



# Kansas Conservation Partnership Module II

# What you will learn in this module

- Who the partners are that work with conservation districts to provide services, cost-share, and assistance to the public.
- How to find information about each partner.
- How to contact each partner.

# Common Conservation Partners

- **State Conservation Commission.**
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.**
- **Kansas Association of Conservation Districts.**
- **Kansas Department of Agriculture.**
- **Kansas Water Office.**
- **USDA Farm Service Agency.**
- **Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.**
- **Kansas Department of Health and Environment.**
- **Kansas State University Research Extension.**
- **State Association of Kansas Watersheds.**
- **National Association of Conservation Districts.**

# State Conservation Commission

- The State Conservation Commission (SCC) administers the Conservation District Law and other laws designed to assist local entities and individuals in conserving our natural resources. The agency is governed by five elected commissioners; two ex officio members representing Kansas State University Research and Extension; and two appointed members representing the Kansas Department of Agriculture and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The commissioners appoint an executive director to lead the efforts of the SCC. Additional staff provide program administration and agency support.

# State Conservation Commission (cont.)

- Programs administered by the State Conservation Commission includes:
  - Aid to Conservation Districts.
  - Water Resources Cost-Share Program.
  - Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program.
  - Riparian and Wetland Protection Program.
  - Kansas Water Quality Buffer Initiative.
  - Watershed Dam Construction Program.
  - Multipurpose Small Lakes Program.
  - Water Rights Purchase Program.
  - Water Rights Transition Assistance Program.
  - Surface-Mining Land Conservation and Reclamation Program.

# USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

- NRCS assistance is available in each county to provide assistance through their:
  - District Conservationist.
  - Soil Conservationist.
  - Soil Conservation Technician.
  - Engineers, Biologist, Forester, and Specialists.

(All NRCS personnel may not be located in every office).

# Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

- The KACD members are the conservation districts located in the 105 Kansas counties.
- The KACD Board of Directors is composed of five elected members, each representing one of the five geographic areas of the state.
- For over 50 years, the KACD has worked to protect the state's natural resources through partnerships with federal, state, and local entities.

# Kansas Department of Agriculture

- The Kansas Department of Agriculture is committed to:
  - Food Safety.
  - Consumer Protection.
  - Natural Resource Protection.
  - Water Resource Management....

**for the benefit of all Kansans.**



# Kansas Water Office

- The Water Office coordinates the Kansas water planning process in concert with the Kansas Water Authority.
- The Authority's 24 members include representatives from diverse water use interest groups and leaders of the state's natural resource agencies.
- Advice on policy development comes from Basin Advisory Committees in each of the state's 12 river basins and other local stakeholders.
- The Authority, in turn, advises the Governor and Legislature on water issues for policy enactment.

# USDA Farm Service Agency

- The Farm Service Agency administers and manages farm commodity, conservation, credit, disaster and loan programs through federal, state and county offices.
- State and county offices administer FSA programs.
- Elected county committee members make decisions affecting which FSA programs are implemented county-wide.

# Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

- The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor.
- A seven-member, bipartisan commission, also appointed by the Governor, advises the Secretary and approves regulations governing outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife resources in Kansas.

# Kansas Department of Health and Environment

- The Division of Environment conducts regulatory programs involving:
- Public Water Supplies.
- Industrial Discharges.
- Wastewater Treatment Systems.
- Solid Waste Landfills.
- Hazardous Waste.
- Air Emissions.
- Radioactive Materials.
- Asbestos Removal.
- Refined Petroleum Storage Tanks.
- Other Sources which impact the environment.

# Kansas State University Research and Extension

- K-State Research and Education delivers educational programs and technical information covering:
  - Business and Economics.
  - Crops and Livestock.
  - Environment.
  - Health and Nutrition.
  - Home, Family, and Youth.
  - Lawn and Garden.

# State Association of Kansas Watersheds

- SAKW is a non-profit organization supported by memberships and partnering agencies.
- The association is governed by a board of directors made up of representatives of Kansas watershed districts.
- There are 85 separate watershed districts in 43 counties of Kansas.
- SAKW was chartered in 1951 to represent all watershed districts in Kansas.

# National Association of Conservation Districts

- NACD's mission is to serve conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation.
- The goals of the organization are to:
- Represent districts as their national voice on conservation issues.
- Provide useful information to state and local.
- Build state and federal agency partnerships.
- Analyze programs and policy issues.
- Offer needed and cost-effective services to districts.

# Summary

The State Conservation Commission works together with other agencies and organizations to provide funding and assistance for natural resource projects to landowners. Each department, organization, and agency has a specific role in protecting natural resources. The partners encourage you to contact them with your natural resource questions, ideas, and concerns.



# Resources Available

- **Resources**

- Conservation District Handbook

- SCC website

- **Where to find**

- Located in each district office

- [www.scc.ks.gov](http://www.scc.ks.gov)