

2019
Annual Work Plan
of the
Franklin County
Conservation District



To assist in the conservation of, and education regarding, the natural resources of Franklin County in order to help create a sustainable environment and environmentally literate Kansans for the future.

Franklin County Conservation District
343 West 23rd Street, Suite 2
Ottawa KS 66067
785-241-7201
www.fccdks.org

September 2018

2019 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

This is the Annual Work Plan for the Franklin County Conservation District for 2019. This plan has been prepared by the Conservation District Board of Supervisors to set forth our objectives and goals for local programming in order to assist in the conservation of, and education regarding, the natural resources of Franklin County in order to help create a sustainable environment and environmentally literate Kansans for the future. The goals outlined will also assist in fulfilling the Conservation Districts responsibilities of the Local Operation Agreement in cooperation with our local USDA-NRCS staff for the coming year. To attain these objectives, we will attempt to work closely with all cooperating agencies and partnerships.

1. IMPROVE & MAINTAIN WATER QUALITY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY:

Action 1: Address environmental concerns including agriculture and urban erosion and sediment control, water quality, water quantity, range and pasture management, wildlife habitat and other natural resource management issues through the implementation of the Non-Point Source Pollution Control and Water Resource Programs; and other programs/opportunities as they arise.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 2: Administer cost share funds, in accordance to guidelines set forth by Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation, to landowners interested in implementing best management practices through the Non-Point Source Pollution Control and Water Resource Programs; and other programs/opportunities as they arise.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 3: Collect and maintain documentation of landowner inquires related to conservation work/cost share projects year round so that we have documentation to support funding requests for cost share in the event the State moves to a zero based budgeting process for allocation of cost share.

Responsibility: CD Board/Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 4: Provide technical assistance related to best management practices to landowners interested in the Non-Point Source Pollution Control and Water Resource Programs; and other programs/opportunities as they arise.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 5: Provide a constant and steady effort of public information and education through newsletters, press releases, district Facebook page and website (www.fccdks.org) for the promotion of the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program, Water Resource Program, and federal Farm Bill Programs; and other programs/opportunities as they arise.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 6: Take an active role in the ongoing development, where possible, and promotion of the *Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas*. Attend public meetings and presentations on the *Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas*; including Governors Water Conference.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 7: Represent the Franklin County Conservation District by serving on the Marais des Cygnes Regional Advisory Committee to provide input to the Kansas Water Office and the Kansas Water Authority regarding the formulation and revision of the Kansas Water Plan, its implementation and other matters directly related to the Marais des Cygnes basin. *Keri Harris was appointed to serve as Chair of the MdC RAC for 2019 by the KWA.*

Responsibility: District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 8: Maintain a working relationship with the Vision Education and Public Outreach Working Group (or similar) to secure a place for Conservation Districts in the implementation of the education components of the Vision for the Future of Water in Kansas.

Responsibility: District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 9: Participate in various workshops, field days and other learning opportunities related to water quality, soil health, pollinators and other relevant conservation topics.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 10: Assist with communications work for the Hillsdale Watershed Coalition for the promotion of the Hillsdale WRAPS Project through the Miami County Conservation District.

Responsibility: District Staff

Completion: July 2019 (may be extended if funding is available)

Action 10: Complete request for proposals to KDHE for the sponsorship the Middle Marais des Cygnes Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies grant application for implementation of best management practices focusing on livestock, rangeland and cropland within the Middle Marais des Cygnes watershed as funding becomes available through KDHE. Project would focus on Eight Mile and Pottawatomie sub-watersheds.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff/Stakeholder Leadership Team

Completion: December 2019 (if funding is available)

2. CARRY OUT NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS THROUGH A COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS AND CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES:

Action 1: Emphasize the importance of resource management systems and benefits of conservation planning.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 2: Assist with Farm Bill implementation of conservation compliance requirements for landowners by reviewing and approving conservation plans at monthly board meetings.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: December 2019

Action 3: Host annual Local Work Group meeting with local stakeholders to review current Natural Resources Conservation Service financial assistance programs (Payment Rates, Eligible Practices and Resource Concerns) and make recommendations to NRCS State Conservationist regarding changes/improvements to existing federal Farm Bill programs.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: March 2019

Action 4: Promote and support the Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, and Conservation Security Program and other federal conservation programs.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 5: Promote Filter Strips, Field Borders, Contour Buffers, No-Till Farming, Cover Crops, Soil Health, Contour Farming, and other best management practices through contact with landowners, District newsletter, via the District website & Facebook page and by promoting and or hosting field days/workshops.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 6: Assist with federal program implementation by helping prepare program applications and following-up with landowners on program activities including applications, payments, and modifications. Work with NRCS to complete e-filing of requested documents for programs.

Responsibility: District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 7: Promote USDA/NRCS Client Gateway for local producers to use for electronic forms, contract management and technical assistance requests.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 8: Promote and assist with implementation of monarch initiative and pollinator habitat programs through USDA and KACD. Connect with Community Butterfly Project and Master Gardeners projects to promote butterfly gardens.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

3. PROVIDE INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO YOUTH AND ADULTS THROUGHOUT FRANKLIN COUNTY TO ASSIST WITH OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Action 1: Submit news articles/press releases to county newspaper; publish newsletters and maintain up to date information on district website and Facebook page to inform all interested persons of conservation programs and services.

Responsibility: District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 2: Provide quarterly updates at County Commission meetings.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 3: Provide monthly email update to County Commissioners.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 4: Provide conservation scholarships for continuing education workshops and professional development opportunities for both formal and non-formal educators as requested for approved workshops/conferences.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: December 2019

Action 5: Sponsor Poster, Limerick, Essay and Speech contests through county schools.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: October 2019

Action 6: Sponsor "Best Conservation Photo" contest for junior photographers in conjunction with Franklin County Fair. Winning photo will be submitted to KACD state contest to represent Franklin County.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: July 2019

Action 7: Present non-biased, science based, educational conservation programs for schools and/or community organizations as requested to promote conservation and natural resources.

Responsibility: District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 8: Sponsor the Franklin County Earth Day Festival. This hands on natural resources focused festival will bring environmental professionals in to facilitate interactive lessons/activities for 300 sixth and seventh graders with topics covering soil, water, air, plants and animals.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: April 2019

Action 9: Support Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom by assisting with their program delivery and promotion to Franklin County teachers and students.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 10: Support Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce "Day on the Farm" event by presenting The Soil Tunnel Trailer, Stream Trailer or other lesson on conservation to the 350+ county third graders who attend the annual event

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: September 2019

Action 11: Present educational lessons with The Soil Tunnel Trailer, The Earth Balloon, Stream Trailer, new KACD Augmented Reality Sandbox and rainfall simulators at local schools and other events as requested by local teachers.

Responsibility: District Manager

Completion: December 2019

Action 12: Present educational lessons at local schools to reinforce and enhance textbook curriculum and state standards using various Project WET, Wild, Wild Aquatic, Project Learning Tree and other related curriculum, as requested by local teachers.

Responsibility: District Manager

Completion: December 2019

Action 13: Promote conservation and environmental education in cooperation with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE) and Kansas Green Schools Program through annual donations, attending conferences, hosting workshops and other events.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Manager

Completion: December 2019

Action 14: Support Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education by serving on their Board of Directors and assisting with their program delivery and promotion to Franklin County teachers and students.

Responsibility: District Manager

Completion: December 2020

Action 15: Provide scholarships for local youth to attend Range Youth Camp, or other such youth conservation related events.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: July 2019

Action 16: Promote districts enterprise operations including sale of custom blended grass seed, cover crop mixes, food plot mixes, wildflowers, marking flags and rental of no till drill for promotion and implementation of best management practices.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 17: Provide scholarships for local farmers, ranchers; especially women, to attend No Till on the Plains Conference, Women Managing the Farm or other similar conservation related events.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: December 2019

Action 18: Work with KOFO Radio to record quarterly conservation news updates on air.

Responsibility: District Staff

Completion: December 2019

4. PROMOTE AND ENHANCE OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES IN OUR AREA AND THROUGHOUT THE WATERSHEDS TO CARRY OUT CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

Action 1: Develop a working relationship with various conservation, agricultural and environmental partners at that state and local level to help facilitate and expand programs and services of the conservation district through such partnerships.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 2: Work to recruit volunteers, both individually and through local partner agencies, to assist with carrying out various conservation objectives.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: September 2019

Action 3: Participate in educational events hosted by other conservation districts, especially those within our NRCS Management Unit.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 4: Participate in workshops and meetings conducted by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation; Kansas Association of Conservation of Districts; National Association of Conservation Districts; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Kansas Water Office and other agencies with conservation related topics.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: December 2019

Action 5: Host meetings with Franklin County Bankers to keep communication open regarding Bankers Award selection process.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: December 2019

Action 6: Cosponsor Wildlife Award, Grassland Award or other relevant conservation related awards as applicable which are not part of the KSU Agronomy and Kansas Bankers Award program.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: October 2019

5. DEVELOP DISTRICT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO CARRY OUT AN EFFECTIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Action 1: Hold monthly Conservation District Board meetings to carry out all district business including the objectives of the Annual Work Plan and Local Operating Agreement.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: December 2019

Action 2: Hire the services of a Certified Public Accountant to complete an audit the Conservation District financial records following *Agreed Upon Procedures* process.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: August 2019

Action 3: Develop a cost-effective budget with itemized expenditures to be presented to Franklin County Commissioners as part of our annual community partners funding request for county funds.

Responsibility: CD Board

Completion: Request due March 2019, budget approval August 2019

Action 4: Maintain up to date files and records pertinent to state cost share programs and contracts as outlined by Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Manager

Completion: December 2019

Action 5: Maintain accurate and complete files for public record, and make available when requested and applicable following the Kansas Open Records Act.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Manager

Completion: December 2019

Action 6: Plan and host annual meeting the Thursday following Martin Luther King Jr Holiday each January to provide full and due report meeting to the public of district activities since previous annual. Election of Supervisor(s) is to be conducted at the Annual Meeting.

Responsibility: CD Board/District Staff

Completion: January 2019

Regular board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month and special meetings will be called, if necessary.

THIS WORK PLAN OF OPERATIONS WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON September 6, 2018


FCCD CHAIRMAN


FCCD District Manager


NRCS District Conservationist