

Conservation District Annual Meeting

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Barber County Conservation District is scheduled for January 29, 2022, at the Hardtner Community Building (old Hardtner School).

According to Conservation District Law, each conservation district is required to have an annual meeting to provide full disclosure of district activities/accomplishments and financial affairs, as well as hold an election of supervisors whose terms have expired.

The term of John Cook is expiring this year; John has agreed to run for re-election to another three year term. Voting is conducted by secret ballot of the qualified electors (U.S. citizen and 18 years of age or older) of the district present at the annual meeting.

Conservation awards to winners of the annual poster contest will be presented, as well as a Grasslands Award for outstanding stewardship in the improvement and continued management of native grasslands.

Yur Place will begin serving a delicious catered meal at 6:00 PM, provided by the banks of Barber County: The Peoples Bank, (Medicine Lodge and Kiowa); Citizens Bank of Kansas, N.A. (Medicine Lodge); Alva State Bank & Trust Company (Kiowa).

Contact the Conservation Office by January 24, 2022 to make your reservations!

What Is The Local Working Group

Defined: The locally led conservation effort is the foundation of the USDA's conservation program delivery process. The local working group supports the locally led conservation effort by coordinating USDA programs with other federal, state, tribal, and local conservation programs to provide an integrated solution to addressing natural resource concerns.

Hope I haven't lost your interest already, but the key phrase in that definition is *locally-led*, so please bear with me.

With COVID restrictions still an issue, reduction in staffing and office routines blown to pieces, we are experiencing less time with face-to-face meetings with our producers. This has been a concern to all of us here at the conservation office. The Local Working Group meeting is a great opportunity to open back up those lines of communication and learn—from you—what conservation issues are impacting your lives.

Although a date for the Local Working Group meeting has not been set by NRCS yet, I hope you will read the following article and make plans to attend the meeting when announced, or contact the conservation office anytime with your suggestions.

Your conservation district supervisors are available as well, and would welcome your input in seeing that the Local Working Group is functioning as a supportive, well-informed representative of Barber County landowners and producers.

Local Working Groups

Purpose

Local working groups provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for USDA conservation activities and programs. Convened by the local conservation district, the local working group responsibilities include:

- Develop a conservation needs assessment identifying broad conservation goals to solve natural resource problems
- Identify priority resource concerns that can be addressed by USDA programs
- Recommend USDA conservation program application and funding criteria, eligible practices (including limits on practice payments or units), and payment rates
- Assist the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the conservation district with public outreach and information efforts
- Identify educational and producers' training needs
- Recommend program policy to the State Technical Committee based on resource data

Membership

Local working group membership should be diverse and focus on agricultural interests and natural resource issues existing in the local community. Membership should include agricultural producers representing the variety of crops, livestock, and poultry raised within the local area; owners of nonindustrial private forest land, as appropriate; representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations; and representatives of governmental agencies carrying out agricultural and natural resource conservation programs and activities.

Local working group membership may include but are not limited to:

- NRCS designated conservationist
- Members of the conservation district board
- Members of the Farm Service Agency county committee
- Cooperative Extension (board members or manager)
- State or local elected or appointed officials
- Agricultural business representatives

LWG Meetings

- Occur at least once each year
- Meetings are open to the public
- Meetings will be conducted as an open discussion among members
- Individuals attending the local working group meetings will be given the opportunity to address the local working group.

You do have a voice and it is important to us that you have the opportunity to let it be heard in an effort to impact programs and policy representative of local issues and priorities in the conservation arena. Give us a call at the conservation office, talk to your conservation district board members. Let us know if you are interested in being a Local Working Group member or attending a meeting. We'll make notification of a meeting date through the Gyp Hill Premiere and the Barber County Conservation District Facebook page as soon as it is set!

Maintaining A Good Pipe Inventory: It's Not Always Easy

As a distributor of high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) we have experienced issues with maintaining a full inventory (as we have enjoyed in the past) to meet the needs for almost all sizes of our dual wall HDPE pipe. Low resin availability and reduction in workforce was definitely felt earlier this year as we experienced a delivery time of over four months. Having said that, delivery time for the last order was only ten days, so hopefully we are back on track to meeting the demands for this product as our yard and shed are full again!

Our pipe is available for applications beyond ag-related, including culverts for roads. Our customers are agricultural, oil field industry, city, and many townships in Barber County. Sizes range from 4" to 48"; (60" available upon request). Give us a call for current pipe prices and availability as well as for special orders and projects.

State Cost Share Programs For FY 2022

July 1, 2021 marked the beginning of the State of Kansas' fiscal year 2022. At that time the District received funds for the administration of two State Cost Share Programs. Following are the practices and allocations for each program:

WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE PROGRAM (WRCSP)

- 1—underground outlet: \$5000.
- 1—grassed waterway with critical area planting: \$995.35
- 1—terraces: \$2728.56
- 3—livestock water developments to include solar pumping plant, livestock water tanks, livestock water wells: \$15,000.

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM

- 2—on-site wastewater system repairs \$9023.

Applications for these two programs are taken throughout the year with an application deadline of April 30, with funding available July 1 each year.

: *"Funding provided by the Division of Conservation, Kansas Department of Agriculture through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund ."*