

MEMO



DATE: August 24, 2016
TO: Kansas Water Authority
FROM: Earl Lewis
RE: EPA WPDG Conditional Approval & USDA Risk Management Grant

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EPA Wetland Development Grant

Approval by the Kansas Water Authority, under KSA 74-2622, is required before the Kansas Water Office enters into agreements with the federal government. The KWO applied to receive funding through the 2016 Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG) by Region 7 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If awarded, the total amount of the grant is \$374,526.00. Federal funds are \$281,604.00 and the non-federal matching fund obligation is \$92,922.00. All non-federal matches will be provided by in-kind service contributions. As of the drafting of this memo, KWO has not received notification by EPA of successful award of the grant.

The title of the grant is “*Assessing the Water Quality Impacts of Constructed Wetlands on Tile Outlet Terrace Runoff*.” A synopsis of the work to be accomplished with grant funds is:

The current grant proposal is a more in depth project than the 2013 EPA grant that monitored the efficacy of created wetlands in watershed nutrient reduction. This proposal will continue to use rigorous water sampling coupled with sediment samples from the wetlands and fields drained by the tile outlet systems. Crop data will also be collected as to planting, extent of ground cover and fertilizer application (nature, type and timing). Results of this project will help with: improved designs of constructed wetlands for Tile Outlet Terrace runoff – size and layout, enhance site selection of constructed wetlands and improve Best Management Practices for constructed wetlands across the state.

USDA – Risk Management Grant

The KWO applied to receive funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Risk Management Agency (RMA) grant, through the 2016 Risk Management Education Partnerships Program. If awarded, the total amount of the grant would be \$90,768 of federal funds, with no non-federal match proposed. As of the drafting of this memo, the KWO has not received notification by the USDA-RMA of successful award of the grant.

The title of the grant is “Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance/Water Conservation Area Calculator, Informational Website, and Educational Events.” The grant proposal includes several items that will help to implement the expansion of Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance options to forty seven Kansas counties in 2017 and support the development of Water Conservation Areas. It is proposed to hold five water informational events, one in each of the Regional Advisory Committees that overlap the Ogallala aquifer. Also proposed is the development of an online calculating tool that will allow producers to calculate/compare different Water Conservation Area scenarios and applicable Limited Irrigation Crop Insurance options, this tool will be hosted on the Kansas Geological Survey domain and be viewable on a Limited Irrigation educational website. On this website information about Water Conservation Areas, Water Technology Farms, Local Enhanced Management Areas, water level trends, and links to applicable government or research programs will be hosted.

The Kansas Water Office recommends the Director be authorized to enter into agreements with EPA for a wetland development grand and with USDA for a risk management grant should those agencies select the proposals for approval.
