

# WATER WISDOM

*“To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.” -Theodore Roosevelt*

## 2018 Annual Meeting

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Conservation District is Tuesday, **Jan. 16** at Paola High School, 401 Angela St., Paola. Meeting starts, and dinner is served, at 6:00 PM. Agenda items include: presentation of district activities and finances, election of one supervisors to serve a 3-year term, and presentation of conservation awards. All county residents are invited. RSVP to the district by Friday, Jan. 5. 913-294-3751 Ext. 3. Cost of dinner is \$5.00.

## No-Till on the Plains Conference

Scholarships available for farmers to attend this very good annual conference Jan. 30-31 in Wichita! Topics include:

- No-Till 101
- No-Till Equipment Basics
- Cover Crops
- Soil Health
- Integrating Livestock



Functioning floodplains in Miami County following historic August rain event. Where floodwaters are able to flow into connected, open floodplains, as opposed to paved, developed or disconnected (levees) floodplains - damage to people and property is minimized. Agriculture is a good use for floodplains.

## Conservation in Brief - 2017

In 2017, the district awarded \$63,451 to 22 local landowners and producers for conservation practices, through the state program and through Hillsdale watershed efforts. The Miami County Commission continued critical financial support to the district, for operations and for matching the Hillsdale Watershed grant. Other major contributors included Johnson County Stormwater, Hillsdale Area Water Cooperative, and the Cities of Gardner, Edgerton, Spring Hill, Louisburg and Paola.

- 135 attendees participated in district-sponsored workshops including pond and pasture management, land management and conservation, soil health and farm finances.



## New District Staff

Susan Johnson, former high school biology teacher, accepted the position of Watershed Educator this year. She was certified as a water quality monitor through the Missouri Stream Team Program and spearheaded the Hillsdale Stream Team schools program. In the future, she plans to lead a watershed teacher institute for area teachers interested in integrating hands-on environmental education with all school subjects.

## District Products

300 Bushel Manure Spreader (\$75 per day)

Construction Fabric (\$2.50 per linear ft)

Survey Flags (\$10 per 100)

Seed: Native grass and forbes, cover crop mixes, species-specific habitat mixes. (Prices vary)

### \*\*\*NO-TILL DRILL UPDATE\*\*\*

The district no longer owns a no-till grass drill. Inquire at the office for contractor information.

- The popular Soil Tunnel Trailer, celebrated it's 8th birthday with new carpeting after more than 40 days of use statewide this year. The trailer and the Earth Balloon, a 20-ft, to-scale, inflatable earth are available at no cost to schools and educational organizations in the county.
- 175 fifth graders attend the annual Earth Day festival at the fairgrounds each April and experience hands-on science activities. The district also hosted, in partnership with Louisburg Library, an Earth Day event at Broadmoor Elementary, with 150 5th graders. 60 students experienced a pollinator unit, starting their own school pollinator garden.
- 12 volunteers and local teachers were certified as water quality monitors, through the Hillsdale Stream Team program. 310 students participated in a week-long watershed streams unit, including a day in the field monitoring chemical, physical and biological parameters to determine watershed stream health.



Watershed farmer Nick Guetterman presents a soil health demonstration to the Kansas Farm Bureau environmental committee. The demo compared soil health (structure, infiltration, holding capacity) of no-till versus conventional-till soil.

### *Digital Age Communications*

While the district will continue to print a newsletter once or twice each year, there are better ways to stay up on what is happening with us, and with others in the conservation world. E-mail communications, including a more frequently published e-newsletter and event notifications will be available to those who share their e-mail with the district. Also, be sure to “like” the district’s Facebook page and regularly check the website ([www.miamicountycd.com](http://www.miamicountycd.com)).

### *Hillsdale Watershed Restoration/Protection*

Since July, 2016 Miami County Conservation District with financial support from many local partners, has served as the sponsor of the Hillsdale Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). Hillsdale Lake is of great importance to the region as a drinking water source, a flood control structure and a recreation destination. It is threatened with pollution from both agriculture (livestock and crop) and rapid urbanization and the additional runoff created by hard surfaces. A coalition of local stakeholders, the Hillsdale Watershed Coalition, drives the effort to implement the newly-updated watershed plan.



**Wetland Monitoring**



**Stream Fence**



**Tire Tank**



**Watersheds - Our Water, Our Home** is the conservation stewardship theme for 2018. Special, hands-on educational activities are available to schools and groups interested in learning about our very important water resources and how to protect them. Students who wish to compete in any of the associated contests - photo, poster, speech - should contact the district for guidelines.

Upcoming Events - Winter/Spring 2018

**January 16 - District Annual Meeting**

**January 30-31 - No-Till on the Plains Conference** in Wichita, Ks. Scholarships available for first-time attendees/producers.

**February 10 - Winter Livestock Field Day near Wellsville, Ks.** Forage stock-piling, cover crops, pasture/nutrient management and quiet handling.

**February 28 - Forest Prescribed Burn Workshop in Paola, Ks.** Managing timber for multiple purposes, prescribed burn timing and techniques, forest walk and equipment show/tell.

**March 16 - Soil Health Workshop in Spring Hill, Ks.** Implementing soil health in the field: no-till, cover crops, grazing cover crops, financial assistance.

Call the District to register: 913-294-3751 Ext. 3

Mark Peters, Advisor

Eleanor Zuvanich, Spring Hill, Member

Dwayne Beckford, Paola, Member

Pansy Bigley, Paola, Treasurer

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**Conservation District Board**

Paola, KS 66071

100 Angela St., Ste 3

