

MINUTES OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 19, 2010

1. The State Conservation Commission meeting was called to order by Rod Vorhees, Chairman and Area V Commissioner at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at the State Conservation Commission, 109 SW 9th St., Suite 500, 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:

David Barfield, KDA, Div of Water Resources
Eric Banks, State Conservationist, USDA, NRCS

Staff:

Greg Foley, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Max Foster, Chief Fiscal Officer

Don Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Rob Reschke, R&W/Buffer Coordinator
Steve Frost, Water Cons. Program Manager

3. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION:

Motion by Andy Larson to certify the election to the State Conservation Commission for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2010: Area I - Ted Nighswonger, Area III – Brad Shogren, Area V – Rod Vorhees. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION:

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to nominate Rod Vorhees to serve as chairperson. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to nominate John Wunder to serve as vice-chairperson. Seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2010

Page 2

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve the November 22, 2009 minutes as mailed. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

7. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS:

Ron Graber – KSU, sitting in for Dan Devlin
Pat Lehman, KACD – Legislative Day report, 2009 KACD Convention was well attended, and KACD website update.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Max Foster gave the financial report update see attachment A.

9. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Training initiative for Commissions announced by the Attorney General's Office.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a.** Update on 2010 Commission Spring Workshops – Scott Carlson.
- b.** Update on Buffer Coordinator Agreements and the Technical Assistance Agreement with NRCS – Don Jones and Rob Reschke.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- a.** Review FY 2011 Governor's budget recommendation and other legislative activities – Greg Foley.
- b.** Review and Discuss FY 2010 proposed cost-share program policy revisions – Staff.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2010

Page 3

c. KACD Resolutions – Scott Carlson.

- i. Resolution to expand eligibility for Cost-Share on Pumping Plant for Water Supply practice code to include replacement of a properly located but damaged/nonfunctional water system with a solar pump.

Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the recommended policy change by KACD resolution to allow cost-share on Pumping Plant for Water Supply in the Water Resource Cost-Share and Non-Point Source Pollution Control programs to include a replacement of a properly located but damaged/nonfunctional watering system with a solar pump system effective FY 2011. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

d. Legislative Update – Greg Foley.

HB 2428 - Creates the Kansas Drinking Water Supply Lakes Sustainability Fund

HB 2426 - Creates the Agricultural Land Conservation Program

HB 2431 - Creates the Land Preservation Partner Program

HB 2442 - Creates the Kansas Streamlining Government Commission

SB 231 - Abolishing the SCC and consolidating the SCC and the Animal Health Department into the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

12. Reports:

a. Agency Reports:

- i. Eric Banks gave the NRCS report see attachment B.
- ii. David Barfield gave the KDA, Water Resources report.

b. Staff Reports:

- i. Scott Carlson reported that he and Don Jones will be attending and giving presentations at the NRCS Area I and II meetings on February 17th and 18th, 2010.

c. Commissioner Reports: None.

SCC MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2010

Page 4

13. Adjourn:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the State Conservation Commission.

Motion by Brad Shogren to adjourn. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg A. Foley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a circular flourish at the end.

**Greg A. Foley
Executive Director**

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FY 2010 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2009 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009

	PROGRAM/FUND	INDEX	Appropriation/ Allocation	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		Uncommitted Balance
						Committed/ Encumbered	% of Committed Funds	
1.	STATE GENERAL FUND - 1000							
*	a. Office operations (*Reduction \$30,517.00)	1010	744,934.86	402,789.95	54.1%	0.00	0.0%	342,144.91
	b. Hospitality Fund	1014	1,500.00	611.46	40.8%	0.00	0.0%	888.54
	TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND		746,434.86	403,401.41	54.0%	0.00	0.0%	343,033.45
2.	STATE WATER PLAN FUND - 1800	1200						
*	a. Water Resources Cost-Share							
	(1) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		2,535,466.55	562,759.73	22.2%	1,950,967.64	76.9%	21,739.18
	(2) Office Operations		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00
	(3) Reserve		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00
	WR - TOTAL		2,535,466.55	562,759.73	22.2%	1,950,967.64	76.9%	21,739.18
**	b. Water Resources TA - TSP Employees	1205	10,338.38	10,338.38	100.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00
*	c. Non Point Source Pollution Control	1210						
**	(1) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		1,979,024.41	774,980.44	39.2%	954,623.11	48.2%	249,420.86
	(2) Office Operations		18,000.00	4,000.00	22.2%	4,000.00	0.0%	10,000.00
	(3) NPS Technical Assistance (Conservation District)		455,762.65	428,762.65	94.1%	26,878.86	5.9%	121.14
	(4) No-Till Education (Conservation District)		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00
	(5) Reserve		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00
	NPS - TOTAL		2,452,787.06	1,207,743.09	49.2%	985,501.97	40.2%	259,542.00
*	d. WTAP	1215						
	(1) WTAP Projects		11,968.30	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	11,968.30
	(2) Office Operations		88,032.00	43,442.61	49.3%	0.00	0.0%	44,589.39
	WTAP - TOTAL		100,000.30	43,442.61	43.4%	0.00	0.0%	56,557.69
	e. Aid to Conservation Districts	1220	2,266,961.75	2,233,566.48	98.5%	33,338.52	1.5%	56.75
	f. Conservation Reserve Enh Prog (CREP)	1225						
	(1) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		1,113,584.32	31,375.10	2.8%	79,135.10	7.1%	1,003,074.12
	(2) Reserve		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00
	CREP - TOTAL		1,113,584.32	31,375.10	2.8%	79,135.10	7.1%	1,003,074.12
*	g. Watershed Dam Construction	1240						
	(1) Watershed Dam Cost-Share Assistance		414,262.00	97,432.83	23.5%	316,829.17	76.5%	0.00
	(2) Inundation Mapping		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00
	(3) Rehabilitation		226,892.00	0.00	0.0%	226,892.00	0.0%	0.00
	(4) Reserve		35,543.04	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	35,543.04
	1240 - WATERSHED PROGRAM - SUB-TOTAL	1240	676,697.04	97,432.83	0.24	543,721.17	0.76	35,543.04
	(5) Watershed Dam Cost-Share Assistance	1245	50,000.00	6,010.03	12.0%	43,989.97	88.0%	0.00
	WATERSHED PROGRAM - TOTAL		726,697.04	103,442.86	14.2%	587,711.14	80.9%	35,543.04
*	h. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative-CSIMS Projects	1250	312,162.65	0.00	0.0%	268,100.63	85.9%	44,062.02
***	i. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative-Coordiators(TA)	1255	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00

*FY 2010 ADJUSTMENT

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO 1200

***TRANSFER OF REMAINING FUNDS TO 1250

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 FY 2010 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
 JULY 1, 2009 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2009

	PROGRAM/FUND	INDEX	Appropriation/ Allocation	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		% of Committed Funds	Uncommitted Balance
						Committed/ Encumbered			
*	j. Riparian and Wetland Protection	1260							
	(1) CSIMS-Demonstration Projects		87,215.98	11,592.00	13.3%	0.00	0.0%	75,623.98	
	(2) TA-Glacial Hills RC&D		100,000.00	43,595.00	0.0%	56,405.00	0.0%	0.00	
	(3) Office Operations		150.00	150.00	100.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	
	(4) Reserve		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	
	RW - TOTAL		187,365.98	55,337.00	29.5%	56,405.00	30.1%	75,623.98	
*	k. Water Supply Restoration Program	1275	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	
	TOTAL - STATE WATER PLAN FUND		\$9,705,364.03	\$4,248,005.25	43.8%	\$3,961,160.00	40.8%	\$1,496,198.78	

*FY 2010 ADJUSTMENT

	CASH CONTROL FUNDS PROGRAM	INDEX	Fee Deposit Accounts	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		% of Committed Funds	Cash Flow
						Committed/ Encumbered			
1.	LAND RECLAMATION FEE FUND - 2542								
	a. Office Operations	2100	142,837.56	78,125.26	54.7%	3,133.12	2.2%	61,579.18	
	b. American Express Credit Card Fund - 9453	9400	235.38	42.00	17.8%	0.00	0.0%	193.38	
	Fee fund only expenditures are transfers to LR and credit card monthly fees.								
2.	KDWP-Buffer Partnership - 2517	2510	150,000.00	80,898.50	53.9%	0.00	0.0%	69,101.50	
3.	KDHE/EPA - FEDERAL FUNDS - 3915		(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED to KDHE)						
	a. Buffer Partnership (67600)	3730	245,076.85	90,555.28	36.9%	0.00	23.0%	154,521.57	
	b. NPS/WRAPS (67400)	3730	13,650.00	13,266.05	97.2%	0.00	23.0%	383.95	
	TOTAL- FEDERAL FUNDS - 3915		258,726.85	103,821.33	40.1%	0.00	0.0%	154,905.52	
4.	NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS - 3715		(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REQUESTED FROM NRCS)						
	a. Contribution Agreement Employees, Salaries & Travel	3800	10,279.96	10,279.96	100.0%	0.00	0.0%	0.00	
	b. CD Operations and Indirect	3810	24,218.03	18,417.97	76.1%	0.00	0.0%	5,800.06	
	c. Water Quality Projects, Personnel and Indirect	3820	42,682.96	8,296.36	19.4%	1,813.34	0.0%	32,573.26	
	TOTAL- NRCS FUNDS - 3917		77,180.95	36,994.29	47.9%	1,813.34	0.0%	38,373.32	
	COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT COMPLETED								
5.	CONVERSION FUND - 2429	2000	1,965.75	0.00	0.0%	0.00	0.0%	1,965.75	
6.	MOTOR VEHICLE FUND - 6118	6000	32,152.22	5,963.19	18.5%	0.00	0.0%	26,189.03	
7.	PARKING DEDUCTION CLEARING FUND	9234	2,503.82	2,373.00	94.8%	0.00	0.0%	130.82	
	TOTAL - CASH FLOW								\$352,438.50



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**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**TOPEKA, KANSAS
JANUARY 19, 2010**

PERSONNEL

New Hire: Jessica R. Bowser, RC&D Coordinator, Valley Falls
Dustin D. Schwant, Rangeland Management Specialist, Wichita

Reassignments: Bruce K. Wells, RC&D Coordinator, Emporia to
Water Resources Planning Specialist, Salina
Brian A. Schulze, District Conservationist, Beloit to
District Conservationist, Hill City
Timothy B. Gogolski, District Conservationist, Lyndon
to Oregon
Deke A. Hobbick, District Conservationist, Stockton
to South Dakota

Retirements: Barbara K. Jasper, Office Assistant, Emporia
Susan J. Francis, Engineering Technician (Civil), Lakin

OPERATIONS

The Cooperative Agreements are progressing with 14 soil conservation technicians (SCTs) and four Pheasants Forever (PF) biologists being planned. PF biologists should start around March 1, 2010, and the SCTs around July 1, 2010.

Additional global positioning systems (GPS) units are being ordered to replace the remainder of the old units in the field.

NRCS appreciates the conservation district personnel for completing the required computer security training. There were eight employees who were down to the wire in getting it completed with only three not meeting the deadline. Two of those three took computer security training, but took the wrong one. All have now completed the training.

PROGRAMS

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Obligations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 for 2002 CSP (Security) contracts is nearing completion. All payments for these contracts will be completed by February 12, 2010.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

For 2008 CSP (Stewardship), obligations of eligible applications will be completed by January 30, 2010. Applicants will be notified by mail regarding funding decisions related to their application.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The application evaluation period cut-off date has been set for January 15, 2010. There will be a special national initiative for Organic, which will have a different cutoff date. Information for the FY 2010 program can be found at

<http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2010/index.html>. The FY 2010 EQIP allocation is \$18,113,503.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Work continues for closing on three FY 2008 conservation easement parcels and one FY 2009 parcel. FRPP is now a continuous signup program and cooperating entities can submit application parcels throughout the year. At the present time no new applications have been submitted for FY 2010 funding consideration. A ranking cutoff date has been set for February 15, 2010, to rank submitted applications.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

The GRP allows for applications to be accepted continuously throughout the year. Application evaluation periods will be used to accumulate applications for subsequent ranking. One application period is currently planned for FY 2010. The application cutoff date for this next evaluation period is close of business January 22, 2010. Kansas NRCS has been working to establish Geographic Rate Caps for the FY 2010 GRP and will be posting these easement offer rates as soon as they are approved by our national headquarters.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Stimulus Package

Kansas NRCS continues to work on completion of projects funded under the ARRA. We have four watershed projects that received funding:

- Lyons Creek Site 15 – (New Construction) Morris County
- Switzler Creek Site 7 – (Rehabilitation) Osage County
- Big Caney Site 18 – (Remedial) Cowley County
- Wet Walnut Site 53 – (Remedial) Ness County

All permits for construction have been received for Lyons Creek, Big Caney, and Wet Walnut. Project Agreements with the sponsors are now being signed so that bids for construction may be posted. The watershed rehabilitation plan for Switzler Creek was approved by the Chief of NRCS and design work is now underway for the approved federal rehabilitation alternative.

In addition, Kansas received funding under ARRA to enroll three new Emergency Watershed Protection – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE). Work is currently underway to complete legal surveys and title review on these sites. The acres and county location of the three approved sites are:

- Doniphan County – 564 acres
- Labette County – 48 acres
- Rice County – 223 acres

EWPP-FPE easements are required to be closed by February 3, 2010, and restoration is required to be completed by December 31, 2010.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

FY 2009 ended with 18 new enrollments on 2,820 acres. All boundary surveys pertaining to these new enrollments have been completed. One FY 2009 enrollment has closed and three additional easements are poised to close in the near future. Twenty-five new applications have been received since October 1. Field visits are being scheduled to be able to rank and approve applications by February 19, 2010. New Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARCs) were reviewed by the State Technical Committee and recommended to the State Conservationist. The FY 2010 GARCs were submitted to national headquarters and approved for use in FY 2010. Offers to purchase are now being made to current eligible applications.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

The application evaluation period cut-off date has been set for January 15, 2010. FY 2010 program information has been provided to the field offices. Additional information regarding the FY 2010 program can be found at <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/2010/index.html>. The FY 2010 WHIP allocation is \$317,179.

TECHNOLOGY

We are managing our agreement with the State Conservation Commission (SCC) and their contractor, The Watershed Institute (TWI), to get streambank projects designed and built. Designs have been completed for four more of the 2008 projects. Construction on eight projects is awaiting an improvement in the weather, and these projects should be built by this spring. High water in the rivers has delayed the surveys of the last four projects. Those surveys should be completed this winter.

The design of a group of six 2008 EQIP projects had been sent out for bid by the SCC, and work on those projects should begin soon. This group of projects will be designed by Wildhorse Riverworks, Inc.

Reno/Sparks, Nevada, recently hosted the 4th National Conference for Grazing Lands, December 13-16, 2009. The conference is intended to be a forum for producers, landowners, land managers, and grazing land professionals where success stories, experience, and questions can be asked, discussed and debated. Unlike many national conferences, a strong push for producer involvement is a primary focal point. Producers, local grazing groups from states, and grazing land leaders present and host breakout sessions providing for an opportunity to ask and answer questions. This year a small contingent from Kansas presented a 1.5 hour session on the grazing lands of Kansas. Information was presented by the Tall-grass Legacy Alliance, Comanche Pool Foundation, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Approximately 900 people were in attendance.

OTHER

Outreach Activities

Fifteen (15) Conservation Edition news releases are available online for conservation districts and others to use.

News Releases issued during 1st Quarter of FY 2010:

- USDA Launches High Tunnel Pilot Study to Increase Availability of Locally Grown Organic Foods
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Application Cutoff Date - January 15, 2010
- Grassland Reserve Program Application Cutoff Date Announced
- Kansas Receives Farm and Rand Lands Protection Program Funds
- Initial Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Funding Approval date Set for December 15, 2009
- Prescribed Burning Workshops to be Held in Central and Eastern Kansas (13 workshops held)
- NRCS Announces Strong Interest in New Conservation Stewardship Program

Upcoming Events where NRCS will have exhibits:

- Great Plains Vegetative Growers Conference, St Joseph, Mo, January 8, 2010
- State Association of Kansas Watershed, January 22, 2010, highlighting American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 projects—Watershed Operations, Rehabilitation, and Floodplain Easements
- Women Managing the Farm, February 5/6, 2010, Wichita
- Kansas Natural Resources Conference, February 4/5, 2010, Wichita
- Kansas Farm Bureau, Young Farmers and Ranchers, January 31, 2010

Exhibits set up during 1st quarter of Fiscal Year 2010

- Kansas Association of Conservation Districts, November 22/24, 2009
- Kansas Association Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) Annual Conference, November 6/7

Publications:

Conservation Practices and Programs for Your Land with 8 inserts--Distributed to all NRCS/Conservation District Field Offices—sent to all office and attached

Managing Working Lands for Northern Bobwhite—all offices

Publications are available from LANDCARE

Radio Programs—KKSU with Eric Atkinson

EQIP and WHIP with Gaye Benfer and Jon Unger

WRP with Lynn Thurlow

Advertisement

Sent ad announcing EQIP and WHIP cutoff date to Field Offices to send to their County Newspaper of Record. Spanish translation was also sent.

Video

Public Affairs staff is developing video for Diversity Conference, March 15-19, Kansas City, Missouri. This video features employees around Kansas. Footage was collected in November through January.

Outreach Survey on NRCS SharePoint

The new Kansas Outreach Survey had 97 responses in the 1st quarter. Outreach reports are now collected electronically and can be reported immediately rather than on a form that was due at the end of a fiscal year. This is great response for a quarter and there were a variety of events reported, and the report shows that lots of people were informed and/or took part in the events. NRCS and conservation districts worked with grassroots organizations; school children; adults; Survey showed people of diverse ethnic backgrounds were provided outreach.

(Maybe use this for the FAC report since it was in the SCC/KACD report) The State Outreach Council (SOC) members (NRCS, RD, FSA, and Risk Management) met on October 15. The SOC had a regrouping meeting in July to discuss ways to do outreach in Kansas. The SOC has not been active for a couple years. During the meeting the members had a teleconference with the Iowa leaders who have developed Women, Land, and Legacy, to learn about the program and then consider if Kansas SOC would be interested in using that program as an outreach tool. The SOC agenda will also include developing an e-mail list of interested members and updating the Outreach brochure. The Council will meet the third Thursday of October, January, April, and July.