

ACEP – WRE Sub-Committee Meeting

09/13/2018

ALL POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS ARE ON THE [WEBSITE](#).

You can listen to the recording of the meeting by dialing:

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Attendees: Tom Schleif, Bryan Euse, Tami Nordman, Sam Kazda, Brad Soncksen, Kim Copenhauer, Dave Sands, Randy Epperson, Andy Baker, Eric Zach, Ted LaGrange. Via Phone: Buffalo Bruce

Agenda Item #1 – ACEP UPDATES

- NE NRCS Operations & Wetland Reserve Easement Teams Map (see handout)
- ACEP Applications:
 - 0 in 2016 - In general, we have had anywhere from 40 to 50 applications
 - 19 Obligations in 2017 per FY but in 2016 - 0 were funded due to staffing turnover.
 - 11 Obligations in 2019 applications.

Agenda Item #2 – OVERVIEW OF WHERE WE ARE ON 2017 & 2018 APPLICATIONS

- ACEP for FY 2018
 - WREP – 4 Easement Tracts w/ 123 Acres
 - Counties:
 - Gosper (12 acres)
 - Adams (62 acres)
 - 2 in Fillmore (49 acres)
 - WRE – 7 Easement Tracts
 - Counties:
 - Sherman (71 acres)
 - Howard (40 acres)
 - Wheeler (478 acres)
 - 3 in Merrick (290 acres)
 - Dodge (23 acres)
 - RCPP & ALE – 2 Easement Tracts w/ 317 Acres
 - Counties:
 - Clay (160 acres)
 - Nuckolls (157 acres)

Agenda Item #3 – REVIEW RANKING

- APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2018
 - Press Release this month.
 - Sign-ups can still be taken year-round.
 - February 1, 2019 – completed packets will be sent in.
 - No double dipping – If it has already been restored, ranking score may drop but they could still be eligible.

- ACEP-ALE Ranking Form

- ACEP-WRE Ranking Worksheet FY19
 - NG&P going to updating their species list.

- ACEP-Grassland of Special Environmental Significance (ACEP-ALE-GSS) Supplemental Ranking Worksheet FY19
 - **Statements:**
 - **Seem to be more inquiries on ALE's**
 - **Signing the application does not commit or penalize if they backout.**
 - **41A form.**

 - **Has the definition of “GRASSLANDS” ever been specified in Nebraska?**
Yes. Grasslands is defined as a land use designated for pasture or rangeland production. Grasslands of Special Significance (GSS) has not been clearly defined to date. NRCS Easement Staff will work with the State Wildlife Biologist and partners to identify areas that qualify or that meet specific GSS criteria. Applicants will know up front if their ALE grassland application meets the requirements of GSS based on previously determined criteria.

Ranking # ?'s:

#3 -Sharp decrease between 10pts & 0 pts.

Ted – That helps on program guidelines. If you drop below 50%, you become less favorable.

Tom – Having a buffer for restorations is important and by policy we cannot exceed a ratio of 1 acre of wetland to one acre of upland 1:1 without an approved waiver.

Landowner is the one that sets the easement boundary which can affect the ranking.

Kim – Should it be lower than 6?

#5 – Designating critical habitat is extremely slow.

- Is the word “Critical” being portrayed correctly?
- 1st paragraph may need to have some rewording with the addition of habitat after the word population?
- Other Species are being left out. Game and Parks is planning to address this issue.

#7 – Is this geographic?

- Site determination
- Plum Creek is suffering because it's farmed to the banks, effecting the tributaries
- Riparian flood plains
- Rank the buffers?
- Stream priority list
- Evaluation of the buffer strip
- DEQ information was obsolete
- Watershed Management, water quality has fallen to bird priority.
- Rural streams tend to not be mapped by FEMA
- Kim - Has a list of impaired waters

#8 – Is there anything with 100yr flood plains or connection too?

#9 – Add Tribal land (?); Indian land will always get a 0; Either drop the ? or work on the wording.

- Tribal land is eligible but at a disadvantage immediately
- Drives permanent easements

#12 – Are the prices on #12 still valid/relevant & accurate?

- Need to look in to more of the cost & if this needs to be adjusted depending on the restorations.

In the Ranking can we add Native Prairie w/ stream running through it?

Agenda Item #4 – REVIEW 2019 GARC RATES

- Market analysis conducted in 2016
 - Completed for 2016 reapplied to 2017 after the contractor determined that there was less than a + or – 10% change in values.
- New one completed August 2018
- ACEP-WRE
 - Reductions of Fair Market Value (FMV) to determine GARC's – 2-year change overall.
 - 10% - West, North, Southwest
 - 15% - Central
 - 20% - Northeast, Southeast, Missouri River
 - Proposed GARC Boundary for FY 2019
 - WEST
 - A. \$2,340.00 – Irrigated Cropland
 - B. \$644.00 – Dryland Cropland
 - F. \$540.00 – Other

- SOUTHWEST
 - A. \$3,335.00 – Irrigated Cropland
 - B. \$1,629.00 – Dryland Cropland
 - C. \$783.00 – Grass/Hay/Other
 - D. \$1, 319.00 – Riparian Forestland

- NORTH
 - A. \$3,155.00 – Irrigated Cropland
 - B. \$1,809.00 – Dryland Cropland
 - C. \$770.00 – Grass/Hay/Other
 - D. \$1,017.00 – Riparian Forestland

- CENTRAL
 - A. \$4,340.00 – Irrigated Cropland
 - B. \$2,716.00 – Dryland Cropland
 - F. \$1,509.00 – Other

- NORTHEAST
 - A. \$4,488.00 – Irrigated Cropland
 - B. \$3,836.00 – Dryland Cropland
 - C. \$1,792.00 – Grass/Hay/Other
 - D. \$1,180.00 – Riparian Forestland

- SOUTHEAST
 - E. \$2,748.00 – Cropland
 - F. \$2,060.00 – Other

- MISSOURI RIVER
 - A. \$4,236.00 – Irrigated Cropland
 - B. \$3,228.00 – Dryland Cropland
 - C. \$1,644.00 – Grass/Hay/Other
 - D. \$1,172.00 – Riparian Forestland

Questions & Statements:

Q: Where is the state recreation affecting and influencing land values?

A: Landowners can go for a more traditional ALE to meet different eligibility criteria for funding.

***Please go into detail about FMV?**

Reviewed how the Fair Market Value was determined by the AWMA contractor and the specific statement of work they were given to use to complete the study.

Agenda Item #5– GENERAL DISCUSSION

Policy changes in the Farm Bill, NE G&P are willing to help push for them.

Feel there might be a need for LO/producers/Farmers or Agricultural Community to attend more Grazing workshops? Working with the local tractor dealership? Put 319 money towards that? Make it more local to the areas.

Focus on Agency & partners needing management training for Grazing.

Can the Management planning be flexible with the CUA's?

How do we maximize management w/ in guidelines?

With Wetlands, grazing is important

- Allow more in comparison to restricting it.
- Invasive species are decreased w/ grazing
- Some grazing stimulates invasive.

Need wetland management training again.

Forage balance is important – grass: cattle ration

Think about different workshops for FY2019:

- Management
- Monitoring

Kim: Wants to have a core regulations & Restoration Training (DEQ).

Questions & Answers:

Q: Will handouts be available?

A: They are available on the website.

Q: Any backlog of applications not approved?

A: 100 pts & great (11 scored high enough); 40 applications, reduced funding; all projects obligated not active.

Q: Wetland protection & enhancement – DEQ has funds to go into this. Mitigation impacts. Do you know any landowners willing? Could you give participants our information?

A: We don't share program participant information. There is a website that you can go on to find some of their information. Yes, we can start having the team leaders spread the word about you.