



Soil and Water Conservation Program

Background and Overview

Soil and Water Conservation Program

Department of Natural
Resources



- Soil conservation movement in the United States began in the 1930s due to improper use of land and the recurring drought that brought about the Dust Bowl Era.
- 1935 - Soil Conservation Service (SCS) under USDA set up large-scale demonstrations which were successful, but lacked local support and participation. This began talk of formation of local soil and water conservation districts.
- 1944 - Missouri passed legislation authorizing formation of soil and water conservation districts. Harrison was the first SWCD and with the formation of Washington SWCD in 1996, all 114 counties in Missouri have a local district.
- 1984 - Passage of one-tenth-of-one-percent parks, soils and water sales tax.
- Proceeds from this retail sales tax are equally divided between state parks and the Soil and Water Conservation Program. Missouri is the only state to have a retail sales tax specifically dedicated to soil conservation.
- The tax recently passed in 2006 and will expire in 2018 unless renewed again in 2016.



Soil and Water Conservation District Law

- Senate Bill 612 of the 80th General Assembly authorized the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Program as a state funded incentive program to save soil through erosion control and abatement.
- It provides the law and basic definitions. It appoints the Soil and Water Districts Commission to administer laws applicable to soil and water conservation districts.



Soil and Water Districts Commission

Made up of 10 members:

6 farmers appointed by Governor (voting)

4 ex-officio members (non voting)



Soil and Water Districts Commission – Farmer Members

- Voting members of the commission
- Cannot be more than four farmers from same political party
- Three must live north of the Missouri River
- Three must live south of the Missouri River
- No more than one farmer from any single senatorial district
- Farmers serve three year terms with no limit on number of terms they can serve
- Must hold title to a farm and get their principal livelihood from farming
- Must be resident taxpayer for 10 years before appointment



Soil and Water Districts Commission – Ex-Officio Members

- Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Director, Missouri Department of Conservation
- Director, Missouri Department of Agriculture
- Dean, College of Agriculture, University of Missouri



Commission Duties

- Formulate rules and policies for governing cost-share practices
- Consider requests for new cost-share practices
- Consider district cost-share requests and appeals
- Allocation of cost-share funds



Department of Natural Resources

- Administer the policies and programs developed by the Soil and Water Districts Commission
- Recommend the budget to the Governor
- Allocate administrative funds to the districts

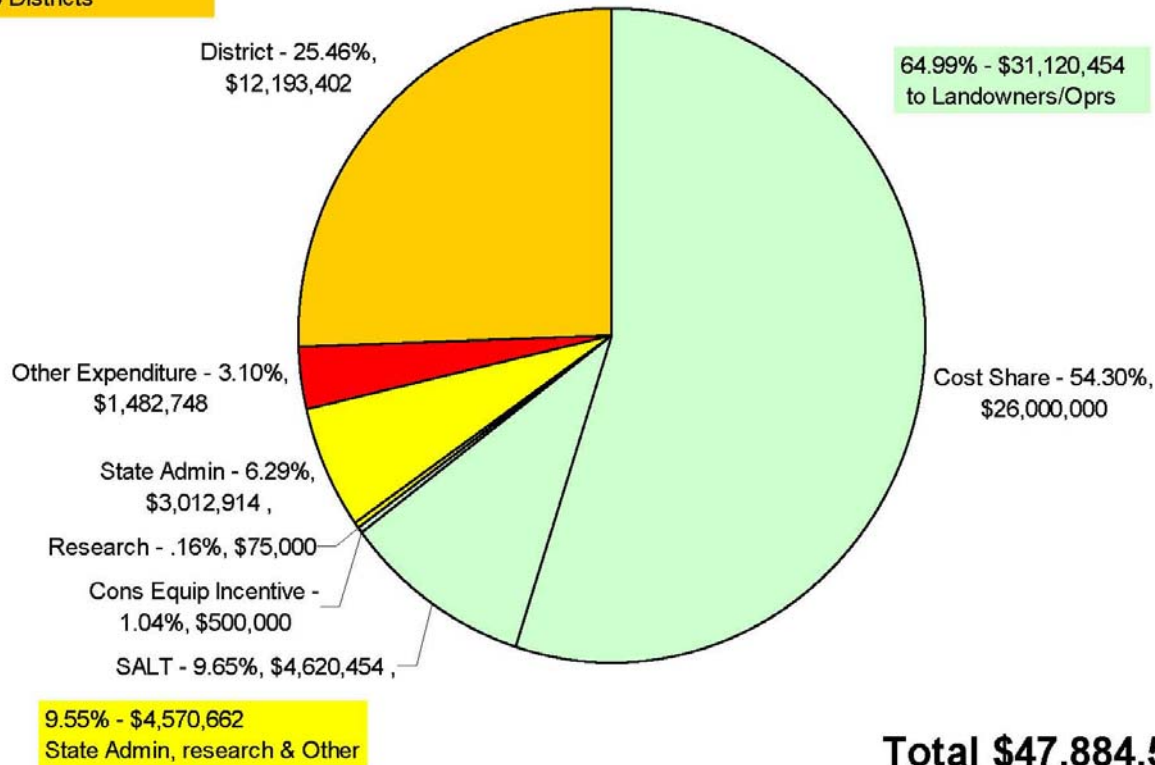
Soil and Water Conservation Program

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Soil & Water Conservation Program FY 2010 Budgeted Fund Allocation

25.46% - \$12,193,402
to Districts



Total \$47,884,518

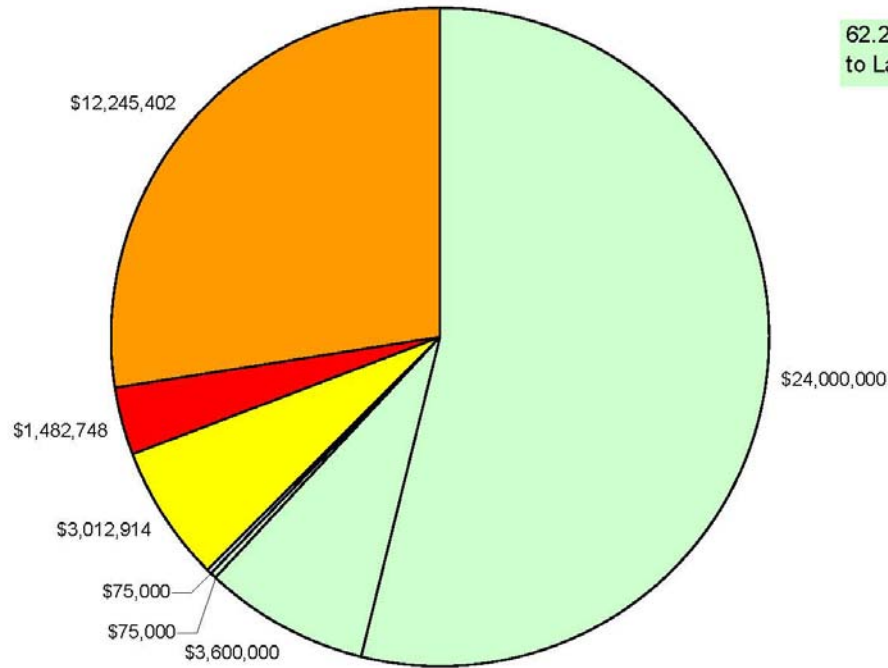
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Soil & Water Conservation Program FY 2011 Projected Budget Allocation

27.52% - \$12,245,402
to Districts



62.20% - \$27,675,00
to Landowners/Oprs

10.27% - \$4,570,662
State Admin, Research & Other

Total \$44,491,064

Note: Budget projection shows overall budget reduction for SALT, Cost Share & Cons Equip from FY 2010 core and any known adjustments for FY 2011 as of 8/27/09

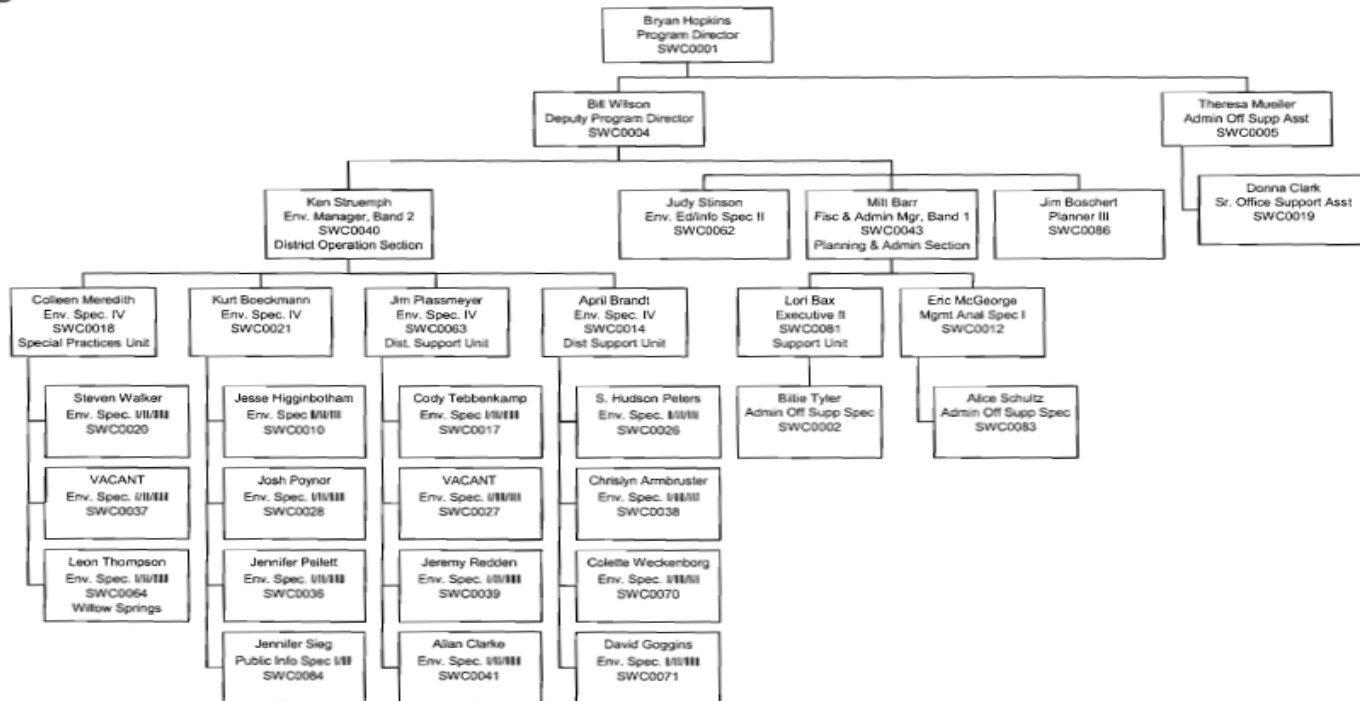


SWCP Organizational Chart



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER RESOURCES
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

November 4, 2009





Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Locally operated sub-units of state government organized according to state law
- Voted into existence by a majority of landowner representatives in a referendum election
- No regulatory or taxing authority, relies on volunteer participation of landowners to achieve its goals
- Charged with the responsibility to conserve soil and water resources by working with landowners at a local level to decrease soil erosion and improve water quality
- Governed by soil and water conservation district board of supervisors