80 CD employee computers.

CD employees who were former federal employees have been unable to acquire LincPass cards as required due to a problem with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) system of acquiring them. We have been told that this problem will be fixed this fall so that they can acquire a card. NRCS and CD computers will be updated to Windows 7 sometime this fall.

New phone systems have been ordered to replace the 28 Norstar phone systems in various field offices. These systems are so old that repairs can no longer be acquired for these systems.

All of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) offices in Kansas have now been closed or are being used for other program work. A few of the RC&D staff accepted the retirement option. Now that the retirement window has ended, an effort is being made to place the remaining RC&D staff in positions of comparable grade and for which the employee qualifies. The staff will be placed in positions that support field office activities.

Tri-State Leadership Development Program

Kansas NRCS has partnered with NRCS in Missouri and Arkansas to develop a Tri-State Leadership Development Program (TLDP) to enhance an employee's leadership and management skills for future positions. The program was open for employees at the GS-11 grade and above. A vacancy announcement was posted for any eligible employee to apply. A listing of participants from the three states is attached (Attachment 1).

The program is a co-lateral duty assignment so the employees will maintain their current positions. The kick-off training session for the TLDP was held in Springfield, Missouri during the week of September 12th. Through this initial training, participants will develop an individual leadership training plan that will involve an assigned mentor, project assignments, work details, and other leadership development duties.

Diversity Day

The Kansas Civil Rights Advisory Committee will be hosting a Diversity Day on October 4, 2011. This one-day training event will be held at the Mid-America All-Indian Center in Wichita, Kansas. The training will provide employees the opportunity to learn about different cultures. The training coincides with the cultural transformation initiatives at both the Agency and Department levels. Conservation district employees are invited to participate in this event although expenses will need to be covered by the employee or District. The field offices will remain open that day—arrangements will need to be coordinated at the local level to maintain office coverage.

PROGRAMS

- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)
Kansas received an additional allocation of \$602,173 which when combined with the remaining unobligated funds allowed the obligation of \$660,325 worth of contracts. The total of AWEP contracts is \$4,429,774.
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
NRCS developed 4,048 conservation plans of operations for General CRP Sign-up 41 offers and provided those plans to FSA
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Kansas field offices are currently taking applications for the CSP. A cutoff date has not yet been announced.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Kansas received an additional allocation of \$2,500,000 for 2011 EQIP (General) funds. Kansas field offices are currently taking applications for EQIP and the cutoff date is November 15, 2011.
- Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)
One Cooperative agreement was recently approved which includes 4 parcels of land totaling 1773 acres.
- Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
 - Eight new permanent easement applications for GRP were enrolled during FY2011 on 5100 acres of native grassland.
 - Approximately \$1.75 million was received in Kansas for FY 2011 to fund permanent GRP easements. All of the funds were utilized.
 - Kansas currently has 66 recorded permanent GRP easements on almost 37,000 acres.
- Watershed Activities
 - During FY 2011 we completed the rehabilitation planning supplement for Wakarusa Site 24 in Douglas County. On March 9, 2011, we received approval from Chief White, authorizing federal assistance for the rehabilitation of site 24. The final design for the rehabilitation work was completed on June 27, 2011. All land rights, permits, agreements and other required documents were received to allow construction to begin. A project agreement between NRCS and the Wakarusa Watershed District obligating approximately 1.5 million dollars was signed on September 9, 2011.
 - Kansas NRCS requested and received funding for completion of the engineering rehabilitation design of Spring Creek R-1 in Sedgwick County. This design is currently underway. Rehabilitation construction funds have been requested for FY 2012.
 - We received funding to complete remedial work on the North Black Vermillion (Marshall County) Site 4 flood control dam. To begin the work, the permanent pool had to be partially drained. This became an issue and delayed project construction due to significant blue-green algae concerns and a no-contact order issued by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). This issue was resolved and the project is now currently under construction.

- In FY2011 Kansas NRCS received applications and submitted requests for FY 2012 watershed rehabilitation planning funds for six new watershed rehabilitation dam sites in Butler County.
- Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
 - Kansas has closed on 24 easements in fiscal year (FY) 2011, protecting 1,993 acres of wetlands.
 - 1800 acres of wetlands on previously recorded WRP easements have been restored during FY 2011.
 - 20 new enrollments for FY 2011 have been approved on 2045 acres.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Kansas field offices are currently taking applications for WHIP and the cutoff date is November 15, 2011.

TECHNOLOGY

- Division of Conservation (DOC) Streambank Agreement
 - Four projects have been built.
 - Twelve projects are in construction or preparing for construction.
- DOC New Streambank Agreement
 - Four 2011 projects will be sent to DOC for design.
- Architect and Engineer (A&E) Contracts
 - One task order has been issued and two more are to be issued soon for the design of animal waste management systems.
 - Four task orders are to be issued soon for the design of streambank protection projects to control bank erosion.
- Resources
 - The Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition Adult Range Schools which NRCS assisted with were well attended.
 - Assisting with the development of information/criteria for upcoming FY 2012 program year
 - Updated a number of new and revised standards/specifications
- National Resources Inventory
 - The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas completed the 2011 Grazing Lands On-Site Survey in July. The Rangeland Resource Assessment report which reflects data collected in prior years can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/rangeland/>.
 - A Local Data Collection is planned for this fall. A Local Data Collection is performed by our field office personnel and focuses on gathering erosion and program information on cropland, hay land, pasture land and land in the Conservation Reserve Program with 2,551 sites throughout the state being selected for this inventory. Each inventory site in Kansas generally consists of a quarter section of land with three data collection points randomly located within it.

OUTREACH

Kansas State Fair Booth

The Conservation Partnership—NRCS, the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD), and the Division of Conservation Kansas (DOC) Department of Agriculture (KDA) are joined this year by the Kansas Forest Service (KFS) and the Kansas Forestry Association in staffing the booth. In commemorating the 2011 Year of the Forest the booth's theme is "Working Trees for Kansas." Educator packets available follow the theme with education information provided by all partners. A large tree cookie was on display showing dates corresponding to the tree rings. Publications about trees and natural resources conservation were available to fairgoers. Foresters and conservationists were on hand to answer questions. KFS brought new ideas and faces to the booth.

On September 12, NRCS Eric Banks, KDA Dale Rodman, and KFS Larry Biles presented information at a ceremony acknowledging the 2011 Year of the Forest at which a tree was planted. A Bur Oak was planted near Gottschalk Gazebo and a sign identifying the tree was placed nearby. Smokey the Bear greeted children and adults who attended the ceremony. Those who gathered for the ceremony were able to watch Dennis Carlson, KFS District Forester, properly plant the tree while Kim Bomberger, KFS District Community Forester, explained the proper procedure for planting a tree.

2011 Black Expo, Topeka, Kansas

NRCS sponsored a booth and provided information about volunteering, being an apprentice, and applying for jobs through USAJOBS. Information was provided about the Hispanic and/or Women Farmers and Ranchers claims process.

Conservation Planning Campaign

July through September, NRCS placed ads in the Kansas ag newspapers. Those newspapers are: weeklies *Grass and Grain*, *Farm Talk*, *High Plains Journal*; monthly *Kansas Farmer* and *Kansas Farmer Stockman*. Radio ads ran on WIBW the last two week of August for 64 airings. Ads and radio public service announcements that ran or aired in July and August offered ranking points to anyone who requested a conservation plan by August 31, 2011. The newspapers were provided news releases about conservation planning and they were published. *Grass and Grain* also did an article on conservation planning. Radio interviews were done with WIBW and Agriculture Today through K-State that airs on KFRM. Field offices were also provided articles and posters promoting conservation planning.

Hispanic and/or Female Farmers and Ranchers

NRCS continues to work to get the word out by posting the information in libraries, courthouses, churches, restaurants, Co-ops, Service Centers, post offices and other places where this information would be seen by the public and those who would want to make a claim. A news release was send to the media in English and Spanish.

Senator Moran's Conservation Tour

September 29 and 30, Harvey, Sedgwick, Butler, and Greenwood Counties

The tour is open to anyone interested. The tour will start on Thursday, September 29, 9 a.m. at the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District Office in Halstead. An agenda is attached (Attachment 2). The tour is open to everyone. RSVPs are required for lunch counts to Senator Moran's field office in Wichita (email Brandon_harder@moran.senate.gov). Participants are responsible for paying for his/her lunch.

Tri-State Leadership Development Program Participants

Kansas

Monty R. Breneman, Supervisory District Conservationist, Lincoln
Teresa L. Harrington, Cartographer, Salina
Travis A. Rome, Cartographer, Salina
Matthew N. Meyerhoff, District Conservationist, Larned
Keri D. Morris, Supervisory District Conservationist, Hugoton
Xiomara Eaves, Resource Conservationist, Salina

Arkansas

Marshall Handcock, District Conservationist, DeWitt
Jeremy Huff, District Conservationist, Clinton
Margaret Lonadier, District Conservationist, Harrison
Jena Moore, District Conservationist, Arkadelphia
Gwen Handcock, District Conservationist, McGehee
John Kluthe, District Conservationist, Clarksville
Kevin Cochran, District Conservationist, Jonesboro

Missouri

Autumn Newby, Resource Conservationist, Liberty
Diana Sheridan, Resource Conservationist, Mt. Vernon
Joe Steuber, Hydraulic Engineer, State Office
April Wilson, District Conservationist, Ava
Clint Roby, Resource Conservationist, Keytesville
Selma Mascaro, Resource Conservationist, Greenville
Mary Beth Jungk, Resource Conservationist, St. Joseph
Ashley Johnson, District Conservationist, Kirksville

Thursday, Sept 29

Harvey County

District Conservationist Gay Spencer 316-283-0370 gay.spencer@ks.usda.gov

- 9 a.m. EQUUS Beds Groundwater Management District
Tim Boese will speak about GMD and AWEP
313 Spruce, Halstead 67056, 316-835-222, tboese@gmd2.org Web: www.gmd2.org
- 9:30 a.m. Drive to 1st stop—Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Subsurface Drip Irrigation (4 miles)
- 9:40 a.m. Lynn Holdeman
805 S Old Settlers Road, Halstead, Ks
- 10 a.m. Drive to 2nd Agriculture Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) Center Pivot Irrigation
- 10:15 a.m. 2nd Stop --Steve Smith
5500 S. Halstead Road, Halstead, KS

Sedgwick County

District Conservationist Robert Stutzman 316-721-6127 robert.stutzman@ks.usda.gov

- 10:45 a.m. Drive to Aquifer Storage and Recovery Site
- 11-12:30 p.m. Aquifer Storage and Recovery Site
117th Street N and 119th St W
2 miles east of 151st St W at 117th Street N
Deb Ary 316-269-4760 dary@wichita.gov
- 12:30 p.m. Drive to Colwich for Lunch at Syl's Buffet, everyone pays for his/her lunch
205 W Wichita Ave., Colwich · (316) 796-1044
- 1:30 p.m. Drive to Dave Lane's Dairy
- 1:40 p.m. Continuous Conservation Reserve Program Wetland, 8.1 acres
1601 N. 167 St West, Goddard, landowner Don Simon; renter Dave Lane
- 1.55 Drive to the Wichita Water Center
- 2:10 Wichita Water Center, 101 E. Pawnee, Wichita (Pawnee and Broadway)
Libby Albers 316-337-9262 lalbers@wichita.gov
- 3:30 Drive to Jackman Forest, north of Leon

Butler County

District Conservationist Justin Kneisel, 316-321-5803, justin.kneisel@ks.usda.gov

- 4 p.m. Jackman Forest
The Jackman Forest is located NE of Leon KS. From Wichita, follow Kellogg/54 Highway East to 400 Highway East to Leon KS. Turn north to travel through Leon and turn East on High Street. Follow High Street East to SE Cole Creek and turn North. Proceed North on SE Cole Creek Rd to Walcoe RD (SE 80th) and follow black top East until you reach SE Munson Hill Rd. Turn South on SE Munson Hill Rd and travel about 0.6 miles to the property gate.

Speakers: Dennis Carlson, Kansas Forest Service
Herb Graves, Kansas Association of Kansas Watersheds

5:30 p.m. Drive to Flint Oak (40 miles)
2639 Quail, Fall River, 620- 658-4401

Friday, Sept 30

Greenwood County

District Conservationist Luke Westerman, 620-583-5544, luke.westerman@ks.usda.gov

8:15 a.m. Meet at Fall River Post Office 412 Merchants Ave, Fall River, KS and drive to 1st st

8:30 a.m. Livestock Alternative Watering Supply
Diamond R Ranch
75 BB75 Rd, Fall River, KS 67047

9 a.m. Drive to Salt Scar, sign on Hwy 99, 1 mile south of Climax, then west

9:15 a.m. Salt Scar (plant species and soil amendments used for revegetation for a salt scar)
Norman and Diane Grundy
1530 75th St., Eureka, KS 67045

9:45 a.m. Drive to Streambank Restoration

10 a.m. Streambank Restoration
Teichgraeber Ranch
1482 130th St, Eureka, KS 67045

Butler County

District Conservationist Justin Kneisel, 316-321-5803, justin.kneisel@ks.usda.gov

10:30 a.m. Drive to City of El Dorado Wastewater Treatment Plant
105 Wetland Drive, El Dorado, KS 67042. Kurt Bookout 316-322-4980;
wildcat@eldoks.com

11 a.m. City of El Dorado Wastewater Treatment Plant

12 noon Lunch (need RSVP since the Butler County Conservation District is catering BBQ but everyone will pay for their meal)

1 p.m. Drive to El Dorado Lake
ACE contact Rick Sellers 321-9974, ricky.l.sellers@swt03.usace.army.mil
NE Shady Creek Access Rd, El Dorado, KS

1:30 p.m. El Dorado Lake presentation by CORPS

3 p.m. Drive to Cole Creek Streambank Restoration, leave from the CORPS Office above
Sandy Koontz, 316-320-5891, Sandy.Koontz@ks.nacdnet.net

3:15 p.m. Cole Creek Stream Bank Restoration Site

4 p.m. End