

RESOURCE PLANNING
FOR
KANSAS CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS

2012 Spring Area Meetings
Pat Lehman, KACD Executive Director

RESOURCE PLANNING PROCESS FOR KANSAS CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The KACD Initiative

- Long-range resource planning was component of \$75,000 NRCS grant to KACD in 2011.
- Process designed with assistance to conservation districts: workbook for completion by districts followed by resource plan drafted by Robin Lehman at KACD.
- Resource planning provides beneficial focus for districts and yields important data for Kansas conservation as a whole.
- Districts completing resource plans by December 15, 2012, will be eligible for 2013 dues reduction of \$200 (if remaining dues are paid in full).

RESOURCE PLANNING PROCESS FOR KANSAS CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Why Resource Planning?

- Long-range resource planning is essential component of good stewardship.
- In time of shrinking budgets and need for increased accountability, it's more important than ever for Kansas conservation districts to justify their purpose to county commissioners and other lawmakers.
- Natural resources issues most effectively addressed with locally led planning process.
- Resource plan identifies actions that community supports as well as strategies for how they will be accomplished.

RESOURCE PLANNING WORKBOOK

Workbook for conservation districts to use as a guide for the development of a five-year resource plan.

Five-Step Planning Process for Districts:

1. Identify concerns and opportunities.
2. Determine objectives.
3. Conduct a resource inventory.
4. Formulate possible solutions (action steps).
5. Make decisions.

Upon completion of the workbook by conservation districts, Robin Lehman at KACD will use the information provided to draft the five-year resource plan for your district.

A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Conservation districts may be facing their greatest challenge: **survivability**.

Factors to consider:

- Local, state and national movement for less government
- Less revenue available at all levels of government
- Non-governmental organizations fulfilling conservation needs
- Urban partners becoming more important to survival
- Increasing threat of regulatory programs
- Board member recruitment increasingly more difficult
- Population trends and demographics of county populations
- Considerations of district consolidations
- Contingency plan if your district receives reduced funding
- Loss of identity

MAINTAINING RELEVANCE

- Districts must be diligent in coming years to maintain relevance in this changing environment. Identifying threats and challenges is an essential part of being both responsive and proactive and thus continuing to play a key role in the state's conservation practices.
- As you complete the five steps, think in terms of presenting your five-year resource plan to county commissioners and other lawmakers who are themselves faced with finding solutions and making decisions under current and future budget constraints.
- Be sure to include what your county conservation district does well and how you can perform your role even better.

2012 RESOURCE PLANNING TIMELINE

- On March 6, 7, 8, 14, 15** Long-range resource planning process kicks off at Spring Area Meetings. By late March, module will be added to DOC supervisor training modules to assist with planning process.
- By April 1** Resource Planning Workbook distributed to conservation districts.
- By August 1** Completed workbooks should be mailed to Robin Lehman for development of draft resource plan.
- By November 1** Draft plans will be submitted to conservation districts for review and modification.
- By December 15** Conservation districts that adopt final Five-Year Resource Plan by December 15, 2012, will be eligible for a one-time \$200 reduction on 2013 KACD dues (the remaining amount of regular or maximum club dues must be paid in full).

TOOLS TO ASSIST DISTRICTS

- Supervisor training module with detailed assistance and examples for resource plans.
- Time allotted at Spring Area Meetings and the Fall Area Meetings for discussion of the resource planning process.
- Resources on KACD website (FAQs, possible discussion forum) to assist planning effort.
- Robin available via email (rlehman@sunflower.com) throughout process to respond to questions.
- Time scheduled at KACD Convention to assist individual districts with planning questions.