

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 9:03 a.m., Monday, April 12, 2021, at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 1320 Research Park Drive, Manhattan, Kansas, 66502.

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:

Monty Breneman, Acting State Conservationist, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Terry Medley, P.E., Water Structures Program Manager, Division of Water Resources, Kansas
Department of Agriculture
Susan Metzger, Senior Executive Administrator to the Dean and Director of Ag Kansas State
University, Associate KCARE/KWRI Director

Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture Staff:

Andrew Lyon, Executive Director
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director
Steve Frost, Administrative Manager
Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager
Kristin Kloft, Riparian & Wetland Program Manager
Hakim Saadi, Watershed Programs Manager
Cathy Thompson, Program Consultant
Christy Koelzer, Administrative Specialist

Guests:

Mike Beam, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture (11:00 to 11:50)
Kelsey Olson, Deputy Secretary Kansas Department of Agriculture (11:00 to 11:50)
Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director, KACD
Amanda Scott, President, KACD-EO
Herb Graves, Executive Director, State Association of Kansas Watersheds (SAKW) (9:30 to 11:25)
Dean Krehbiel, Supervisory Soil Conservationist, NRCS (9:00 to 10:45)
Jack Fitzgerald, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, NRCS (9:00 to 11:50)

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Steve Swaffer, Executive Director, No-till on the Plains

Laura Downey, Executive Director, Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education

Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, Water Management, KDA

Rebecca Hageman, Water Conservation Specialist, Division of Water Resources, KDA (9:00 to 11:25)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by Brad Shogren to approve the agenda as mailed. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion was made by Ted Nighswonger to approve the February 1, 2021, minutes as mailed. The motion was seconded by John Wunder. Motion carried.

5. OPEN DISCUSSION:

a. Training Videos

- i. There was discussion and feedback on the State Cost Share Funding 101 Legislative Budget Process video. Suggestions were made for potential clarification on the Kansas Funding Cycle. The commissioners expressed their appreciation for the creation of the videos.

b. Adding Pond Restoration under NPS

- i. There was discussion regarding adding pond restoration programs and practices in NPS. DOC will develop a proposal to present to the commissioners.

c. Future meeting at The Land Institute

- i. A June meeting at The Land Institute, Salina, KS was discussed. Dan Meyerhoff said KACD would be willing to have a joint meeting if there is something important to discuss.
- ii. Commissioners would like to see area meetings for all supervisors, occurring on a rotating basis between the areas, to build supervisor engagement and allow supervisor feedback.
- iii. Dan Meyerhoff informed the commissioners that the KACD Fall Workshop will be virtual, consisting of one statewide workshop with break out sessions. It is hoped that board members will be able to participate from the service centers, utilizing the virtual equipment provided by DOC and increasing attendance.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Legislative/Budget Update – Lyon

- i. Andy Lyon informed the commissioners that the conservation district law language was removed from SB40 in conference committee. The language was added to SB38. SB38 was passed by both chambers of the legislature last week.

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- ii. The proposed Healthy Soils bill was not heard this session.
- iii. Proposed budget increases include an additional \$250,000 for aide to conservation districts, \$50,000 for CREP, and \$50,000 for irrigation technology.

b. GPGI Update – Dean Krehbiel, NRCS

- i. Dean Krehbiel provided an update on the Great Plains Grassland Initiative. Information is available on the NRCS website. Twenty applications were received in the first week. The application deadline is July 2, 2021.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Water Resources Cost-Share Program allocation and county allocation update – Jones

- i. Dave Jones provided a written update on the Water Resources Cost-Share Program allocation and county allocation. (Attachments A and B)

A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the allocations for water resources as presented. The motion was seconded by Brad Shogren. Motion carried.

b. Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program allocation and county allocation update – Jones

- i. Dave Jones provided a written update on the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program allocation and county allocation. (Attachments C and D)

A motion was made by John Wunder to approve the NPS allocations as presented. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried.

Secretary Beam was available for comment at 11:10 and informed the commissioners that there is no need for fear or panic regarding the social media discussion on natural heritage area, nor President Biden's 30/30 Executive Order.

A motion was made by Andy Larson to enter executive session with Secretary Beam and Deputy Secretary Olson from 11:25 to 11:45 to discuss personnel. The motion was seconded by Ted Nighswonger. Motion carried. The meeting reconvened at 11:50.

c. DOC Training Video Update – Carlson, Jones

- i. Scott Carlson informed the commissioners that the training video committee included himself, Dave Jones, and Cindy Pulse. A protocol was developed for video production and an office serves as a dedicated video room. Video formats will include power points and interviews. To ensure consistency videos are reviewed by Dana Ladner, Compliance Education Coordinator, and Heather Lansdowne, Director of Communications. Videos will be made available on CSIMS and it is hoped that supervisors will be able to watch and discuss interactively at board meetings.

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- ii. Dave Jones informed the commissioners that the work is in the preparation of the information and that video recording is very smooth.

d. Future SCC meeting dates – Lyon

- i. Andy Lyon suggested the following meetings. A tentative meeting in mid-May for coordination of the June/July meeting. A meeting in late June or early July at The Land Institute, Salina, KS with a potential SCC/KACD joint meeting and potential meeting for Area 3 supervisors. A meeting in September at the State Fair along with the SCC/KACD joint meeting. A meeting Sunday, November 21 at the KACD Convention.

7. UPDATES:

a. Comments from Guests

- i. Amanda Scott, President, KACD-EO, provided a written update. (Attachment E)
- ii. Steve Swaffer, Executive Director, No-till on the Plains, informed the commissioners that the Kansas Soil Health Alliance is up and functioning and would be happy to share in a future meeting.
- iii. Dan Meyerhoff, Executive Director, KACD informed the commissioners that the deadline for applications for the Leopold Award is June 1 and encouraged submitting applications again if you've sent them before. The WRAPS agreement is going well going into the third year. There are seven technician positions through an agreement with NACD. Fall workshops will be virtual in August. Dan suggested to the commissioners an item for discussion at the joint meeting would be utilizing the same election procedure as in 2020 with voting occurring at the December board meeting. KACD is planning on a live, in-person Convention November 21-23. Send Dan ideas for break-out sessions.
- iv. Jason Hartman, KFS, could not attend but provided a written update. (Attachment F)
- v. Earl Lewis, Chief Engineer, Water Management, KDA informed the commissioners that regarding the discussion on funding, he agreed with Dan Meyerhoff that conservation districts need to be involved with their RACs. Regarding receiving information back from research, information on how much water and money is saved with soil moisture probes grabs attention. Earl informed the commissioners he looks forward to future collaboration.

b. Agency Updates

- i. Monty Breneman (USDA, NRCS) provided an update on personnel. Effective April 12 Jack Fitzgerald is the Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships and Jason Gibson is the Assistant State Conservationist for Management Strategy, replacing Gaye Benfer. An announcement will be made soon for the new leadership team member, Assistant State Conservationist Technology. Kansas has direct hire authority for 79 entry level and field office positions. Advertising for 20 District Conservationist positions closed April 12.

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Service centers are at 50% staffing. Effective April 12 producers can return to service centers on a limited basis to take care of business.

- ii. Susan Metzger (KSU, KCARE) informed the commissioners that they are reviewing applications for the Kansas River Protection Initiative.
- iii. Terry Medley (KDA, DWR) provided a written update. (Attachment G)

c. DOC Staff Updates

- i. Andy Lyon introduced Kristin Kloft, Riparian and Wetlands Program Manager.
- ii. Dave Jones informed the commissioners that the updated figure for on-farm trials is \$160,000. (Attachment H)
- iii. Cathy Thompson informed the commissioners that she is serving on the Agriland Youth Education Committee.
- iv. Kristin Kloft informed the commissioners that she was with Wildlife and Parks for 16 years, moved from Iowa to Kansas in 2004 and joined DOC on November 30th. (Attachment I)
- v. Scott Carlson informed the commissioners that he will update rules and regulations and work on training videos this summer. (Attachment J)
- vi. Hakim Saadi informed the commissioners that he has had Watershed Partnership and DOC/SAKW monthly meetings. (Attachment K)
- vii. Steve Frost shared his motto from *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, “Endeavor to persevere.” (Attachment L)
- viii. Cindy Pulse provided written updates. (Attachments M, N, O)

d. Elected Commissioner Area Updates:

- i. Ted Nighswonger (Area I) informed the commissioners that he attended a heritage foundation meeting and wrote a letter to Senator Billinger. Secretary Brad Loveless, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, was out to hunt and expressed interest in partnership with the conservation districts.
- ii. Andy Larson (Area II) informed the commissioners that Manhattan has had three times more rain, although they have a chance of rain this week, and he has gotten his COVID shots.
- iii. Brad Shogren (Area III) informed the commissioners there are continued restrictions for going in the office, they are getting ready to plant corn and soybeans, and have been doing some burning.
- iv. John Wunder (Area IV) informed the commissioners that there was conservation work done last fall. Some crops are in the ground. They had 1 and ¾ inches of rain last week. He has

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had lots of contact with supervisors and district managers the last couple of months. He shared an article comparing three methods of planting crops with tillage and cover crops. He shared his hobby of coin collecting and passed around the new coin for 2020, Tallgrass Prairie, Kansas.

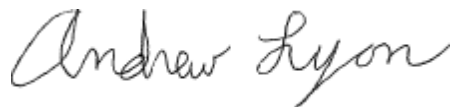
v. Rod Vorhees (Area V) provided a written update. (Attachment P)

8. ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting date was not set.

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 1:28 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Lyon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Lyon
Executive Director

Water Resources Cost-Share Program		FY 2022 Allocation Worksheet					
FY 2021 Appropriation:	\$2,448,289						
FY 2020 Carryover:	\$0						
FY 2020 Reserve:	\$0						
FY 2021 CSIMS	\$0						
FY 2021 Admin expenses:	-\$146,897						
FY 2021 Total Cost-Share CD Allocation:	\$2,301,392						
FY 2022 Appropriation:	\$2,248,289						
FY 2021 Carryover:	\$0						
FY 2021 Reserve:	\$0						
FY 2022 CSIMS	\$0						
FY 2022 Admin expenses:	-\$134,897						
FY 2022 Total Cost-Share CD Allocation:	\$2,113,392						
FY 2022 Cost-Share Allocation:							
<u>FY 2022 Cost-Share Projected Allocations</u>			<u>FY 2021 Allocations</u>			<u>Adjustment from FY 2021</u>	
DNA	\$2,113,392		DNA	\$2,301,392		DNA	-\$188,000
High Priority TMDL	\$0	High Priority	TMDL Allocation	\$0	High Priority	TMDL Allocation	\$0
	\$2,113,392			\$2,301,392		Total	-\$188,000

FY 2022 WR DNA Allocations			
County	FY 2022 WR DNA Allocation	County	FY 2022 WR DNA Allocation
Allen	\$16,835	Linn	\$16,835
Anderson	\$16,835	Logan	\$21,593
Atchison	\$18,421	Lyon	\$19,214
Barber	\$23,179	Marion	\$20,007
Barton	\$20,800	Marshall	\$20,800
Bourbon	\$16,835	McPherson	\$20,800
Brown	\$19,214	Meade	\$22,386
Butler	\$20,800	Miami	\$18,421
Chase	\$18,421	Mitchell	\$20,007
Chautauqua	\$17,628	Montgomery	\$16,835
Cherokee	\$16,042	Morris	\$19,214
Cheyenne	\$22,386	Morton	\$20,007
Clark	\$23,179	Nemaha	\$20,800
Clay	\$20,800	Neosho	\$16,835
Cloud	\$20,007	Ness	\$23,179
Coffey	\$18,421	Norton	\$21,593
Comanche	\$22,386	Osage	\$18,421
Cowley	\$20,800	Osborne	\$22,386
Crawford	\$16,835	Ottawa	\$20,800
Decatur	\$21,593	Pawnee	\$21,593
Dickinson	\$20,800	Phillips	\$22,386
Doniphan	\$19,214	Pottawatomie	\$20,800
Douglas	\$18,421	Pratt	\$19,214
Edwards	\$19,214	Rawlins	\$22,386
Elk	\$17,628	Reno	\$20,800
Ellis	\$22,386	Republic	\$19,214
Ellsworth	\$20,800	Rice	\$19,214
Finney	\$23,972	Riley	\$18,421
Ford	\$22,386	Rooks	\$21,593
Franklin	\$18,421	Rush	\$21,593
Geary	\$17,628	Russell	\$20,800
Gove	\$22,386	Saline	\$20,800
Graham	\$21,593	Scott	\$20,800
Grant	\$20,007	Sedgwick	\$20,800
Gray	\$20,800	Seward	\$20,007
Greeley	\$20,800	Shawnee	\$17,628
Greenwood	\$19,214	Sheridan	\$21,593
Hamilton	\$21,593	Sherman	\$22,386
Harper	\$21,593	Smith	\$21,593
Harvey	\$17,628	Stafford	\$19,214
Haskell	\$21,593	Stanton	\$20,800
Hodgeman	\$20,800	Stevens	\$20,800
Jackson	\$19,214	Sumner	\$22,386
Jefferson	\$18,421	Thomas	\$22,386
Jewell	\$21,593	Trego	\$21,593
Johnson	\$17,628	Wabausee	\$19,214
Kearny	\$20,800	Wallace	\$21,593
Kingman	\$21,593	Washington	\$20,800
Kiowa	\$20,007	Wichita	\$21,593
Labette	\$16,835	Wilson	\$17,628
Lane	\$20,800	Woodson	\$16,835
Leavenworth	\$18,421	Wyandotte	\$18,421
Lincoln	\$20,800	Total	\$2,113,392

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Cost-Share Program (NPS) FY 2022 Allocation Worksheet						
FY 2022 NPS Budget: \$1,857,836						
Obligations						
1. Funding for all 105 counties in FY 2022						
2. Fund 25 Conservation Technician positions in 24 NRCS Management Units identified by the workload analysis with a Contribution Agreement with NRCS. NPS portion, \$350,000. T/A Funding Partnership: Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE), Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism (KDWP&T), NRCS, DOC.						
3. Fund 7 Conservation Technicians in 7 management units identified by NRCS with a contribution agreement KACD. (NPS portion included in the \$350,000)						
4. Fund 3 Conservation Easement Specialists and 1 Soil Health Specialist in locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS.						
5. Fund 4 Soil Conservationist positions in locations identified by NRCS with a Grant Agreement with NRCS.						
6. Year two of five matching funds for KSU Sustainable Phosphorus Grant.						
FY 2022 Allocation:						
<u>FY 2021 Allocations</u>			<u>FY 2022 Allocations Projected</u>		<u>Adjustment from FY 2021</u>	
NPS Base	\$ 1,269,644		NPS Base	\$ 948,017		\$ (321,627)
T/A	\$ 300,000		T/A	\$ 350,000		\$ 50,000
Misc. Soil Health	\$ -		Misc. Soil Health	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000
Supplemental LWS	\$ 50,000		Supplemental LWS	\$ 25,000		\$ (25,000)
Soil Health Education	\$ 50,000		Soil Health Education	\$ 75,000		\$ 25,000
NPS Operations	\$ 90,379		NPS Operations	\$ 90,379		\$ -
CSIMS	\$ 100,000		CSIMS	\$ 289,440		\$ 189,440
KSU Grant Match	\$ -		KSU Grant Match	\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000
Total	\$ 1,860,023		Total	\$ 1,857,836		Total \$ (2,187)

FY 2022 NPS Base Allocations			
County	FY 2022 NPS Base Allocation	County	FY 2022 NPS Base Allocation
Allen	\$8,797	Linn	\$9,473
Anderson	\$8,797	Logan	\$6,769
Atchison	\$10,825	Lyon	\$12,178
Barber	\$9,023	Marion	\$10,825
Barton	\$9,023	Marshall	\$9,924
Bourbon	\$8,797	McPherson	\$9,023
Brown	\$10,149	Meade	\$6,769
Butler	\$10,825	Miami	\$9,473
Chase	\$12,178	Mitchell	\$8,572
Chautauqua	\$9,473	Montgomery	\$10,825
Cherokee	\$10,825	Morris	\$10,825
Cheyenne	\$6,093	Morton	\$6,544
Clark	\$8,572	Nemaha	\$11,501
Clay	\$9,473	Neosho	\$9,473
Cloud	\$9,924	Ness	\$7,671
Coffey	\$10,825	Norton	\$9,023
Comanche	\$9,023	Osage	\$11,501
Cowley	\$10,825	Osborne	\$9,473
Crawford	\$9,473	Ottawa	\$9,023
Decatur	\$6,994	Pawnee	\$9,023
Dickinson	\$10,825	Phillips	\$9,023
Doniphan	\$9,473	Pottawatomie	\$11,501
Douglas	\$10,149	Pratt	\$9,473
Edwards	\$8,121	Rawlins	\$6,093
Elk	\$11,501	Reno	\$10,825
Ellis	\$9,023	Republic	\$9,473
Ellsworth	\$9,473	Rice	\$8,572
Finney	\$6,769	Riley	\$11,501
Ford	\$8,121	Rooks	\$8,121
Franklin	\$10,825	Rush	\$8,121
Geary	\$10,149	Russell	\$9,023
Gove	\$6,769	Saline	\$9,473
Graham	\$8,572	Scott	\$6,544
Grant	\$6,544	Sedgwick	\$9,924
Gray	\$6,769	Seward	\$6,994
Greeley	\$6,318	Shawnee	\$11,501
Greenwood	\$11,501	Sheridan	\$6,994
Hamilton	\$6,318	Sherman	\$6,544
Harper	\$9,473	Smith	\$9,473
Harvey	\$9,473	Stafford	\$9,473
Haskell	\$6,318	Stanton	\$6,093
Hodgeman	\$7,671	Stevens	\$6,544
Jackson	\$11,501	Sumner	\$9,023
Jefferson	\$11,501	Thomas	\$6,994
Jewell	\$9,924	Trego	\$9,023
Johnson	\$9,473	Wabausee	\$11,501
Kearny	\$6,544	Wallace	\$6,769
Kingman	\$9,924	Washington	\$9,473
Kiowa	\$9,023	Wichita	\$6,544
Labette	\$9,473	Wilson	\$9,473
Lane	\$6,318	Woodson	\$8,797
Leavenworth	\$10,825	Wyandotte	\$8,089
Lincoln	\$8,572	Total	\$948,017

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts Employees' Organization

AMANDA SCOTT, President



April 2021

- The KACD-EO Executive Board met virtually, February 23, 2021 and March 23, 2021. The main topic discussed was the Statewide Conference on May 11-12, 2021 in Salina.
- The KACD-EO Area Representatives have been meeting monthly with area District Managers.
- The KACD-EO Executive Board have been attending the DOC Partnership monthly virtual meetings.
- I presented with Dan Meyerhoff in Topeka to the Kansas House Water Committee on March 15, 2021.
- I attended the National Fly-In Virtual meetings with Senator Marshall and Representative Estes on March 24, 2021.
- I attended the KACD virtual board meeting on April 8, 2021.
- I continue to:
 - Work with district managers to answer questions
 - Work with DOC on varies issues pertaining to districts
 - Welcome new district manager
 - Keep the Picture Directory updated
 - Share educational opportunities with districts

As always, if anyone has any questions or concerns, please contact any Area KACD-EO Representatives or myself for assistance.

Kansas Forest Service Updates for Kansas State Conservation Commission

- Report Date: April 8, 2021
- Report Period:
 - 4th Quarter of 2020
- General Agency Updates:
 - Staff continues to mainly work remotely.
 - New hire of a SE Dist. Fire Management Officer – Lane Archer will started in that role Feb. 7th in Parsons
 - Advertising for an IT/GIS position.
- Forest/Timber Utilization and Marketing:
 - Total timber mills – 48
 - 1 new in Belleville
 - 1 closed in St. Paul (the owner plans to update equipment and re-open)
 - Timber Buyers – 50
 - Christmas Tree Farms – 31
- Urban and Community Forestry:
 - Technical Assistance to Communities – 33
 - Educational Events – 4
 - Educational Event Attendance – 366 (all virtual)
- Rural Forestry:
 - Technical Service for Forestry Cost Share programs – 69
- Conservation Trees:
 - Spring sales season opened Dec. 1st and will continue through May 1st.
 - As with last spring all orders will be shipped, pick-up at the KFS State Office will not be allowed.
 - Prices and shipping rates have been updated for this spring of 2021 sales season.
- Forest Health:
 - No updates this ¼
- Wildland Fire Management:
 - 4th quarter usually slow, not the case in 2020
 - KFS staff asked to assist with 4 fires in cooperation with local agencies, KDEM, and OSFM
 - Large fire reports to KFS totaled 6 large fires* totaling 14,500ac for the 4th ¼ and on those fires 4 structures were damaged or destroyed.
 - *Large fires are those of 300ac or more in grass, 100ac in timber, or otherwise significant due to property damage or injury/death involved in the fire.
 - KFS staff support of regional and national incidents this quarter
 - 15 staff or equipment assigned
 - 19 assignments
 - 5 states
 - Note: it is very unusual to have even one such assignment in the 4th quarter of a year so the 4th quarter of 2020 level of activity was unprecedented.

Blue Custom Watershed Discover Meeting: The Discovery meeting for the Blue Custom Watershed floodplain mapping update project was held on February 2 via zoom. The counties involved in the project are Republic, Washington, Marshall, Clay, Riley and Pottawatomie counties. The Base Level Engineering (BLE) phase marks the first stage of updating floodplain maps for portions of the counties and will be further enhanced through Data Development that is scoped in FFY22. It will be a few years before there are new effective maps for these counties. These initial draft floodplains are not yet ready to be released to the public since they will be further enhanced and potentially modified due to comments. It is important for communities be involved early in this process to begin reviewing the data, provide feedback to DWR and to be aware of the project as it moves forward. DWR also used the meetings to discuss any technical assistance needs and to look at possible mitigation actions.

County Consultation Coordination Officer's (CCO) Meetings: The Brown County CCO meeting was held on January 26 and Morris County CCO meeting was held on January 27 via zoom. The meetings were used to explain the post-preliminary and due diligence portions of the floodplain mapping projects. The DWR explained the appeal period, public notification, the Letter of Final Determination (LFD), community adoption of the new map and other community responsibilities. At the CCO Meetings, DWR also explained the administrative steps that are now required to make the map official. The goal of the meetings is to ensure that communities understand the process and what they will be responsible for over the next year and a half.

Upper Kansas Watershed Floodplain Mapping Kick-off Meeting: The kick-off meeting for the Upper Kansas Watershed floodplain mapping project was held on February 17 via zoom. At the Kick-Off meeting, DWR discussed flooding concerns and mapping needs and gave an overview of the process. Following the kick-off meeting, DWR will host the initial floodplains on a web map and schedule another meeting for the area to discuss those results. This is part of the first phase of a FEMA Risk MAP project, which includes a Discovery process to gain an understanding of local mapping and flooding concerns. The initial mapping is being performed at a Base Level Engineering (BLE) level, similar to a Zone A, using HEC-RAS 2D software. Mapping will be available for the entire watershed, but regulatory mapping is planned where mapping needs are known which includes Jackson County and portions of Pottawatomie County outside of the recent update areas. However, DWR will be discussing what needs there are for other portions of the watershed as well.

National Dam Safety Program Technical Seminar (NDSPTS): FEMA held the NDSPTS February 16-19 via Adobe Connect. The theme of the seminar was Risk Informed Decision Making for Dam and Levee Safety. The seminar had speakers from FEMA, USACE, USBR, FERC, California DWR and various consulting firms. There were approximately 300 participants.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Meeting: DWR met with the NRCS State Conservation Engineer and other staff on February 24. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possibilities of more closely aligning hazard classifications of dams. Additionally, discussion about how to streamline NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection applications as related to auxiliary spillway repair.

Pottawatomie County Floodplain Mapping Project discussion: DWR hosted a meeting to discuss the Pottawatomie County floodplain mapping project on March 2. The project will be delayed approximately a year due to some issues found in the FEMA and Wood review process. These issues affect a few of the panels, streams and jurisdictions. There are no changes to the floodplain boundaries, and the issues are the result of some labeling errors

concerning elevations on the panels or Floodway Data Table (FWDT) that needed to be corrected. Due to these issues, the 90-day appeal period will have to be re-run. While the rest of the data in the county was not found to have issues, we will be holding that data so that this project will continue to move forward as a whole. It will ultimately still have one effective date, despite having 2 preliminary dates. The next step for correction is issuing a revised preliminary that will only affect those effected panels, and then holding another appeal period for these areas.

Kansas Hazard Mitigation Team (KHMT) Meeting: DWR participated in the KHMT meeting on March 9. Presentations were given on Local Resiliency Initiatives in Riley County, Live Flood Mapping in Kansas, Silver Jacket Projects updates, BRIC funding and Mitigation Projects in the state.

Middle Smoky Hill Custom Watershed Floodplain Discovery Meeting: DWR hosted the Middle Smoky Hill Custom Watershed Floodplain Mapping Project Discovery meeting on March 10 via Zoom. DWR discussed the Base Level Engineering (BLE) effort is an initial dataset created to show the draft floodplains. For certain areas, this dataset will be enhanced in our Data Development phase for those areas that are scheduled to receive regulatory updates. Regulatory floodplain updates are planned for Barton County beginning in 2022 and Ellsworth County in 2023 for areas outside of the recent Physical Map Revisions. DWR also plan to include the City of Russell either independently or as part of a countywide update. DWR asked the communities to provide feedback on the proposed scope and areas of need beyond those areas. Many of the counties within this watershed will also be included in adjacent watershed projects. New regulatory updates will take several years to complete and DWR needs the communities' input to identify any areas of technical assistance needs.

Lincoln County Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting: DWR hosted the Lincoln County FRR on March 18 via Zoom. The Discovery meeting was held in 2019 in which BLE was discussed and the mapping needs for Lincoln county. The Lincoln count project included new modeling using 2D hydraulics and hydrology for a portion of the Saline River near Sylvan Grove and near Lincoln Center, Yauger Creek and a tributary to Yauger Creek, a portion of Salt Creek near Barnard and a portion of Rattlesnake Creek near Barnard. Those studies will result in enhanced Zone A floodplains. Non-regulatory flood risk products will be developed for the rest of the county. At the meeting, DWR discussed the communities' role in reviewing the draft floodplains as well as the remaining project timeline.

3-States meeting on the Republican River Compact: Meeting was held Tuesday, 9 March via Zoom. The states heard updates from Reclamation and each state. The water supply in the basin will be good this year because wet to moderate conditions in 2019 and 2020 allowed basin reservoirs to fill and remain full. Drought conditions set in in the upper part of the basin as early as May 2020 and have persisted to date. Colorado plans to deliver on the order of 9,000 acre-feet from their augmentation project on the North Fork Republican River in 2021. The Bostwick Irrigation District – both Kansas and Nebraska – are working on projects to improve efficiency through burying open canal reaches and automating the gates that regulate water into the various canals. The District is leveraging funding from various sources- Nebraska settlement money in Kansas, Colorado settlement money and state funding in Nebraska, and Reclamation grants in both states

U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Seminar: DWR participated in the virtual USACE dam and levee safety community of practice seminar on March 22 - 24. Topics included developing

effective dam and levee safety policies, effective risk communication and updates to the national inventory of dams platform and data requirements.

FEMA CTP LOMR Review Partners Training: DWR participated in the virtual FEMA Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Review Partners Training March 22-24. The training was intended to explain how CTPs could become LOMR reviewers and the requirements associated with being a reviewer. Although this partnership would benefit the citizens of Kansas by having local reviewers, due to budget constraints and the need to add staff it is unlikely that KDA will apply to be a reviewer at this time.

Ottawa County Flood Risk Review (FRR) Meeting: DWR hosted the Ottawa County FRR on March 25 via Zoom. During the meeting DWR reviewed the enhancements made since the initial mapping and the next steps forward, particularly with public notification. At the end of the presentation, DWR showed the web map to allow communities to discuss areas of concern.

Dam Breach order: DWR is working on issuing an order to breach a dam in Jackson County. The dam has internal erosion around the corrugated metal pipe.

National Inventory of Dams: DWR submitted an update to the NID on Friday, April 12.

Staff: David Engelhaupt will begin his duties as technical services unit head in water management services program Monday 22 March. Zack Rust will start with the dam safety team, also on 22 March.

Water Quality Programs Update

Dave Jones

- The DOC has received applications for the Irrigation Technology Initiative from 5 counties at this time. The April 1 application deadline will most likely need to be extended.
- The current balance of uncommitted funds in the NPS program is \$62,196.74. I am concerned that the balance is this high because the funds were allocated to counties for specific projects that were applied for by each county. Another cancellation might be needed if the districts do not get these funds under contract soon.
- The current balance of uncommitted funds for the WR on farm trials is \$287,000. Andy and I are working on a video to send out to all conservation districts regarding the on-farm trial funds. We hope to clear up some confusion about these funds.
- The spring sign up for the multi-agency KRPI program will end on April 15th. Counties will be notified of approved applications shortly after the 15th.
- The DOC has been involved in partner discussions about available matching funds in the Milford RCPP project. Options for using these funds has been the primary topic of discussion.

Riparian & Wetlands Program Update

Kristin Kloft

- One contractor has finished their previously extended large streambank projects and one contractor is still working to complete the remaining sites by May 1st. The wet weather and elevated river levels have been delaying progress during the month of March. Construction activity is being closely monitored as the deadline is quickly approaching.

- The next round of large streambank sites to be bid were selected at the March 10th Streamteam meeting. Phil Balch, the designer, and I met with 5 landowners along the Little Blue River to have permits signed and submitted in February. We are currently in the process of bidding 4 Cottonwood sites, 7 Little Blue River sites and 3 Delaware sites. Glacial Hills RC&D will also be bidding out an additional Delaware site at the same time. Pre-bid meetings should be held sometime in April with bids being awarded by the end of May or early June.

- We are working with the local Wraps group in Greenwood county to provide RQEI cost-share on a project for fencing off a riparian area along a creek. The designs have been completed on two small streambank stabilization projects in Jefferson and Washington counties and we are finalizing the RQEI cost-share agreements with KDHE and the local Wraps groups in that area as well. I've been working with various other agencies and co-workers to develop small streambank designs that minimize or eliminate the need for engineering or permits ,if possible, to help streamline the small stream stabilization process, reduce costs and improve the level of assistance we can offer landowners going forward.

Mined Land Reclamation Program / Ag Lime Program Update

Scott Carlson

- Annual Mine Reports due by April 1 through the Reclamation and Ag Lime Information System (RALIS) is progressing nicely.
- Spring Ag Lime sampling and reclamation site visits will increase in the next two months.
- Wrapping up the development of the RALIS database with Docuware integration.
- Beginning work on updating DOC Kansas Administrative Rules and Regulations.

Watersheds Program Manager Update

Hakim Saadi, P.E.

April 12, 2021

- The Watershed Districts Partnership (DOC, SAKW, DWR and NRCS) is working on the bi-annual Operation and Maintenance Workshop for the fall 2021: 3 sites across the state.
- The DOC and SAKW started a monthly meeting (so far, we met in February and in March).
- Rehabilitation construction progress:
 - FY 2020: Four out of nine are still pending – delays due mainly to COVID
 - FY 2021: One out of nine is complete: Doyle Creek WJD 86 Site 7
 - FY 2022: Conducting site evaluations (2 so far)
- 2020 Watershed Districts O&M Reporting: 85 % statewide with 98% for state funded sites.

Administrative Manager/Water Conservation Programs Manager Update

Steve Frost

- Significant progress is being made on our special early contract payout under the Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative. The newly adopted authority provided in K.A.R. 11-9-5 will officially become effective April 24, 2021, and programming arrangements for an early payout are being coordinated with our CSIMS consultant. There are currently 555 contracts remaining in effect at this time, and final updates to DOC's records of buffer contract landowners and addresses are being coordinated through conservation districts and local FSA offices.
- March 31 is a periodic milestone for several DOC partnership agreements which require performance reports to be submitted during April. This is a significant undertaking with our five major employment grant funding projects representing 44 technical assistance positions. Four soil conservationist positions are now out in recruiting announcements with some applications already being received. The goal is to have these positions in Cimarron, Emporia, Gove and Seneca staffed in the next two months to begin training and services.
- DWR's Chief Engineer is finally nearing the official designation of new WTAP target areas in Wichita and Greeley counties, also expected to occur in April or May. Preparing for an FY2022 enrollment will require some statutorily required public information meetings, public announcements and preparation of advertisement and application materials in advance of the October 1 sign-up period. The WTAP program will sunset on June 30, 2022 and will need to be revisited in the next legislative session if there is an agency / stakeholder desire to continue with the project.
- Revisions to the Upper Arkansas River CREP MOA with USDA are still ongoing but nearing conclusion with review meetings scheduled on a weekly basis. It is expected that the revised document will be ready to sign this quarter. KDA is still working collaboratively with K-State on the proposal of alternative irrigated cash rental rates in anticipation of a new roll-out this Fall.
- June 30 marks the end of the state fiscal year which requires review and closure of many financially related processes involving DOC administrative staff.
- Continuing staff and administrative operations as usual.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAM COORDINATOR UPDATE

As prepared by Cindy Pulse

State Conservation Commission Meeting

April 12, 2021

1. New District Manager Training

- Continuing virtual training in segments
- Constantly updating and improving trainings
- District Managers trained to date:
 - None since the last SCC meeting!
 - Upcoming: Clay, Riley

2. Supervisor Training Modules

- Have been updated and placed on the KDA-DOC website
- Have been uploaded into CSIMS

3. Supervisor Handbook

- Has been updated!
- Was e-mailed to districts to print and give to supervisors
- Was mailed to new 2021 supervisors (to home address)
- Will be uploaded in CSIMS (waiting on programmer)

4. Conservation District Program Coordinator Handbook

- Created handbook for this position
- Left a long list of ideas with staff for the future
- Provided detailed list of ongoing activities within this position to staff

5. Training Video Production

- Created protocol, guidelines, and tips for the production of videos from PowerPoint to recording videos
- Left a long list of ideas for staff for the future

6. Agriland

- E-mailed volunteer schedule to districts for Agriland at the State Fair

District Manager Updates

(as of 3-31-21)

1st Quarter (since last SCC meeting)

New District Managers

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
2	Lane	Morgan Jones	2-3-21????
4	Riley	Jazymn Gaither	will start 4-12-21

Resigned / Retired District Managers

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>End Date</u>
4	Clay	Hayley Whitehair	2/26/2021
4	Riley	Aubrey Evans	3/12/2021

Upcoming Vacancies

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>End Date</u>
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Current Vacancies

<u>Area</u>	<u>County</u>
1	Phillips - Jim Sweat, Smith County, is providing assistance for a period of time.

2021 New Supervisors

(as of 4-5-21)

Area	County	Name
Area 1	Ellis	Travis Groff
Area 1	Graham	Justin Zohner
Area 1	Logan	Mason Scheetz
Area 1	Norton	Andy Schoen
Area 1	Phillips	Ashley Roth
Area 1	Phillips	Russell Dettmer
Area 1	Rawlins	Reece Leonard
Area 1	Russell	Dean Koehn
Area 1	Smith	Eric Hermanns
Area 1	Trego	Richard Hearting
Area 2	Comanche	Aaron Sawyers
Area 2	Finney	Kate Huschka
Area 2	Finney	Brandon Miller
Area 2	Hamilton	Eddie Westeman
Area 2	Kearny	Adam White
Area 2	Kiowa	Tyler Heinson
Area 2	Ness	Morgan Vogel
Area 2	Rush	Lou Ann Legleiter
Area 2	Rush	Chase Rogers
Area 2	Scott	Matthew Matt Crist
Area 3	Mitchell	Jeremy Adams
Area 3	Ottawa	Waco Phipps

Area	County	Name
Area 4	Atchison	Mike Falk
Area 4	Atchison	Jessica Stuart
Area 4	Brown	Brett Covert
Area 4	Dickinson	Jim Krueger
Area 4	Doniphan	Brett Neibling
Area 4	Johnson	Brian Boutte
Area 4	Miami	Carl D. Schroeder
Area 4	Morris	Ernie Augustein
Area 4	Morris	Logan Zimmerman
Area 4	Osage	Kelsey L Porter
Area 4	Washington	Cody Duitsman
Area 5	Bourbon	William Ken K Fuhrman
Area 5	Bourbon	William Jared J Pollock
Area 5	Cherokee	Zachary Zach Crain
Area 5	Cherokee	Robert Craig C. Stover
Area 5	Cowley	Justin Spielman
Area 5	Crawford	Dennis Clutter
Area 5	Labette	Deven K Foster

Coughing Along on Two Cylinders

By

Rod Vorhees

The "Land Ethic" essay by Aldo Leopold was published in 1949, as the finale to A Sand County Almanac. In the text of this essay Leopold states that the Conservation District is a beautiful piece of social machinery but is coughing along on two cylinders.

I have pondered about this perspective and all that it may suggest, seven decades ago and today. I have been an advocate for Conservation Districts and have seen the success of locally led and developed programs that have been accomplished voluntarily. I continue to search for the significance of Leopold's observation.

Perhaps looking back at the 1930's and the formation of Conservation Districts will be revealing. Try to imagine a train of freight cars loaded with topsoil, long enough to circle the earth nineteen times at the equator. That long train is carrying just one year's loss of topsoil during the 1930's. The effort to combat this disaster led to the formation of the Soil Conservation District. During the 1930's Hugh Hammond Bennett was leading the conservation effort and has been called by many the Father of Conservation. It soon became apparent to Hugh Bennett that the most effective conservation work was done better and faster when the land users themselves took a large and active part in this job. When government workers did the job, the land operators did not fully understand what was being done and why. This led to failed maintenance of this work.

Out of this observation a new concept was born, "The Soil Conservation District." This would allow land users to organize locally and have responsibility for good land management in their area. The Soil Conservation Service would make technical assistance available and assist the land user in development of a conservation plan, but the land users themselves would do the bulk of the work. This was democracy in action. The first Conservation District was organized in 1937. Kansas adopted Conservation District Law in 1937.

Conservation Districts have built trusted relationships with land users for over eighty years. Since this time, many partnerships have been developed at the local, state and federal levels. Programs have been developed that make cost share dollars available to District Cooperators, with the guidance and approval of District Supervisors.

These folks, or partners have worked together and strive for a state of harmony between natural resources and the people of the Conservation District. It seems to me much progress has been made since the 1930's. So, what was Leopold trying to teach us about if Conservation Districts are coughing along?

I have also been impatient with the rate of progress in the Conservation arena. We must continue with voluntary, incentive-based programs, but must put at least as much emphasis on promoting the Land Ethic. At its core, the meaning of this message, to me is now clear. We (society) must care about people, about natural resources and about working together to strengthen the relationship between them, because all things in this world are connected.

The engine that coughs along is missing out and not performing at its potential. Conservation that is only focused on Programs and Economics is not performing up to its potential. Conservation Districts are missing out if they are not promoting and operating with an understanding of a Land Ethic. Ethics are demonstrated by the way people live their life and they convey in their actions, care and respect and invite the same in return.

Leopold said it best. "When we begin to see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."