



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 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 17, 2012 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) (Late)
Chad Voigt, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Kansas Department of Agriculture,
Division of Water Resources
Phil Barnes, Associate Professor, Water Quality, Biological and Agricultural Engineering,
K-State Research and Extension

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Greg Foley, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager
Max Foster, Public Service Executive
Don Jones, Water Quality Programs Manager
Steve Frost, Water Conservation Programs Manager
Rob Reschke, Riparian & Wetland / Buffer Coordinator

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Guests:

- *Pat Lehman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
 - *Jon Starns, Area I Director, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
 - *Bevin Law, Area IV Vice-President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
 - *Ronald Brown, Area V, President, Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
 - **David Barfield, Chief Engineer, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources
- *Arrived at 10:30 a.m. and departed at 11:00 a.m.**
****Arrived at 10:15 a.m. and departed at 10:45 a.m.**

3. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION:

Motion by Andy Larson to certify the election to the Conservation Commission for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2012: 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.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- a. Addition: 11. g. State Fair Partnership booth.

Motion by Andy Larson to amend the agenda as presented. Seconded by John Wunder. Motion Carried.

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

- a. Amend the November 20, 2011 minutes to reflect January 17, 2012 as next meeting date.

Motion by Brad Shogren to approve the November 20, 2011 minutes as mailed/amended. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

7. COMMENTS FROM GUESTS: None.

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

- a. Fiscal Year 2012 second quarter financial report see Attachment A – Max Foster.

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9. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- a. KACD – NRCS / Partnership – Resource Planning Assistance.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Review Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Annual Report and Water Transition Assistance Program (WTAP) update – Steve Frost.
- b. IRS rules on taxing Conservation District Supervisor expense reimbursement – Greg Foley.
- c. Approve staff out of state travel – Greg Foley.

Motion by Ted Nighswonger to approve two staff members to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada January 28 thru February 1, 2012. Seconded by Andy Larson. Motion carried.

- d. David Barfield gave the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources Report.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Review FY 2013 Governor's budget recommendations and other legislative activities – Greg Foley.
- b. Overview of bills impacting the Division of Conservation (DOC) – Greg Foley.
- c. Review and discuss FY 2013 proposed cost-share program policy revisions – None.
- d. Discuss conservation district annual meeting schedule – Staff.
- e. Update on outstanding litigation – Greg Foley.
- f. Spring Workshops agenda and format review – Scott Carlson.
- g. State Fair Partnership booth – Greg Foley.

Motion by Brad Shogren to split the State Fair Booth costs with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD). Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

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12. REPORTS:

- a. Agency Reports:
 - i. NRCS – Eric Banks. See Attachment B.
 - ii. K-State Research and Extension – Phil Barnes.
- b. Staff reports:
 - i. Land Reclamation – Scott Carlson.
- c. Commissioner Reports - None

13. ADJOURN:

The next regular Commission meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. April 9, 2012 at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 109 SW 9th Street, 4th floor Conference Room, Topeka, KS.

Motion by Andy Larson to adjourn. Seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.



Greg A. Foley.
Executive Director

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2012 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2011

	PROGRAM/FUND	INDEX	Appropriation/ Allocation	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		UNCOMMITTED BALANCE
						Committed/	Encumbered-Contingent	
1.	STATE GENERAL FUND - 1000							
	a. Office Operations	0053	552,381.00	286,181.50	51.8%	6,742.00		259,457.50
	TOTAL - STATE GENERAL FUND		\$552,381.00	\$286,181.50	51.8%	\$6,742.00		\$259,457.50
2.	STATE WATER PLAN FUND - 1800							
	a. Water Resources Cost-Share							
	(1) Office Operations		118,631.00	58,632.45	49.4%	25,000.00		34,998.55
	(2) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		2,572,668.25	751,043.10	29.2%	1,640,929.36		180,695.79
	(3) Reserve Funds		18,099.65	0.00	0.0%	0.00		18,099.65
	WR - TOTAL	1205	2,709,398.90	809,675.55	29.9%	1,665,929.36		233,793.99
	b. Non Point Source Pollution Control							
	(1) Office Operations		31,019.20	2,914.49	9.4%	22,900.20		5,204.51
	(2) NPS-ENGINEERING SERVICES		229,000.00	0.00	0.0%	229,000.00		0.00
	(3) NPS/TA-Conservation Technician Positions		200,000.00	155,813.81	0.0%	0.00		44,186.19
	(4) NPS/TA-No Till Conservtion Districts		25,000.00	12,257.00	0.0%	0.00		12,743.00
	(5) CSIMS Cost-Share Assistance		1,852,852.92	700,000.10	37.8%	1,133,246.82		19,606.00
	(6) Revolving Loan Fund		759,901.27	0.00	0.0%	0.00		759,901.27
	NPS - TOTAL	1210	3,097,773.39	870,985.40	28.1%	1,385,147.02		841,640.97
	c. Aid to Conservation Districts	1220	2,259,754.00	2,157,119.48	95.5%	0.00		102,634.52
	d. CREP/WTAP							
	(1) Office Operations		85,303.00	45,756.27	53.6%	0.00		39,546.73
	(2) WR/CREP CSIMS		192,423.80	23,076.40	0.0%	169,347.40		0.00
	(3) WRAP PROJECTS		0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		0.00
	(4) Reserve Funds		1,723,003.12	0.00	0.0%	0.00		1,723,003.12
	CREP/WTAP - TOTAL	1225	2,000,729.92	68,832.67	3.4%	169,347.40		1,762,549.85
	e. Watershed Dam Construction							
	(1) Watershed Dam Cost-Share Assistance		508,803.00	91,744.22	18.0%	417,058.78		0.00
	(2) Inundation Mapping		59,311.00	0.00	0.0%	59,311.00		0.00
	(3) Rehabilitation		126,383.00	0.00	0.0%	126,383.00		0.00
	(4) Reserve		1,642.57	0.00	0.0%	0.00		1,642.57
	WATERSHED PROGRAM - TOTAL	1240	696,139.57	91,744.22	13.2%	602,752.78		1,642.57
	f. KS Water Quality Buffer Initiative							
	(1) Office Operations		1,250.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00		1,250.00
	(2) CSIMS-KS Water Quality Buffer Projects		277,603.00	(489.94)	0.0%	265,056.36		13,036.58
	(3) Reserve		1,521.88	0.00	0.0%	0.00		1,521.88
	BUF - TOTAL	1250	280,374.88	(489.94)	-0.2%	265,056.36		15,808.46
	g. Riparian and Wetland Protection							
	(1) Office Operations		6,530.00	426.66	0.0%	4,831.62		1,271.72
	(2) RW-Engineering Services		9,720.00	0.00	0.0%	9,720.00		0.00
	(3) CSIMS-Demonstration Projects		157,686.00	0.00	0.0%	102,887.59		54,798.41
	(4) Reserve Funds		125,475.46	0.00	0.0%	0.00		125,475.46
	RW - TOTAL	1260	299,411.46	426.66	0.1%	117,439.21		181,545.59
	i. Lake Restoration-Water Supply Program	1275	257,668.00	0.00	0.0%	252,172.00		5,496.00
	TOTAL - STATE WATER PLAN FUND		\$11,601,250.12	\$3,998,294.04	34.5%	\$4,457,844.13		\$3,145,111.95

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION, KDA - FY 2012 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2011

CASH CONTROL FUNDS PROGRAM	INDEX	Fee Deposit Accounts	Total Expenditures	% of Funds Expended	Funds		Cash Flow
					Committed/		
					Encumbered-Contingent		
1. LAND RECLAMATION FEE FUND - 2542	2090	150,075.24	76,532.37	51.0%	3,335.00	70,207.87	
2. KDWP-Buffer Partnership - 2517	2510	107,086.63	96,876.22	90.5%	10,210.19	0.22	
3. KDHE/EPA - FEDERAL FUNDS - 3889	(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED TO KDHE)				REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST		
a. KDHE/Buffer Partnership	3880	150,910.00	56,638.17	37.5%	80,000.00	94,271.83	
b. KDHE/Buffer Indirect Funds	3880	18,502.05	0.00	0.0%	30,000.00	18,502.05	
c. KDHE/NPS/WRAPS	3705	669.95	0.00	0.0%	1,064.00	669.95	
d. KDHE/NPS Indirect Funds	3705	0.00	0.00	0.0%	4,500.00	0.00	
TOTAL- FEDERAL FUNDS - 3915		170,082.00	56,638.17	33.3%	115,564.00	113,443.83	
4. NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENTS - 3715	(ON THIS ACCOUNT-MONEY IS DEPOSITED AS REQUESTED FROM NRCS)				REMAINING BAL TO REQUEST		
a. NRCS/NPS/WQ Conservation Tech	3825	80,711.14	42,638.32	52.8%	84,089.74	38,072.82	
b. NRCS/NPS/WQ No-Till Winter Conference/Targeted Plan	3825	0.00	0.00	0.0%	63,180.00	0.00	
c. NRCS/RW/WQ EQIP Projects	3825	450.00	450.00	0.0%	0.00	0.00	
d. NRCS/RW//WQ SCCPersonnel Ind	3825	6,913.18	0.00	0.0%	0.00	6,913.18	
e. NRCS/RW/WQ Indirect Funds	3825	36,789.59	0.00	0.0%	0.00	36,789.59	
TOTAL- NRCS FUNDS - 3917		124,863.91	43,088.32	34.5%	147,269.74	81,775.59	
5. HOSPITALITY FUND - 1000	0054	722.06	722.06	100.0%	0.00	0.00	
6. CONVERSION FUND - 2429	2070	1,965.75	0.00	0.0%	0.00	1,965.75	
7. MOTOR VEHICLE FUND - 6118	6000	29,584.95	1,973.54	6.7%	24,044.00	3,567.41	
TOTAL - CASH FLOW						\$270,960.67	



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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**NRCS HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES
for the
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
TOPEKA, KANSAS
January 17, 2012**

PERSONNEL

Conversions: Kevin A. Vaughn, Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist), Concordia, to
Soil Conservationist, Hugoton

New Hires: Jamie Funk, Soil Conservation Technician, Oskaloosa

Reassignments

and/or Promotions: Tanya L. Allemang, Soil Conservationist, Caldwell, Idaho, to District
Conservationist, Oakley

Bradley T. Grier, Soil Conservation Technician, Oskaloosa, to Soil
Conservation Technician, Hiawatha

Troy P. Krenzel, RC&D Coordinator, Chanute, to National Employee
Development Center, Fort Worth, Texas

Larry D. Mann, Human Resources Manager, Salina State Office, to
National Employee Development Center, Fort Worth, Texas

Retirements: Steve E. Brillhart, Resources Conservationist, Hutchinson Area Office
Michael C. Dassel-Stuke, Soil Conservation Technician, Hiawatha
John E. Gardner, Civil Engineering Technician, Hutchinson Area Office
William M. Gilliam, Assistant State Conservationist, Emporia Area Office
Steven C. Henningsen, Soil Conservationist, Abilene
James L. McDowell, Soil Scientist, Salina State Office
Clyde F. Mermis, District Conservationist, Lawrence
Denise M. Streeter, Office Auto Assistant, Manhattan Area Office
Debra K. Sumner, Supervisory District Conservationist, Paola

Separations: Matthew T. Powe, Supervisory District Conservationist, Iola

OPERATIONS

Performance goals for fiscal year (FY) 2012 are currently being negotiated with the Regional
Conservationist. Expectations are that the goals will remain similar to last year.

Kansas completed a Risk Assessment in preparation for the National Quality Assurance Review
scheduled in April. The assessment is a part of the quality assurance review process. It is an
extensive look at five standards for internal control activities; control environment, risk

assessment, information and communication, and monitoring. The results of the assessment will then be incorporated into the quality assurance review to identify areas for improvement.

The Corrective Action Plan that is being required by all states has been revised. It includes several items including state-wide training and reviews of conservation program contracts to ensure that the corrective action items are being implemented. States are required to report on a quarterly basis their progress in addressing the items.

Kansas received our initial allocation for FY 2012. Although budgets are being reduced, Kansas should still be able to conduct fairly normal operations for this FY.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the closing of 251 USDA offices including 24 soil survey offices. The Kansas Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be closing one soil survey office located within the Salina State Office. No NRCS field offices were affected.

PROGRAMS

- **Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)**
Kansas was allocated \$3,819,398 for FY 2012. All funds must be obligated by March 23, 2012.
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**
The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in the Upper Arkansas River Basin is still accepting offers and acreage is now eligible in Hamilton County.
- **Conservation Security Program**
Participants who wanted their payment in the 2011 calendar year have been paid. The remaining FY 2012 payments will be made by February 3, 2012.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
 - Applications may be taken year-round; however, the cutoff date for the first ranking period is January 27 (extended from January 13). All applications must be ranked by February 24 in order to be funded. Additional information about the first ranking period for FY 2012 may be found on the national website at:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>.
 - Participants who wanted their payment in the 2011 calendar year have been paid. The remaining FY 2012 payments will be made by April 2, 2012.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)**
 - Kansas has two recent EWPP non-exigent projects that have been submitted to the NRCS national headquarters and placed on the national wait-list for future appropriation approval. Sponsors are the city of Manhattan and the city of Beloit. A new EWPP request for assistance has been received from the city of Troy regarding damage from the Missouri River flooding during 2011.
 - Kansas NRCS continues to participate in the 7-state Missouri River Flood Task Force established this past fall. Federal and state partners are working to assist those affected along the Missouri River by the 2011 spring and summer floods. Approximately 31,824 acres, predominately agricultural lands, were flooded in Kansas due to the Missouri

River flood according to Farm Service Agency (FSA), Kansas Department of Emergency Management, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates.

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**

- The FY 2012 EQIP Allocations for Kansas have been received. The allocated funds were distributed as follows:
 - ◆ EQIP: General—\$17,149,067
 - ◆ EQIP: Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative—\$396,406
 - ◆ EQIP: Organic Initiative—\$383,388
 - ◆ EQIP: Ogallala Initiative—\$2,000,000
- All funds must be obligated by March 23, 2012. We have begun the ranking and obligation process.

- **Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)**

NRCS is working with several cooperating entities to close on prior year enrollments. There are a total of six conservation easements to be closed by the end of March 2012.

- **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)**

- Kansas NRCS continues to work towards the acquisition of FY 2011 GRP enrollments.
- Once the FY 2011 easements are acquired, an approximate 4,900 acres of additional native Kansas grasslands will be preserved in Pottawatomie and Greenwood Counties.
- On-site monitoring for 32 recorded GRP easements was recently completed by the Ranchland Trust of Kansas under contract with NRCS. Minor issues were reported and most of the grassland was noted to be in good condition.
- Kansas has received \$1.4 million to fund FY 2012 GRP enrollments. Applications for FY 2012 GRP are to be submitted and ranked by January 25, 2012.

- **Watershed Rehabilitation Program Activities**

- Kansas NRCS just received our FY 2012 Watershed Rehabilitation Program allocation that will provide technical and financial assistance to local watershed districts and conservation partners working on rehabilitation projects.
- Wakarusa Watershed District in Douglas County has signed the \$1.2 million rehabilitation construction project for site #24. Construction is to begin this spring.
- \$600,000 in construction funds have been awarded for the Spring Creek R-1 Dam Rehabilitation project in Sedgwick County. The rehabilitation design by NRCS is nearly completed. Construction on this site is expected to be completed prior to the end of FY 2012.
- Rehabilitation construction on Switzler Creek R-7 Watershed in Osage County is now complete. NRCS continues to work with the watershed district to close the construction phase and prepare for implementing the mitigation tree planting plan for the Switzler project this spring.
- Kansas NRCS did not receive FY 2012 funds for watershed rehabilitation planning for the 6 dam sites in Butler County that were requested.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

- Kansas has closed on seven new easements since October 2011, protecting 380 acres of wetlands.
- For FY 2012 funding, WRP applications that are submitted to the state office by February 22, 2012, that have had preliminary reviews, site visits, and ranking

worksheets completed, and the landowners have reviewed and returned the ranking worksheets, will be ranked for tentative approval. In addition, new applications that have a WRP ranking worksheet score of 50 or greater will be tentatively approved for WRP enrollment throughout the FY for as long as WRP funds remain available

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- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**
 - The cutoff date for accepting applications for FY 2012 was November 15, 2011. Ranking is on hold until funds are received.

TECHNOLOGY

- National Resources Inventory (NRI)
 - Data entry by our field personnel is nearing completion for 2,551 sites included in the 2009 and 2010 Local Collection. This data collection will be used to update land use, erosion data, and conservation program information. When processed, the data will provide valuable trend information for Kansas.
 - We will soon be gearing up for the 2012 Grazing Lands On-Site Study. Eighty-three quarter sections have been selected for this year's data collection which will begin in May.
- Division of Conservation (DOC) Streambank Agreement
 - Six more projects have been built.
 - Seven projects are in construction or preparing for construction.
 - The design has been finished on five projects and are awaiting permits.
- Architect and Engineer (A&E) Contracts
 - Preliminary designs have been completed for the three animal waste management systems.
 - Designs are underway for the four streambank protection projects.

OUTREACH

Outreach to inform Hispanic and/or Women Farmers and Ranchers has been halted for the time being. Outreach efforts involved all NRCS offices and employees by distributing information through the media, partners, and others on how to submit information for the claims process. Farm Service Agency (FSA) state office public affairs was the point of contact in Kansas. FSA, NRCS, and Rural Development were working together to get the word out for the past 10 months.

Cutoff dates for FY 2012 funding have been announced in the media for the following Farm Bill programs: CSP extended to January 27 and GRP, January 25. There will be three ranking periods for the Organic, On-Farm Energy, and Seasonal High Tunnel initiatives, all ending on February 3, March 30, and June 1, 2012. Ranking periods for the Air Quality Initiative end February 3 and March 30, 2012. The deadline for receiving requests for EWPP assistance for Kansans impacted by the spring and summer 2011 Missouri River floods in Doniphan, Atchison, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte counties has been extended to January 31, 2012. See the Kansas NRCS Web site for details: www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov.

Prescribed Burning workshop locations and dates have been announced and can be found on the Kansas NRCS Web site. Presenters include representatives from the NRCS; FSA; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism; Kansas Forest Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Weather Service; Kansas State University; as well as local fire and emergency management staff and local producers with burn experience.

Sharla Schwien, Supervisory District Conservationist, Ness City, presented at the TWIST Conference, K-State Salina. TWIST stands for Teen Women Interested in Science and Technology. The conference celebrated its 20th year. About 350 teen-age high school students attended the one-day conference and heard 17 presenters on career topics such as soil conservationist, Blackhawk helicopter pilot, engineering, and psychology. Students attended from around the Salina area as well as from Wichita to Marysville. This is the first year NRCS has presented at this conference.

- Conservation Editions
NRCS staff provided 20 news releases available to conservation districts for their conservation editions.
- NRCS has or will staff booths and/or give presentations at the following events:
 - Wichita Farm Show, November 18-19, Wichita
 - Great Plains Vegetable Conference, January 5-7, St. Joseph, Missouri
 - State Association of Kansas Watersheds, January 20-21, Topeka
 - Kansas Natural Resources Conference, January 26-27, Wichita
 - Kansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers, January 28, Wichita
 - Women Managing the Farm, February 10-12, Wichita
- New Publications available on the Kansas NRCS Web site: www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/news/publications
 - Two educational booklets: Bee Pollen Buzz and Soil Is Alive
 - Brochure: Basics of Seasonal High Tunnel Production