



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Work Group Meeting, Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Elsa Bowen called the meeting began at 7:00 pm with Ben Floyd's reviewing of the agenda and any June meeting follow-up. This meeting is being held as a "web-ex/call-in meeting". Ben asked if everyone had viewed the online training for Open Public Meetings and the consensus was we were good on completing the training. Before we got started on the agenda Ben wanted to know who are contact person is for CRP data in Lincoln County. Elsa Bowen replied that our contact for the county is Melissa Michaels. Vivian or someone from GSI at Anchor will be contacting her soon for CRP data layers. Map updates; Agricultural Landcover, Precipitation, and Soils are done. Dean's precipitation map that was thought to be in the board room at the District could not be located.

Tonight's meeting will concentrate on the Crab Creek Drainages-Baseline conditions.

- Lake creek
- Duck creek
- South Fork Crab creek
- Rock creek
- Bluestem creek

Slides were presented representing **Crab Creek Drainages**. Ben went over the Agricultural Landcover map. The key on the maps includes crops-irrigated, crops-dryland, rangeland, open space, non-ag land and open water.

Keith Schafer – "I'd like Public lands to be a different color" Ben – "We could add a table to go with it and add to the drainage regions and also find a way to show public lands info. Mark Stedman – "Maybe do a separate map as it is a little difficult to follow. Ben- "We will be tweaking and changing as we go. Jeff Shibel – "Could we just have a separate map? Ben – "Yes let's do a separate map. Three (3) yes's on a separate map for Public lands. Ben- "John, Vivian can we do this? John – "It may be difficult but doable".

Next slides were pictures of Crab Creek - Central: Shrub Steppe, West: Shrub Steppe, Bluestem: Rangeland and spring creek: Irrigation.

Next slide – **Changes in Agricultural Land cover**: there has been no significant changes in Agricultural land cover from 2011-2015 but the data will be proofed for consistency. Some discussion on Specialty Crops and that we need to make sure the work plan includes them.

Next slide – **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas**: Crab Creek -Priority Habitat Species Map. Review of map and priority species includes birds, waterfowl concentrations and mammals. Evan Scheffels – "What source was used for the data?" Ben – "All data was from Fish & Wildlife".

Next slide – Crab Creek – PHS Percentages

Next slide – **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas – Riparian:** Crab Creek Stream Map update was presented along with photo support/examples of existing conditions including Upland Habitat photos and Wetland Area Photos of existing conditions in riparian areas. Pending info from Kevin Lindsey Ben will be working on Wellhead Protection area for mapping.

Ben reviewed future steps to review Conservation Practices/Opportunities – there will be a technical appendix to summarize technical baselines to protect existing functions and to identify all conservation practices. Ben – “We will definitely mark all programs and make everyone aware of all that is available as we move forward”.

Next Steps –

The meeting for September 20, 2016. Ben will be on vacation for this meeting. The focus of September’s meeting will key elements of the work plan and we hope to have a pretty good plan in place by the end of the year. Vivian will be reaching out to people for information. Ben - “Be thinking about - *How do we work with small acreage farmers?*”

It was agreed by consensus the we should try Webex meeting again for September. Anyone who needs to join us at the District office we will be here.

Attendees:

Workgroup members:

Jeff Schibel
Keith Schafer
Rex Harder
Ron Mielke
Dennis Bly
Mark Stedman
Eddie Johnson
Val Vissia
Elsa Bowen

Other Attendees:

Ben Floyd
Vivian Shin Erickson
John Small
Evan Scheffels