

KANSAS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2024 - In person and via Microsoft Teams

David Doctorian – State Conservationist

- Introduction

Gaye Benfer - Assistant State Conservationist for Programs

- EQIP - Over 3,000 applications
- Last year, our average contract was \$48,000. This year is up to \$71,000.
- CSP has almost 400 applications - in the process of preapproving those.

Jeff Olson – Soil Conservationist (CSP Manager)

- GCI (Grassland Conservation Initiative) was money allocated to the NRCS from retirement of ARC/PLC funds in FSA.
 - 96 contracts
 - In the beginning there were about 1,500 eligible applicants
 - Funded over 1,450 of those applications
 - End of CSP for renewals last year - 39 contracts - spent about \$5.5 M
 - 30 contracts and about \$22.5 M
- CSP IRA with the new funding - 34 contracts and spent under \$6 M for FY2023
 - Popular for at least three years.
- New funding opportunity:
 - \$1 M to fund CSP NWQ.
 - Interest coming from Marion, available in Nemaha/Jackson County too.
 - Act Now process would give us an opportunity to move quicker.
 - First year we have had forestry applications in CSP in over a decade.
 - We have new applications in NIPF - Republic/Marion County.
 - \$1.1 M with the renewals already.
 - Just under \$17 M available for Classic about \$9.9 B for IRA

Tim Weltmer, EQIP Program Manager

- EQIP – 3,000 applications
 - 300 obligated contracts.
 - 300 obligated contracts are going to roughly end up being 900
 - 2024 EQIP = 287 contracts for \$20 M on 67,000 acres obligated.
 - 500/600 hundred contracts to obligate before the end of the FY.
 - \$12 M obligated IRA as of now.
 - Farm Bill did that 7.5 of the \$24 M.
 - 2024 EQIP = 287 contracts for \$20 M on 67,000 acres obligated.
- Still have 500/600 hundred contracts to obligate before the end of the FY.

Jack Fitzgerald - Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships

- The RCPP Classic (NRCS does all the FA activities, all the work)

- Alternative funding (Partners do all the work)
 - Partners step in and do all that work, either using TSP's or their own staff that have job approval authority for those practices.
- **8 active RCPP in the state of Kansas**
 - Notice of funding opportunity is live now for the FY25 BP proposals.
 - 2041 - GRASP
 - 2402 - South Fork Republican River
 - 2899 - Milford Lake Watershed
 - 2764 - Establishment of a Grassland Strongholds Across the Southern High Plains
 - 3230 - Kansas High Plains Aquifer Kansas, Nebraska Wetland Initiative
 - 3374 - Improving Grassland Health & Connecting Resilient Lands 6 Great Plain States
 - 3405 - Expanding Soil Health Through Carbon Markets
 - They will look at the funding to see how close you are to having expended all the funds and it will populate on a list of projects that are eligible for renewal.
 - NRCS and the partner will get notified that the project is eligible for renewal.
 - That requires putting in a new proposal, but it is also an opportunity to change deliverables from what you did in the first project. If there was something that you found, would have worked better, you can tweak those deliverables in the second project, but it is an opportunity again to request additional financial assistance funds and technical assistance funds.
 - Those funds are set aside for renewals.
 - RCPP projects are not overnight fixes.

Subcommittee Reports

- Grazing Lands
- Wildlife and Forestry
- Soil Health
- Water Conservation
- Urban/non-traditional

Survey:

- NRCS - do not participate