

Conservation Cost-Share Program Handbook

**Prepared by:
Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Conservation Programs Division**

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Section 1

State Guidelines

**STATE GUIDELINES
FOR THE
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

PROGRAM YEAR 20

Program Year Begins: April 1, 2019
Program Year Ends: September 30, 2020

Allocation Period Begins: April 1, 2019
Allocation Period Ends: September 30, 2019

Oklahoma Conservation Commission
in cooperation with
Oklahoma's 84 Conservation Districts

Approved by the Conservation Commission on, April 1, 2019.

I GENERAL

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission hereby declares that the following problems are having a detrimental effect on the renewable natural resources of our state:

Oklahoma's water and soil resources are an important foundation of the state's economic infrastructure. Natural climatic events as well as human activity are impacting these two natural resources. As long as farmers and ranchers produce food from the land to feed the world and the wind blows and the rain falls, we will continue to see impacts on soil and water. Our task as stewards of these natural resources is to minimize these impacts. Protecting these vital natural resources is paramount in preserving the state's economic future. In order to accomplish this goal, the Conservation Commission hereby establishes the following goals and objectives to address these problems affecting our renewable natural resources:

Make cost-share funds available to conservation districts so that they can implement cost-share practices which will protect our soil and water natural resources.

The Conservation Commission herein establishes the complete list and description of the conservation Cost-Share Program policies and conservation practices approved for use by the conservation districts during Program Year 20. See Section II for the approved list of conservation practices with their respective range of cost-share rates for each of the Conservation Cost-Share Program initiatives. State cost-share average costs (unit cost) are based on Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) data.

Any exceptions from these established Conservation Cost-Share Program policies and guidelines shall be approved by the Conservation Commission.

II ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

A. Locally Led Conservation Initiative

The Conservation Commission allocates \$1,365,000 of FY 2019 appropriations to the Conservation Cost-Share Fund for the purposes of providing cost-share payments to eligible participants for implementing approved cost-share conservation practices.

B. Conservation District Allocation

The amount of funds allocated to each conservation district from the FY 2019 appropriation for Program Year 20 appears on page 13. These funds will be available to conservation districts on April 1, 2019.

Conservation districts that have unobligated Program Year 19 funds may submit a request to the Conservation Commission to carry those funds over for use in

Program Year 20. Requests will include the district's final Program Year 19 Monthly Report. The amount of each district's carry over funds will be based on their performance ranking during Program Years 16, 17, and 18.

III POLICIES

A. Allocation Period

The allocation period shall start April 1, 2019 and end September 30, 2020. Any funds allocated to districts and not obligated during the allocation period for Program Year 20 will be released by the district and made available for reallocation by the Conservation Commission. Funds become obligated to a participant after approval of the application by the board and a performance agreement has been signed and dated by the district board and the participant.

B. Authorized/Designated Representatives

The district board must designate an authorized district representative. This person can sign all forms. The authorized district representative must be a district board member. It cannot be a district employee.

The district must designate a technical representative. The designated technical representative will assist in developing conservation plans and determining the need for conservation practices. The representative will also be responsible for design and layout of approved conservation practices, determining compliance with approved standards and specifications, and certifying conservation practice quantities and completion of conservation practices.

C. Conservation Practices

Each district board may select any of the approved cost-share conservation practices within the Locally Led Conservation Initiative for inclusion in the district's local guidelines. The selection should be based on which practices will best address the district's highest priority problems affecting renewable natural resources.

Cost-share practices shall be implemented according to NRCS standards and specifications. In the event NRCS standards and specifications do not exist, conservation practices must meet Conservation Commission approved standards and specifications.

D. Average Costs

State average cost (unit cost) for these practices is based on Oklahoma NRCS data. In order for a variance to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting data compiled by the district. The variance rate must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to the board's approval of Program applications and performance agreements being signed.

E. Cost-Share Payments

The minimum cost-share payment amount that shall be made to any participant from these funds is \$100. The maximum cost-share payment amount that shall be made to any participant from these funds is \$5,000.

F. Cost-Share Rate

The maximum cost-share rate for these practices is 75%. District boards may choose to set cost-share rate less than the specified rate.

G. Eligibility

Applicants for the Conservation Cost-Share Program must be a district cooperator with a conservation plan.

Conservation Commissioners, Conservation Commission staff, conservation district employees or the spouses of any of these people shall not be eligible to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

Conservation district directors are eligible to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program. Due to the limited amount of funds available for Program Year 20 individual directors should give careful consideration to public perception when making their decision to participate in the Program. If the local board votes to allow board members to apply for Program Year 20 the guidelines below will be followed.

1. Individual district board members applying cannot discuss any element of the Cost-Share Program including but not limited to practices, rates, average costs, selection criteria, application approval/disapprovals, cost-share payments, and extensions.
2. Individual district board members applying for the Cost-Share Program must abstain from voting on all elements of the Program.
3. Individual district board members cannot use their position as a conservation district board member to improve or elevate their individual chances of becoming a successful applicant.

H. Agreements

All Program Year 20 performance agreements must be signed and dated by the district board and participant on or before September 30, 2019. All Program Year 20 performance agreements must be completed and the check in the hand of the participant on or before September 30, 2020. Installation of conservation practices cannot begin until an effective performance agreement is in place. A performance agreement becomes effective on the last date of signature. Each participant should have only one performance agreement.

Each participant is required to sign a maintenance agreement. Completion of the maintenance agreement and signature of the participant are required prior to the disbursement of the cost-share payment.

IV APPROVED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Contained in this section is a list of all conservation practice's approved for use in the Program Year 20 Locally Led Conservation Initiative. The conservation district shall only use conservation practices listed here unless a special request is approved by the Conservation Commission. In order for a conservation practice special request to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting documentation. The special request must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to the board's approval of Program applications and performance agreements being signed.

State average cost (unit cost) for these practices is based on Oklahoma NRCS data. In order for a variance to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting data compiled by the district. The variance rate must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to performance agreements being signed.

Below are the conservation practices approved for Program Year 20.

314 - Brush Management

Definition: The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.

Purpose:

- Create the desired plant community consistent with the ecological site or a desired state within the site description.
- Restore or release desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality or enhance hydrology.
- Maintain, modify or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock and wildlife.
- Manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions.
- Pervasive plan species are controlled to a desired level of treatment that will ultimately contribute to creation or maintenance of an ecological site description "steady state" addressing the need for forage, wildlife habitat, and/or water quality.

315 – Herbaceous Weed Control

Definition: Removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants.

Purpose:

- Enhance accessibility, quantity, and quality of forage and/or browse.
- Restore or release native or create desired plant communities and wildlife habitats consistent with the site potential.
- Protect soils and control erosion.
- Reduce fine fuel loads and wildlife hazard.
- Pervasive plan species are controlled to a desired level of treatment that will ultimately contribute to creation or maintenance of an ecological site description "steady state" addressing the need for forage, wildlife habitat, and/or water quality.
- Improve rangeland health.

338 – Prescribed Burning

Definition: Controlled fire applied to a predetermined area.

- Purpose:
- Control undesirable vegetation.
 - Prepare sites for harvesting, planting or seeding.
 - Control plant disease.
 - Reduce wildfire hazards.
 - Improve wildlife habitat.
 - Improve plant production quantity and/or quality.
 - Remove slash and debris.
 - Enhance seed and seedling production.
 - Facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals.
 - Restore and maintain ecological sites.

340 – Cover Crop

Definition: Grasses, legumes, and forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover.

- Purpose:
- Reduce erosion from wind and water.
 - Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content.
 - Reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excessive soil nutrients.
 - Suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles.
 - Improve soil moisture use efficiency.
 - Minimize soil compaction.

342 - Critical Area Planting

Definition: Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have, or are expected to have, high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal seeding/planting methods.

- Purpose:
- Stabilize stream and channel banks, pond and other shorelines, earthen features of structural conservation practices.
 - Stabilize areas with existing or expected high rates of soil erosion by wind or water.
 - Stabilize areas, such as sand dunes and riparian areas.

362 – Diversion (new structures only)

Definition: A channel generally constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side.

- Purpose:
- Break up concentrations of water on long slopes, on undulating land surfaces and on land that is generally considered too flat or irregular for terracing.
 - Divert water away from farmsteads, agricultural waste systems, and other improvements.
 - Collect or direct water for storage, water-spreading, or water-harvesting systems.
 - Protect terrace systems by diverting water from the top terrace where topography, land use, or land ownership prevents terracing the land above.
 - Intercept surface and shallow subsurface flow.

- Reduce runoff damages from upland runoff.
- Reduce erosion and runoff on urban or developing areas and at construction or mining sites.
- Divert water away from active gullies or critically eroding areas.
- Supplement water management on conservation cropping or strip-cropping systems.

378 - Pond **(new structures only)**

Definition: A water impoundment made by constructing an embankment, by excavating a dugout, or by a combination of both.

Purpose: A pond stores water for livestock, fish and wildlife, recreation, fire control, erosion control, flow detention, and other uses such as improving water quality.

382 - Fencing

Definition: A constructed barrier to animals or people. (Does not include temporary fence.)

Purpose: This practice facilitates the accomplishment of conservation objectives by providing a means to control movement of animals and people, including vehicles.

NOTE: This practice is to be used only in conjunction with the Pond (378) or as cross fencing for grazing management.

394 – Firebreak

Definition: A permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated land planned to retard fire.

Purpose:

- Reduce the spread of wildfire.
- Contain prescribed burns.

410 - Grade Stabilization Structure

Definition: A structure used to control the grade in natural or constructed channels.

Purpose: To stabilize the grade, reduce erosion or improve water quality.

412 - Grassed Waterway **(new structures only)**

Definition: A shaped or graded channel that is established with suitable vegetation to convey surface water at a non-erosive velocity using a broad and shallow cross section to a stable outlet.

Purpose:

- To convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding.
- To reduce gully erosion.
- To protect/improve water quality.

512 - Forage and Biomass Planting

Definition: Establishing adapted and /or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

- Purpose:
- Improve or maintain livestock nutrition and/or health.
 - Provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production.
 - Improve soil and water quality.
 - Produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production.

516 - Pipeline

Definition: Pipeline and appurtenances installed to convey water for livestock or wildlife.

- Purpose:
- Convey water to points of use for livestock or wildlife.
 - Reduce energy use.
 - Develop renewable energy systems.

533 – Pumping Plant

Definition: A facility that delivers water at a designed pressure and flow rate. Includes the required pump(s), associated power unit(s), plumbing, appurtenances, and may include on-site fuel or energy source(s), and protective structures.

- Purpose:
- Delivery of water for irrigation, watering facilities, wetlands, or fire protection.
 - Removal of excessive subsurface or surface water.
 - Provide efficient use of water on irrigated land.
 - Improvement of air quality.
 - Reduce energy use.

550 - Range Planting

Definition: Establishing of adapted perennial or self-sustaining vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees.

- Purpose:
- Restore a plant community similar to the ecological site description reference state for the site or the desired plant community.
 - Provide or improve forages for livestock.
 - Provide or improve forage, browse or cover for wildlife.
 - Reduce erosion by wind and/or water.
 - Improve water quality and quantity.
 - Increase carbon sequestration.

561 – Heavy Use Area Protection

Definition: To stabilize a ground surface that is frequently and intensively used by people, animals, or vehicles.

- Purpose:
- To provide a stable, non-eroding surface for areas frequently used by animals, people or vehicles.
 - To protect and improve water quality.

600 - Terrace

Definition: An earth embankment, or a combination ridge and channel, constructed across the field slope.

- Purpose:
- Reduce erosion and trap sediment.
 - Retain runoff for moisture conservation.

614 - Watering Facility

Definition: A means of providing drinking water to livestock or wildlife.

Purpose: Provide designated access to drinking water for livestock or wildlife in order to meet daily water requirements and improve animal distribution.

642 - Water Well

Definition: A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed into an aquifer for water supply.

Purpose: Provide access to a groundwater supply suitable for livestock watering, fire control, wildlife, and other agricultural uses.

V CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Please refer to the Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and specifications book.

IV CONSERVATION PRACTICE COST-SHARE STATE AVERAGE COSTS

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
314	BRUSH MANAGEMENT				
		Mechanical 11-30% Canopy Cover		AC	\$157.13
		Mechanical 31-50% Canopy Cover		AC	\$251.40
		Mechanical >51% Canopy Cover		AC	\$404.72
		Chemical-Individual Plant Treatment Low (50-200 plants per acre)		AC	\$27.85
		Chemical-Individual Plant Treatment High (201-400 plants per acre)		AC	\$63.42
		Chemical-Broadcast, Aerial, or Ground		AC	\$40.22
		Chemical-Broadcast Tebuthiuron 1.0 lb rate		AC	\$57.85
		Chemical-Broadcast Tebuthiuron 2.0 lb rate		AC	\$92.50
315	HERBACEOUS WEED CONTROL				
		Chemical Application by any method		AC	\$38.01
		Mechanical		AC	\$23.05
338	PRESCRIBED BURNING				
		Level Terrain, Herbaceous		AC	\$11.87
		Steep Terrain, Herbaceous		AC	\$25.32
340	COVER CROP				
		Basic & Organic/Non-Organic		AC	\$62.86
		Multiple Species Organic/Non-Organic		AC	\$70.95
342	CRITICAL AREA PLANTING/VEGETATION		10 yrs		
		Native & Introduced Vegetation (normal tillage)		AC	\$268.42
		Native & Introduced Vegetation (moderate grading)		AC	\$598.95
362	DIVERSION		10 yrs		
		Diversion		CY	\$2.46
378	POND		20 yrs		
		Excavated or Embankment Pond without Pipe		CY	\$2.51
		Embankment, Pipe Material 1000 Diameter Inch Foot or Smaller		CY	\$3.18
		Embankment, Pipe Material 1001-1500 Diameter Inch Foot		CY	\$3.39
382	FENCE		20 yrs		
		Level Non-Rocky		LF	\$2.32
		Steep-Rocky		LF	\$2.99
394	FIREBREAK				
		Constructed-Slight Slopes with Light Equipment		FT	\$0.06
		Constructed-Moderate Slopes with Medium Equipment		FT	\$0.19
		Constructed-Steep Slopes with Medium Equipment		FT	\$0.69
		Vegetated, Permanent Firebreak		FT	\$0.14
		Re-Constructed Firebreaks (where prior firebreaks existed and are not useable)		FT	\$0.09

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
410	GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE		20 yrs		
	Embankment, Galvanized CMP or Plastic Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 4.0)			CY	\$2.69
	Embankment, Galvanized CMP or Plastic Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) is 4.0-2.1)			CY	\$3.04
	Embankment, Galvanized CMP or Plastic Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) is 2.0-1.4)			CY	\$3.42
	Embankment, Galvanized CMP or Plastic Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) is 1.3-1.1)			CY	\$3.65
	Embankment, Welded Steel or Aluminum Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 4.0)			CY	\$2.96
	Embankment, Welded Steel or Aluminum Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 4.0-2.1)			CY	\$3.08
	Embankment, Welded Steel or Aluminum Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 2.0-1.4)			CY	\$3.58
	Embankment, Welded Steel or Aluminum Pipe (ratio of earthwork (CY) to pipe (DIFT) > 1.3-1.1)			CY	\$3.93
	Rock Chute			CY	\$66.78
	Chute, Rock with Concrete Cutoff			CY	\$82.06
	Concrete Chute			CY	\$582.82
412	GRASSED WATERWAY		10 yrs		
	Base Waterway			AC	\$1,886.68
512	FORAGE AND BIOMASS PLANTING		10 yrs		
	Native Perennial Grass (one species)			AC	\$180.64
	Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses, Seeding			AC	\$224.98
	Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses, Sprigging			AC	\$269.32
	Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses, Seeding w/ Lime			AC	\$304.22
	Introduced Perennial Warm Season Grasses, Sprigging w/ Lime			AC	\$341.93
	Introduced Perennial Cool Season Grass, Seeding			AC	\$207.05
516	PIPELINE		20 yrs		
	.75 in – 1.25 in Plastic, Normal Trenching			LF	\$2.14
	.75 in – 1.25 in Plastic, Rock Trenching			LF	\$3.24
	1.5 in – 2 in Plastic, Normal Trenching			LF	\$2.55
	1.5 in – 2 in Plastic, Rock Trenching			LF	\$3.65
	> 2 in Plastic, Normal Trenching			LF	\$4.06
	> 2 in Plastic, Rock Trenching			LF	\$5.16
	≤ 2 in HDPE, Surface Installation			LF	\$2.18
	> 2 in HDPE, Surface Installation			LF	\$4.68
533	PUMPING PLANT		15 yrs		
	Electric Powered Pump, 2 HP or Less			HP	\$1,476.51
	Electric Powered Pump, 2 HP or Less, Pressure Tank			HP	\$1,776.11
	Electric Powered Pump, > 2 HP and ≤ 10 HP			HP	\$731.16
	Electric Powered Pump, > 10 HP and ≤ 40 HP			HP	\$466.52
	Electric Powered Pump, > 40 HP			HP	\$298.10
	Variable Frequency Drive, 40 HP or Less			HP	\$356.56

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
533	PUMPING PLANT	(continued)			
		Variable Frequency Drive, > 40 HP and ≤ 100 HP		HP	\$228.15
		Internal Combustion Powered Pump, 75 HP or Less		HP	\$698.22
		Internal Combustion Powered Pump, > 75 HP		HP	\$423.99
		PTO Pump		HP	\$126.18
		Windmill Powered Pump		FT	\$954.80
		Solar Powered Pumping Plant, 150 ft or Less (of total head on pump)		EACH	\$4,794.83
		Solar Powered Pumping Plant, 151-300 ft (of total head on pump)		EACH	\$7,465.65
550	RANGE PLANTING		10 yrs		
		Cropland to Grassland (standard seedbed prep)		AC	\$310.65
		Cropland to Grassland (heavy seedbed prep)		AC	\$333.67
		Highly Diverse Mixtures of Native Plants		AC	\$258.52
561	HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION		10 yrs		
		Aggregate, Crushed Rock or Gravel on Geotextile		SF	\$1.14
		Aggregate, Crushed Rock or Gravel in GeoCell on Geotextile		SF	\$3.85
		Aggregate, Crushed Rock or Gravel on Earthen Base		SF	\$0.88
		Other Cementitious Material, Crushed Gypsum Rock		SF	\$0.94
		Other Cementitious Material, Compacted Caliche		SF	\$0.48
		Reinforced Concrete with Sand or Gravel Foundation		SF	\$3.40
600	TERRACE		10 yrs		
		Terrace Construction		LF	\$1.28
		Terrace Reconstruction		LF	\$1.01
614	WATERING FACILITY		10 yrs		
		Freeze Proof Trough		EACH	\$1,526.78
		Energy Free Fountains		GAL	\$32.91
		Watering Facility < 1000 gallons		GAL	\$2.00
		Watering Facility 1001-1400 gallons		GAL	\$1.31
		Watering Facility 1401-2100 gallons		GAL	\$1.12
		Watering Facility 2101-3000 gallons		GAL	\$0.92
		Watering Facility 3001-5000 gallons		GAL	\$0.76
		Watering Facility > 5000 gallons		GAL	\$0.64
		Watering Ramp, Rock on Geotextile		SF	\$1.01
		Watering Ramp, Rock on Geocell on Geotextile		SF	\$3.25
642	WATER WELL		20 yrs		
		Well depths 150 feet or less		EACH	\$4,573.63
		Wells greater than 150 feet deep to 300 feet deep		EACH	\$9,093.34
		Wells greater than 300 feet deep		EACH	\$14,415.29

CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST-SHARE PROGRAM YEAR 20 ALLOCATIONS

Adair	\$22,000
Alfalfa	\$16,000
Arbuckle	\$16,000
Atoka	\$5,000
Beaver	\$22,000
Blaine	\$22,000
Bryan	\$22,000
Caney Valley	\$22,000
Central North Canadian River	\$18,000
Checotah	\$16,000
Cherokee	\$10,000
Cimarron County	\$13,000
Cleveland	\$5,000
Coal	\$16,000
Comanche	\$13,000
Cotton	\$22,000
Craig	\$22,000
Creek	\$13,000
Custer	\$13,000
Deer Creek	\$16,000
Delaware	\$13,000
Dewey	\$22,000
East Canadian	\$22,000
Ellis	\$13,000
Garfield	\$13,000
Garvin	\$16,000
Grady	\$10,000
Grant	\$22,000
Greer	\$16,000
Harmon	\$22,000
Harper	\$16,000
Haskell	\$16,000
Hughes	\$18,000
Jackson	\$16,000
Jefferson	\$22,000
Johnston	\$10,000
Kay	\$10,000
Kiamichi	\$13,000
Kingfisher	\$13,000
Kiowa	\$16,000
Konawa	\$22,000
Latimer	\$22,000

LeFlore	\$5,000
Lincoln	\$13,000
Little River	\$10,000
Logan	\$13,000
Love	\$13,000
Major	\$16,000
Marshall	\$5,000
Mayes	\$16,000
McClain	\$10,000
McIntosh	\$22,000
Murray	\$13,000
Muskogee	\$16,000
Noble	\$16,000
North Caddo	\$16,000
North Fork of Red River	\$10,000
Nowata	\$22,000
Okfuskee	\$13,000
Oklahoma	\$13,000
Okmulgee	\$13,000
Osage	\$24,500
Ottawa	\$16,000
Pawnee	\$16,000
Payne	\$22,000
Pittsburg	\$22,000
Pontotoc	\$16,000
Pushmataha	\$13,000
Rogers	\$13,000
Seminole	\$18,000
Sequoyah	\$22,000
Shawnee	\$16,000
South Caddo	\$24,500
Stephens	\$16,000
Talihina	\$22,000
Texas	\$16,000
Tillman	\$16,000
Tulsa	\$10,000
Upper Washita	\$16,000
Wagoner	\$22,000
Washita	\$16,000
West Caddo	\$22,000
Woods	\$22,000
Woodward	\$22,000

Section 2

Rules and Regulations

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155:20-1-1. Purpose

The purpose of the Conservation Cost-Share Program is to provide financial assistance through cost-share payments to land users identified as eligible for applying soil and water conservation or water quality best management practices.

155:20-1-2. Definitions

In addition to terms defined in 27 O. S. Ann. ' ' 3-1-103 and 3-3-114, the following words and terms, when used in this document, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Allocated funds" means funds budgeted through the Commission and the conservation districts for cost-share payments.

"Allocation period" means that period of time established by the Commission in which a conservation district has to obligate the allocated funds received for any program year.

"Applicant" means an eligible person who applies for a cost-share payment from a conservation district.

"Available funds" means monies budgeted, unobligated, and approved by the Commission for cost-share payments.

"Average cost" means the calculated cost, determined by averaging recent actual costs and current cost estimates, considered necessary for a participant to carry out a conservation practice or a designated component of a conservation practice. Actual cost includes labor, supplies, and other direct costs required for installation of a practice.

"Case file" means the collection of materials that is assembled and maintained for each approved application for a cost-share payment.

"Commissioners" means the five members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate that make up the governing board of the state agency known as the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

"Commission staff" or **"staff"** means employees of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

"Conservation Cost-Share Fund" means the fund created by the Oklahoma Legislature and Governor into which appropriations and other monies will be deposited for the purpose of funding activities associated with the Conservation Cost-Share Program. This fund is a continuing fund, not subject to fiscal year limitations, and shall consist of all monies received by the Commission to implement and maintain the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

"Conservation Cost-Share Program" means the assumption by the state of a proportional share of the cost of installing conservation structures, conservation practices or best management practices on land for public and environmental benefits.

"Conservation plan" means the record of decisions approved by a conservation district for applying and maintaining soil and water conservation practices on the land.

"Conservation practice" means best management practice.

"Cost" means the amount actually paid or engaged to be paid by the participant for equipment use, materials, and services for carrying out a conservation practice, identifiable component, or if the participant uses their own resources in carrying out an identifiable component, the constructed value of their own labor, equipment use, and materials.

"Cost-share payment" means a disbursement of money to a participant for

completed and certified cost-share conservation practices.

"Cost-share rate" means the percentage of the total cost of implementing an approved cost-share conservation practice that will be paid by public funds.

"Deobligated funds" means monies from a conservation district's allocated funds that have been obligated to a participant and then subsequently released.

"Designated technical representative" means a qualified technician designated by the conservation district to determine need, design and layout of proposed conservation practices, determine compliance with applicable design standards and specifications, and certify completion of practices.

"Disbursed funds" means funds released by the Commission for payment to participants for completed and certified cost-share conservation practices.

"District cooperator agreement" means a written and signed agreement between a conservation district and any person or entity who owns or controls land within the district. The agreement generally states that the district will provide the cooperator with technical assistance in developing a conservation plan for land under the cooperator's control and that the cooperator will start to implement the provisions of the plan as resources become available.

"Eligible conservation practices" means those conservation practices that have been approved by the Commission.

"Eligible person" means any landowner or land user that is not prevented by law from participating in the Program.

"FSA" means Farm Service Agency.

"Geographic Information System" means an organized collection of computer hardware, software, geographic data, and personnel designed to efficiently capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information.

"Identifiable component" means all of an eligible conservation practice, or a part thereof, that when carried out can be clearly identified as a segment in the sequence of carrying out the conservation practice.

"Land user" means any person, firm, corporation, or entity who has control over a tract or tracts of land in Oklahoma such as a landowner, operator, lessee, or tenant.

"Landowner" means any person, firm, corporation, or entity holding title to land lying within an Oklahoma conservation district.

"Legal description" means the section, township, range, and county where a cost-share conservation practice is located.

"Life span" means the period of time specified in the maintenance agreement and/or conservation plan during which the conservation practice is to be maintained and used for the intended purpose.

"Locally Led Conservation Initiative" means a program activity which will address general renewable natural resource conservation issues that are causing or have the potential to cause detrimental effects to the environment.

"Maintenance agreement" means a written agreement between the participant and a conservation district wherein the participant agrees to maintain the applied conservation practices for a period of time as established by the Commission and outlined in the applicable conservation plan.

"NRCS" means Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Obligated funds" means monies from a conservation district's allocated funds that have been committed to a participant after approval of the application by the district board..

"Participant" means an applicant whose application has been approved and funds have been obligated by the district for funding cost-share conservation practice implementation.

"Performance agreement" means a written agreement between the participant and a conservation district wherein the participant agrees to perform conservation practices for which obligated funds are being paid.

"Priority system" means a system devised by a conservation district, under guidelines of the Commission, for ranking approved conservation practices or for ranking applications for cost-share assistance. The system or systems devised will be used to facilitate the disbursement of allocated funds in line with a district's priorities.

"Priority watershed" means a watershed that has been identified by the Commission as having special properties or conditions that require a watershed management plan to address the maintenance, improvement, or re-remediation of these properties or conditions through intensive nonpoint source management. Procedures that identify a priority watershed will be consistent with other state watershed priority setting systems.

"Priority Watershed Initiative" means a program activity which will address special environmental concerns that exist within a priority watershed. Funds directed to this initiative will be used for cost-share payments to a participant who implements a conservation plan. Special cost-share rates and conservation practices may be available to participants.

"Program" means the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

"Program initiative" means one or both of the two program activities - the Locally Led Conservation Initiative and the Priority Watershed Initiative.

"Program year" means a consecutive period of time established by the Commission which will be used to identify conservation cost-share practices that have been allocated funds from the Conservation Cost-Share Fund.

"State average cost" is the arithmetic mean of the average cost of a conservation practice or a designated component of a conservation practice as submitted by the districts to the Commission. State average cost may be calculated and applied by geographic region, as determined by the Commission.

"Tracts of land" means all land owned by the applicant/participant in a single parcel or several parcels.

155:20-1-3. Responsibilities

(a) The Commissioners shall:

- (1) Identify problems affecting the state's renewable natural resources and set resource guided goals that the Conservation Cost-Share Program will address.
- (2) Establish, based on Commission staff recommendations, program year guidelines.
- (3) Designate priority watersheds and allocate funds to be used in these watersheds based on recommendations from Commission staff.

- (4) Consider the establishment of a reserve fund to address contingencies that may arise concerning the operation of the Conservation Cost-Share Program within the districts and/or the Commission.
- (b) The Commission staff shall:
- (1) Present to the Commissioners a prioritized list of problems affecting the state's renewable natural resources and recommend a set of resource guided goals in addressing these problems.
 - (2) Recommend program year guidelines to the Commissioners.
 - (3) Recommend to the Commissioners priority watersheds and the amount of funds to be allocated to each priority watershed. Input from the Nonpoint Source Working Group will be used in developing these recommendations.
 - (4) Develop, and make available to districts, guidance including a detailed list of policies, procedures, and forms necessary for the efficient administration of the program.
 - (5) Monitor, evaluate, and assess waters of the state to determine the condition of streams and rivers impacted by nonpoint source pollution and report the results of these studies to the Commission, districts, and appropriate local, state, and federal agencies.
 - (6) Assist districts in identifying and prioritizing nonpoint source problems as well as other problems impacting the state's renewable natural resources.
 - (7) Assist and give guidance to districts in selecting cost-share conservation practices that will be used to address Commission established nonpoint source problems in priority watersheds.
- (c) The conservation district shall:
- (1) Identify and prioritize problems affecting the district's renewable natural resources. If so applicable, the district may identify unique priority areas for focusing the application of conservation practices.
 - (2) Consult with Commission staff concerning the selection of cost-share conservation practices which will be used to address nonpoint source pollution problems in priority watersheds or parts of priority watersheds that exist within the district.
 - (3) Apply to the Commission for an allocation of funds to address the Priority Watershed Initiative and the Locally Led Conservation Initiative.

155:20-1-4. Administration of funds

(a) **Conservation Cost-Share Fund.** The Conservation Cost-Share Fund shall be administered according to 27 O. S. Ann. ' 3-3-115.

(b) **General.**

- (1) The Commission will, upon recommendations from Commission staff, set aside not more than 10 percent of any legislative appropriation for administration of the Conservation Cost-Share Program. This money will be used to fund personnel and operating costs, including technical assistance costs, associated with administration of the Program at both the Commission and conservation district level. In addition, a reserve fund may be maintained to meet contingencies that may arise. The remainder of the appropriation will be allocated to two main program initiatives - the Priority Watershed Initiative and the Locally Led Conservation Initiative.
- (2) Any funds allocated to districts and not obligated during the allocation period for

a given program year will be released by the district and made available for reallocation by the Commission. Additionally, any funds obligated during the allocation period but not disbursed within one year after the end of the allocation period shall be released to the Commission and made available for reallocation. The Commission will reallocate these funds and such funds will be identified as current program year funds.

(3) During any allocation period, should any funds become deobligated within the district, for whatever reason, then these funds are available for re-obligation by the district board within the respective program initiatives.

(4) Nothing in any contract or agreement executed between the district and participant shall be interpreted or construed to constitute a financial or general obligation of the state. No state revenue shall be used to guarantee or pay for any damages to property or injury to persons as a result of the provisions of any contracts or agreements.

(c) **Locally Led Conservation Initiative allocation.** The Locally Led Conservation Initiative will receive funds from the Conservation Cost-Share Fund as allocated by the Commission.

(d) **Priority Watershed Initiative allocation.** The Priority Watershed Initiative will receive funds from the Conservation Cost-Share Fund as allocated by the Commission. Funds will be allocated watershed by watershed by the Commission, based on recommendations prepared by Commission staff with input from the Nonpoint Source Working Group and other interested groups. This money will be available for cost-share conservation practices that address water quality, soil erosion, and animal waste issues in high priority watersheds.

(e) **Reserve fund.** The Commission may administer a reserve fund to be set aside and used only to meet contingencies that occur in the districts or within the Commission. Money for this fund shall come from the Conservation Cost-Share Fund as determined by the Commission.

155:20-1-5. Eligibility for Conservation Cost-Share Program

(a) **Eligible land.** The determination whether land is eligible for cost-share payments shall be pursuant to any restrictions established by the conservation district in whose jurisdiction the land is located and pursuant to 27A O. S. Ann. § 3-3-114.

(b) **Eligible purposes.** Cost-share payments shall be available only for eligible conservation practices.

(c) **Eligible conservation practices.** Conservation practices that the Commission has approved shall be eligible for cost-share payments. A complete listing of the eligible conservation practices will be identified in the Commission's program year guidelines

(d) **Requirement to file an application and conservation plan.** In order to qualify for a cost-share payment, an eligible person shall file:

(1) An application for allocated funds.

(2) A conservation plan approved by the district in which the eligible person's land is located.

Section 3
Rules / Guidelines
Summary

RULES/GUIDELINES SUMMARY

Before beginning each program year your district board should review the Conservation Cost-Share Program Rules and current Program Guidelines. The Program Rules can be found in Section 2 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook. The current Program Guidelines can be found in Section 1 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

CONDUCTING YOUR DEVELOPMENT MEETING

The district board must conduct a local Program development meeting to identify and prioritize problems affecting the district's renewable natural resources. This action must be taken once each calendar year. The Commission recommends that your development meeting be scheduled sometime between April and September each year. This can be accomplished during a regularly scheduled board meeting or in conjunction with a NRCS local work group meeting. This development meeting must be advertised locally to allow local interested parties to participate in the discussion. The meeting can be advertised through a number of different methods. Such as a notice in the paper, letter to district cooperators, article in your newsletter, or flyers distributed through town. During the discussion please keep in mind that the purpose of the Program is to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. After identifying and prioritizing problems, submit suggested practices to the Commission that will be the most beneficial to local applicants. From the suggested practices the Commission will select and approve the practices to be offered during the program year.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PARTICIPATION

The Program is a voluntary program. Conservation districts are not required to participate. Board action is required each program year to allow your district to participate in the Program. This action should be taken after your district has reviewed current Program Guidelines.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATION

On November 1, 1999 conservation district directors became eligible to participate in the Program. Individual directors should give careful consideration to public perception when making their decision to participate in the Program. Board action is required each program year to allow district board members to make application in the Program. Any board member making application must immediately remove himself from any and all discussions and votes on Program items and the guidelines below must be followed.

- Only two conservation district board members in any single conservation district shall participate in the Program in any single program year.
- Individual district board members applying cannot discuss any element of the Program including but not limited to practices, rates, average costs, selection criteria, application approval/disapprovals, cost-share payments, and extensions.
- Individual district board members applying for the Program must abstain from voting on all elements of the Program.
- Individual district board members cannot use their position as a conservation district board member to improve or elevate their individual chances of becoming a successful applicant.

A District Director Participation Form can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook. A completed copy of this form must be on file in the Commission office each program year.

AUTHORIZED DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

The district board must designate an authorized district representative each program year. This person can sign all forms. The authorized district representative must be a district board member. Board members making application in the Program cannot serve as the authorized district representative. It cannot be a district employee. Board action is required each program year to designate the authorized district representative.

DESIGNATED TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE

The district board must designate a technical representative each program year. This person will assist in developing conservation plans and determining the need for practices. The representative will also be responsible for design and layout of approved practices, determining compliance with approved standards and specifications, and certifying practice quantities and completion of practices. Board action is required each program year to designate the technical representative.

CONSERVATION PRACTICES

District boards can select only practices from the Commission's approved guidelines that will be offered locally. Board action is required each program year to approve practices for your district's practice list. The approved conservation practice list can be found in Section 1 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIAL REQUESTS

If the district board wishes to offer a practice that does not appear in the Commission's approved guidelines they must submit a special request for the Commission's consideration. All practice special requests must be in writing and contain supporting documentation. All practice special requests require approval by the Commission prior to advertising your Program locally. Approval of practice special requests will be in writing from the Commission.

COST-SHARE AVERAGE COST

The district board must establish cost-share average costs using the Commission's approved guidelines. Based on those average costs the district board must establish local cost-share average costs (unit costs) for each conservation practice that they intend to offer locally. If the component is not in the Commission's approved guidelines your district cannot cost-share on that component. The local average costs are a component of calculating the cost-share payment. Board action is required to approve the average costs from the Commission's approved guidelines.

COST-SHARE AVERAGE COST VARIANCE

An average cost variance from the Commission's approved guidelines can be requested by the district board. Board action is required to make this request. In order for a variance to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting data compiled by the district. The average cost variance must be approved by the Commission prior to approving applications. The approved Program average costs can be found in Section 1 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook. A Cost-Share Average Cost Variance Form can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

COST-SHARE RATE

The district board must establish a cost-share rate from the Commission approved guidelines. The cost-share rate must be expressed as a percentage and cannot exceed the limit set in the guidelines. The cost-share rate is a component of calculating the cost-share payment. The district board may set a different cost-share rate for each conservation practice to be offered locally.

MAXIMUM COST-SHARE PAYMENT AMOUNT

The district board must establish a maximum cost-share payment amount (the not to exceed amount) from the Commission approved guidelines. The maximum payment amount is per participant, per program year. The maximum payment amount is a component of calculating the cost-share payment. Program guidelines establish the maximum cost-share payment amount. Your district board must establish a maximum cost-share payment amount that does not exceed the guidelines established maximum.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants for the Program must be a district cooperator with a conservation plan. The district board must establish selection criteria that will be used to evaluate and approve applications. The Commission does not recommend a first come first served system. Board action is required to approve selection criteria.

APPLICATION PERIOD

The district board must establish an application period. The Commission recommends a 2-3 week application period. Your district can have multiple application periods during the allocation period for a program year. Board action is required to establish an application period. The district board must establish specific dates and places to advertise your Program locally. Any costs associated with the advertisement of your local Program can be reimbursed from your other operating funds. An example Program announcement flyer can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

TAKING APPLICATIONS

If an applicant does not have an approved conservation plan and a cooperator agreement at the time of application they should be advised that both documents will be needed before a cost-share payment can be received. Should the applicant be selected by the district board for cost-share assistance a conservation plan should be initiated. It is critical that the district and district conservationist work together to ensure that the plan be completed and approved before a cost-share claim is submitted. Instead of a total farm plan, the Commission is requiring an approved plan only on the tract of land where the practice is to be constructed.

Applicants can apply for multiple practices in the same program year and on the same application form. The participant cannot receive a combined cost-share payment amount that exceeds the district board's established maximum cost-share payment amount allowed for each participant. If it is determined that the cost-share applicant is not the owner of the land where the conservation practice is to be constructed a Consent Form must be completed and attached to the application prior to the district board evaluating the application for approval. The Consent Form is not effective until signed by both parties, the land owner and applicant. An Application and Consent Form can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

APPROVING APPLICANTS

The district board must use their established selection criteria when approving Program applicants. Approved applicants must be notified, in writing, within 10 days after district board action. Applicants should be instructed to contact the district to set up an appointment to sign a Performance Agreement, W9 Form and schedule the designated technical representative to design and layout the approved conservation practice. The Commission recommends 7-10 working days from the date of notification to allow the applicant to schedule an appointment. An example notification letter can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook. A Performance Agreement and W9 Form can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

Applicants denied for any reason must be notified, in writing, within 10 days of the district board decision. The district board must give reason(s) for the denial and advise the applicant of their right to appeal and the procedures necessary to exercise those appeal rights. The Commission suggests that the district board allow 15 days from the date of notification to receive an appeal from the unsuccessful applicant. An example notification letter for unapproved applicants can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook

If your district has more qualified applicants than funds, the district may choose to approve those applicants meeting your district's established selection criteria on the condition that funding becomes available. Performance Agreements for approved alternates must be signed and dated by both the alternate and the district on or before the allocation period ends. Work cannot begin until notified by the district that funds are available. All approved alternates must understand that there is no guarantee that funds will become available during the program year. An example notification letter for approved alternates can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

ESTABLISHING COMPLETION DATES

Your district board is required to establish a completion date for each approved participant. The completion date cannot exceed the program year ending date established in the Commission's approved guidelines. If your district chooses to use a number of days instead of a specific date for the completion date you must also establish the date that the number of days will begin. Board action is required to establish completion dates.

TIME EXTENSIONS

Your district board must establish a policy for granting completion date time extensions. All time extension requests must be in writing. All time extensions require board action. Time extensions cannot exceed the program year ending date established in the Commission's approved guidelines.

PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS

Each successful applicant is required to sign a Performance Agreement. A Performance Agreement is a written contract between the participant and conservation district wherein the participant agrees to perform conservation practices for which allocated cost-share funds are being paid. If multiple practices were approved for a single participant and those practices have different maximum cost-share payment amounts, cost-share rates, and completion dates the Performance Agreement must reflect those amounts, rates, and dates.

The Performance Agreement is not effective until signed and dated by both parties and a Form W-9 is attached. The name of the participant, conservation practice, maximum amount, cost-share rate, and completion date for each approved participant must appear in the board meeting minutes. Work cannot begin until an effective agreement is in place. An amendment to a Performance Agreement requires board action. A Performance Agreement can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

Each participant is required to sign a Maintenance Agreement. A Maintenance Agreement is a written agreement between the participant and conservation district wherein the participant agrees to maintain the approved conservation practice for the expected life span of the practice as established by the district board. If multiple practices were approved for a single participant and those practices have different life spans the participant is required to sign a separate Maintenance Agreement for each conservation practice. Completion of the Maintenance Agreement and signature of the participant are required prior to the disbursement of the cost-share payment. A Maintenance Agreement can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

APPEALS PROCESS

If an appeal is filed, the district board has 30 days in which to make a decision and notify the applicant in writing regarding the decision on the appeal. It is suggested that the district board hear an appeal at its next regularly scheduled board meeting. These appeals must be listed on the agenda and heard in open session; no appeals shall be heard or discussed in executive session. The district board needs to give the applicant an opportunity to be heard, that is, what is the reason for contesting the decision. If the district board agrees with the applicant, then the district board can reverse its earlier decision and approve the application. However, if the district board feels that its original denial of the application was justified, the district board is certainly entitled to stand by its original ruling. The district board must then notify the applicant, in writing, that the applicant can appeal the decision to the Commission.

If the applicant desires to appeal the district board's decision they must make a written appeal to the Commission within 30 days of the district board's decision. The district will need to send a copy of the case file, the criteria for selecting applicants, and the reasons for the district board's denial of the application to the Commission.

VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENTS

If a violation of a Performance or Maintenance Agreement is alleged a representative of the conservation district and/or a representative of the Commission will investigate. If a violation has occurred the conservation district shall give the participant 21 days to correct the violation. If the participant does not correct the violation the conservation district will demand repayment of the cost-share payment. The participant shall not be given more than 45 days to make repayment. The participant can contest the decision and request a formal hearing to reconsider the demand of repayment.

If a formal hearing is requested, the Commission suggests that the district board conduct a formal hearing at its next regularly scheduled board meeting. The formal hearing must be listed on the agenda and heard in open session; no formal hearing shall be heard or discussed in executive session. The district board needs to give the participant an opportunity to be heard, that is, what is the reason for contesting the decision. If the district board agrees with the participant, then the

district board can reverse its earlier decision. However, if the district board feels that its original decision is correct the district can renew the demand for repayment. The district board must then notify the participant, in writing, that he can contest the district board's decision to the Commission.

If the participant desires to contest the district board's decision they must make a written appeal to the Commission within 30 days of the district board's decision. The district will need to send a copy of the case file and the reasons for demanding repayment to the Commission.

CANCELLATION OF PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS

A Performance Agreement can be canceled in the following ways.

- By notification in writing from the participant.
- By the district board if the conservation practice is not completed as required by the Performance Agreement.
- By the district board if it is discovered that information provided by the participant is false.

The district board in a regularly scheduled board meeting must cancel a Performance Agreement. The participant must be notified in writing when a Performance Agreement has been canceled. The Performance Agreement is effectively canceled on the date of the board meeting. The name of the participant for whom the agreement was canceled must appear in the board meeting minutes.

If a Performance Agreement is canceled and funds are de-obligated during the allocation period then those funds are available for re-obligation by the district board. If a Performance Agreement is canceled and funds are de-obligated after the allocation period has ended then those funds are returned to the Commission and are no longer available to the district board for reobligation.

SUBMITTING A COST-SHARE CLAIM

When the participant submits all invoices to the district for completed practices a cost-share claim must be completed. The district will submit a claim in the district's name. Multiple completed agreements can be submitted on one claim. For each agreement listed on the claim a copy of the following back-up documentation must be submitted with the claim

1. All invoices
2. Performance Agreement
3. Certification of Completion and Acceptance
4. payment calculation sheet
5. Consent (if applicable)

All Cost-Share Program reimbursements will be made to the district by EFT. Once the district has received the cost-share funds they can make payment to the participant with a district check. A Release of Warrant Form must be completed on each payment made by the district. The Commission cannot process cost-share claims received after the program year has ended. A Certificate of Completion and Acceptance Form and Payment Calculation Sheet can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook. An example claim can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

CASE FILE

A case file must be developed for each approved applicant. The case file can be filed in the participant's conservation plan file or filed separately. Documents pertaining to unsuccessful applicants should be retained at least until the end of the program year. Documents pertaining to successful applicants should be retained for at least 3 years after the end of the program year. A Case File Checklist can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING

The district is required to maintain a report of all approved Performance Agreements. The report should include agreement number, effective date of the Performance Agreement, obligated amount, actual state cost-share payment, and unobligated amount. This form will provide a monthly financial report of the district's allocated cost-share funds.

The report should reflect cumulative amounts from the beginning of the program year to the close of the last business day of each month. A Monthly Report form can be found in Section 5 of the Cost-Share Program Handbook.

Once all effective Performance Agreements have been completed and the participants have received payment a final Monthly Report (there is not a separate form) should be sent to the Commission office. The district does not need to continue sending Monthly Reports once the final report has been reviewed by the Commission.

Districts can request an additional allocation of cost-share funds for a program year by submitting a written request to the Commission office. The request must be made prior to the end of the allocation period.

The district has one year from the end of the allocation period to disburse obligated funds. Any funds obligated during the allocation period but not disbursed within one year after the allocation period will be automatically released to the Commission.

Roles and Responsibilities

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Conservation Commission Commissioners

- Identify problems affecting state's renewable resources
- Set resource based goals to address problems
- Establish eligible cost-share conservation practices
- Establish cost-share rates for practices
- Establish state average costs for practices and components
- Adjust average costs, if necessary
- Allocate funds from the Conservation Cost-Share Fund
- Designate beginning and ending dates for Program year
- Establish the allocation period
- Redistribute unallocated funds
- Identify priority watersheds
- Establish min/max cost-share payment/participant/program year
- Determine if a reserve fund is needed
- Appoint hearing officer for appeals
- Coordinate with NRCS State Conservationist on assistance for the program annually

Conservation Commission Staff

- Prepare a list of problems affecting state's renewable natural resources
- Recommend to Commissioners goals to address problems
- Recommend to Commissioners cost-share practices
- Develop standards and specifications for conservation practices not present in NRCS field office technical guides
- Assist districts in identifying and prioritizing non-point source problems
- Assist and give guidance to districts in evaluating and selecting cost-share conservation practices
- Perform clerical, administrative and record-keeping duties
 - process claims
 - issue cost-share payments to districts
 - provide program evaluation and auditing to districts
 - receive and maintain monthly reports from districts
 - submit quarterly reports to the Commissioners
 - submit annual reports to Commissioners, Governor and Legislature
 - track accomplishments with GIS
 - give guidance to districts - policies, procedures, forms
- Develop procedures for processing errors in technical determinations
- Consult with NRCS on development of conservation practice standards and specifications
- Recommend cost-share rates and state average costs
- Recommend priority watersheds and funding
- Develop procedures for reallocation of unallocated funds
- Act on appeals
- Monitor, evaluate and assess waters of the state

- Identify and prioritize problems affecting the district's renewable natural resources
- Hold at least annually a conservation cost-share program development public meeting
 - seek input from Commission, NRCS, FSA and other interested groups or individuals
 - select conservation practices, subject to Commission approval
- Apply for an allocation of funds for the locally led conservation initiative and , if applicable, the priority watershed initiative
- Establish and maintain a list of identifiable components, cost-share rates, cost-share methods and average costs used for conservation practices
- Compile average costs and provide to Commission for determining state average costs
- Identify who the designated technical representative shall be for the district
- Announce, conduct local information and outreach activity for the conservation cost-share program
- Establish the time period for accepting applications
- Accept and process applications
- Determine eligibility of land and persons
- Establish, under Commission guidance, a system for evaluating applications and selecting participants
- Obligate allocated funds for approved applications
- Provide or arrange for the designated technical representative to assist applicants and participants
- Notify applicants of application determinations in writing
- Establish case files for participants
- Certify the completion of conservation practices
- Approve cost-share payments to participants
- Maintain control ledgers tracking cost-share funds
- Submit claims, reports and other documents in a timely manner as outlined in the handbook
- Submit monthly reports to the Commission
- Submit requests to the Commission for reallocated funds
- Release all funds not obligated by the end of the allocation period
- Act on appeals

Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office

- Coordinate with Commissioners and OCC staff on program implementation
- Execute with OCC agreements regarding technical assistance and support
- Provide costs data and associated information for development of practice lists and average cost
- Provide technical standards and specifications for conservation practices
- Coordinate quality assurance of conservation practice design and implementation.

Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office

- Provide input to local conservation district regarding natural resource needs/concerns for development of annual program
- Provide input to local conservation district regarding variance to the eligible practices, cost-share rates, and average costs
- Annually submit to conservation district their approval, the NRCS designated technician(s) meeting the criteria to provide technical services for the State Cost-Share Program
- Assist local conservation district personnel in evaluating the conservation practice need and eligibility
- Assist local conservation district and applicant in the development of a conservation plan meeting NRCS policy, procedures, and standards
- Provide design and layout, where applicable, of approved conservation practice(s) consistent with NRCS approval authorities
- Provide to local conservation district and applicant timely checkout and certification of completed conservation practices
- Formally notify local conservation district and NRCS state office of technical errors in conservation practice implementation
- Refer all program policy cost-share/payment issues to responsible local conservation district personnel
- Report information of potential fraud, waste or abuse to local conservation district and NRCS state conservationist.

Designated Technical Representative

- Have a minimum one year practical experience in planning, designing, and applying conservation practices
- Assist applicants/participants in developing conservation plans
- Design and layout approved conservation practices
- Determine compliance with standards and specifications
- Certify conservation practice quantities and completion of conservation practices

Section 4

Frequently Asked

Questions

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Does the district need to set a completion date for each signed Performance Agreement?

Answer: Yes, the Commission suggests 90-120 days.

Question: Can an extension of time be given to participants to complete construction of their approved practice?

Answer: Yes. This requires district board action and recording in district board meeting minutes. All time extensions must be requested in writing.

Question: Are conservation districts required to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program?

Answer: No. The Program is voluntary.

Question: Who can sign documents associated with the Cost-Share Program?

Answer: The authorized district representative. The authorized district representative must be a district board member. Any board member making application in the program cannot serve as the authorized district representative. It cannot be a district employee. Board action is required to designate the authorized district representative.

Question: Can an applicant apply for more than one practice in the same program year?

Answer: Yes. The applicant cannot receive a combined amount that exceeds the districts established maximum cost-share amount allowed for each participant.

Question: Can district directors participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program?

Answer: Yes. Effective November 1, 1999 conservation district directors are eligible to participate in the Program. Any board member making application must immediately remove himself from any and all discussions and votes on Program items and the following guidelines must be followed.

- Only two conservation district board members in any single conservation district shall participate in the Program in any single program year.
- Individual district board members applying cannot discuss any element of the Program including but not limited to practices, rates, average costs, selection criteria, application approval/disapprovals, cost-share payments, and extensions.
- Individual district board members applying for the Program must abstain from voting on all elements of the Program.
- Individual district board members cannot use their position as a conservation district board member to improve or elevate their individual chances of becoming a successful applicant.

Question: When is the monthly report due in the Commission office?

Answer: The 5th of each month.

Question: What cost-share related actions does the district board need to take action on in a district board meeting?

Answer: Making and recording in the board meeting minutes the decision to:

- Schedule and conduct a locally led meeting.
- Participate in the current program year.
- Send suggested conservation practices to OCC.
- Are local board members allowed to make application in the Program?
- Designate the authorized district representative.
- Designate the technical representative.
- Request a conservation practice special request, in writing, from the OCC.
- Select local program year conservation practices from the OCC approved Program year guidelines.
- Set local cost-share average costs for selected practices from the OCC approved program year guidelines.
- Set cost-share rate from the OCC approved program year guidelines.
- Setting minimum and maximum cost-share payment amount from the OCC approved program year guidelines.
- Request a cost-share average cost variance, in writing, from the OCC.
- Establishing specific eligibility and selection criteria/priority system that will be used by the district to select successful applicants.
- Set the application period.
- Select the specific dates and places your district will advertise the program locally.
- Selecting successful applications using the eligibility and selection criteria/priority system approved by the district board.
- Establish a completion date for each performance agreement.
- Establish a cost-share rate for each performance agreement.
- Establish a maximum cost-share payment for each performance agreement.
- Establish a policy for amending a performance agreement.
- Establish an appeals process policy. Review and act on appeals filed.
- Establish a policy for cancellation of performance agreements.

Question: Can district employees participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program?

Answer: No. By Oklahoma Conservation Commission policy Conservation Commissioners, Conservation Commission staff, conservation district employees or the spouses of any of these people shall not be eligible to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program?

Question: Can the district board request additional cost-share funds, which exceed their initial allocation?

Answer: Yes. The request must be in writing and must be made prior to the end of the allocation period. Additional cost-share funds will be given according to a process established by the Commission only if funds are available.

Question: When is the performance agreement effective?

Answer: On the date of the last signature.

Question: What documentation must be attached to the district's cost-share claim?

Answer: For each agreement listed on the claim the following back-up documentation must be attached:

- Invoices (contractor or in-kind from participant) **must** contain the following information: vendor name, date of purchase, purchaser's name (the purchaser should be the cost-share participant), and materials or services purchased
- Certification of Completion
- copy of participant's Performance Agreement
- calculation sheet that indicates how the cost-share payment was calculated

Question: Are applicants required to have an email address?

Answer: No.

Question: Can an applicant start work prior to an effective performance agreement being in place?

Answer: No

Question: When can a performance agreement be canceled?

Answer: A Performance Agreement can be canceled in the following ways.

- By notification in writing from the participant with board action following.
- By the district board if the conservation practice is not completed as required by the Performance Agreement.
- By the district board if it is discovered that information provided by the participant in the application and/or Performance Agreement is false.

Question: What needs to be in the case file?

Answer: The following items should be in each participant's case file.

- approved application for allocated funds
- copy of estimated cost sheet
- a reference to the approved conservation plan
- performance agreement
- amendments to performance agreement
- maintenance agreement
- amendments to maintenance agreement
- certifications of conservation practice quantities and cost
- vouchers, bills, or receipts
- copies of any approved cost-share payment claims
- any receipts of payment
- consent form (if applicable)
- release of warrant
- any correspondence to and from the participant (successful applicant letter, cancellation letter, payment transmittal letter, etc.)
- any notes of relevant conversations with the participant (phone calls made to remind them of upcoming completion date, scheduling site visits with technical representative, etc.)

Question: Can monthly reports be faxed or emailed to the Commission?

Answer: Yes

Question: Can districts sell grass seed to a cost-share participant to be used on an approved practice?

Answer: Yes. As long as the participant has a choice of where he purchases his grass seed. Purchasing the grass seed from the district cannot be a condition for getting approved for cost-share.

Question: Are associate directors eligible to participate in the cost-share program?

Answer: Yes, however the district board does have the option of making associate directors in their district ineligible.

Question: Can a participant use in-kind contributions as part of his share of the cost of constructing a practice?

Answer: Yes. Documentation is required with the claim. Statements of in-kind service and materials for cost-share work **must** contain the following information:

- date of purchase (under no circumstances should dates be altered)
- purchaser's name (**The purchaser must be the cost-share participant.**)
- materials or services purchased

Question: By what date must the district obligate all cost-share funds?

Answer: All district cost-share funds must be allocated by the end of the allocation period set forth in the guidance provide by the Commission.

Question: What are the eligibility requirements to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program?

Answer: The following are the eligibility requirements as stated in the Rules

- Be a district cooperator.
- Provide a social security number or federal employee identification number.
- Have an approved conservation plan.

Question: Can the district establish additional eligibility requirements to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program in their district?

Answer: Yes

Question: How long do we retain case files?

Answer: Unsuccessful applicant files should be retained until the end of the program year. Successful applicant case files should be retained for 3 years after the end of the program year.

Question: Do I need to send every cost share participant I paid with a district check a 1099-MISC form?

Answer: You are only required to prepare a 1099-MISC form for cost share participants that your district paid \$600 or more during the calendar year.

Question: When are the 1099-MISC forms due to the recipient?

Answer: 1099-MISC forms are due to the recipient by January 31st each year.

Question: When are the 1096 forms due to the IRS?

Answer: 1096 forms are due to the IRS by February 28th each year.

Section 5

Forms

Example Correspondence

Checklists

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
DIRECTOR PARTICIPATION**

The _____ Conservation District voted at their
_____, 20____ board meeting to

- Allow
- Not Allow

board members to apply for Cost-Share Program Year _____. District board member(s) that will be making application are

1. _____
2. _____

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
DIRECTOR PARTICIPATION**

The Happy County Conservation District voted at their
April 9, 2019 board meeting to

- Allow
- Not Allow

board members to apply for Cost-Share Program Year 20. District board member(s) that will be making application are

1. Brenda Brown
2. _____

DIRECTOR PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTION SHEET

Each conservation district participating in the Conservation Cost-Share Program must complete the Director Participation form each program year. A copy of your district's completed form is required to be on file in the Conservation Commission office.

1. Enter the conservation district name.
2. Enter the date of the district board meeting in which board action was taken.
3. Check the appropriate box. Did your district board allow or not allow local conservation district board members to make application in the current program year?
4. Enter the program year number.
5. Enter the names of individual board members that will be making application in the current program year.

Board members that do not list their name on this form are not allowed to make application in the current program year.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM COST-SHARE APPLICATION

Conservation District	
-----------------------	--

Name			
Address	City	State	Zip
Phone Number	Email		
I am a United States citizen. OR I am a qualified alien under federal Immigration and Naturalization Act, and I am lawfully present in the United States.			
Do you have an approved conservation plan?	Yes	No	
Do you have a district cooperator agreement?	Yes	No	
For which conservation practice(s) are you applying?			
County where practice(s) will be constructed.	Legal description where practice(s) will be constructed.		
Do you own or rent this land? Own Rent			
If you are <u>not</u> the landowner, provide a properly executed consent form from the owner(s) of the land and file it with this application.			

I understand this application does not obligate the applicant or the Conservation District to enter into a contract. I am not an Oklahoma Conservation Commission commissioner or employee, conservation district employee or the spouse of any of these people mentioned above. To the best of my knowledge, the information on this application is correct.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Failure to provide correct, complete information will result in the withholding or withdrawal of financial assistance.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Verification of Cooperator Agreement	Verification of Conservation Plan
FSA Farm Number	FSA Tract Number
Date Reviewed by Conservation District Board	

STATE OF OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM COST-SHARE APPLICATION

Conservation District	
-----------------------	--

Name			
Address	City	State	Zip
Phone Number	Email		
I am a United States citizen. OR I am a qualified alien under federal Immigration and Naturalization Act, and I am lawfully present in the United States.			
Do you have an approved conservation plan?	Yes	No	
Do you have a district cooperator agreement?	Yes	No	
For which conservation practice(s) are you applying?			
County where practice(s) will be constructed.	Legal description where practice(s) will be constructed.		
Do you own or rent this land? Own Rent			
If you are <u>not</u> the landowner, provide a properly executed consent form from the owner(s) of the land and file it with this application.			

I understand this application does not obligate the applicant or the Conservation District to enter into a contract. I am not an Oklahoma Conservation Commission commissioner or employee, conservation district employee or the spouse of any of these people mentioned above. I own or operate 20 acres or more and sell \$1,000 or more of soil dependent products annually. To the best of my knowledge, the information on this application is correct.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Failure to provide correct, complete information will result in the withholding or withdrawal of financial assistance.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Verification of Cooperator Agreement	Verification of Conservation Plan
FSA Farm Number	FSA Tract Number
Date Reviewed by Conservation District Board	

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
COST-SHARE APPLICATION**

Conservation District	Happy County		
Name Joy Gladman			
Address 123 Main	City Happy Valley	State OK	Zip 77889
Phone Number 999-888-8888	Email gladman@gmail.com		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I am a United States citizen. OR <input type="checkbox"/> I am a qualified alien under federal Immigration and Naturalization Act, and I am lawfully present in the United States.			
Do you have an approved conservation plan?		Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Do you have a district cooperator agreement?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No
For which conservation practice(s) are you applying?			
Brush Control			
County where practice(s) will be constructed.		Legal description where practice(s) will be constructed.	
Happy		Section 2 T 3 R 4	
Do you own or rent this land?		Own	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rent
If you are <u>not</u> the landowner, provide a properly executed consent form from the owner(s) of the land and file it with this application.			

I understand this application does not obligate the applicant or the Conservation District to enter into a contract. I am not an Oklahoma Conservation Commission commissioner or employee, conservation district employee or the spouse of any of these people mentioned above. To the best of my knowledge, the information on this application is correct.

Applicant Signature Joy Gladman Date 4/15/19

Failure to provide correct, complete information will result in the withholding or withdrawal of financial assistance.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Verification of Cooperator Agreement	Verification of Conservation Plan
FSA Farm Number	FSA Tract Number
Date Reviewed by Conservation District Board	

APPLICATION INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Application must be completed by anyone wanting to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

1. Enter the conservation district name.
2. Enter the applicant's legal name.
3. Enter the applicant's mailing address.
4. Enter the applicant's city.
5. Enter the applicant's state.
6. Enter the applicant's zipcode.
7. Enter the applicant's phone number and/or cell number.
8. Enter the applicant's e-mail address.
9. Is the applicant a United States citizen or qualified alien? Circle appropriate answer.
10. Does the applicant have an active conservation plan? Yes or no answer.
11. Does the applicant have an active cooperator agreement? Yes or no answer.
12. Enter the conservation practice(s) name. The practice must be on the district's approved list.
13. Enter the county where the land is located.
14. Enter the legal description where the conservation practice(s) will be constructed.
15. Does the applicant own or rent? Choose one. If the applicant is not the owner of the land a properly executed Consent form must be attached to the application prior to your district board's consideration.
16. Applicant's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
17. Enter the date signed by the applicant.

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
CONSENT**

Owner's Name			
Owner's Address	City	State	Zip
Owner's Phone Number	Owner's Email		
Legal description where the practice(s) is to be constructed.			
Applicant's Name			

I, owner of the property listed above, do hereby grant the property renter the right to enter into the Conservation Cost-Share Program for _____ conservation practice(s).

- I, the owner, agree to pay the difference not covered by the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

- The renter agrees to pay the difference not covered by the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

Land Owner

Applicant

Date

Date

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
CONSENT**

Owner's Name Fred Poppy			
Owner's Address PO Box 222	City Happy Valley	State OK	Zip 77889
Owner's Phone Number 999-222-3333	Owner's Email fpoppy@gmail.com		
Legal description where the practice(s) is to be constructed. S2 T3 R4			
Applicant's Name Joy Gladman			

I, owner of the property listed above, do hereby grant the property renter the right to enter into the Conservation Cost-Share Program for **Brush Control** conservation practice(s).

- I, the owner, agree to pay the difference not covered by the Conservation Cost-Share Program.
- The renter agrees to pay the difference not covered by the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

Fred Poppy

Land Owner

4/15/19

Date

Joy Gladman

Applicant

4/15/19

Date

CONSENT INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Consent will ensure that the applicant, if not the owner of the land on which the conservation practice(s) is to be constructed, is authorized to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

The Consent form is only required if the applicant is not the owner of the land. It is not required for applicants that own the land where the practice is to be constructed.

The Consent becomes effective when both parties have signed and dated it. The Consent must be effective prior to your district board considering the application for approval.

1. Enter the landowner's name.
2. Enter the landowner's mailing address.
3. Enter the landowner's city.
4. Enter the landowner's state.
5. Enter the landowner's zipcode.
6. Enter the landowner's telephone number or cell phone number
7. Enter the landowner's e-mail address.
8. Enter the legal description of the land where the conservation practice(s) will be constructed.
9. Enter the applicant's name.
10. Enter the conservation practice(s) name the applicant is applying for cost-share assistance on.
11. Check one. Who will be responsible for expenses not covered by cost-share funds? The landowner or renter.
12. Landowner's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
13. Enter the date signed by the landowner.
14. Applicant's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
15. Enter the date signed by the applicant.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

This agreement _____, made and entered into by and between the _____ Conservation District, hereinafter referred to as District, and _____ hereinafter referred to as participant.

Part I – Conservation Practice(s) To Be Completed

_____ is the conservation practice(s) to be constructed as set forth in the participant’s Conservation Plan.

Part II – Stipulations

A. The participant agrees:

1. To perform or have performed all work described in the Conservation Plan in accordance with conservation practice standards and specifications furnished by the District or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
2. To submit to the District a detailed, itemized statement of costs and copies of contractor’s invoices when conservation practice(s) are constructed by a contractor.
3. To submit to the District detailed invoices for participant in-kind contributions.
4. To complete or have completed all work described in the Conservation Plan on or before _____.
5. To obtain required permits and approvals prior to the construction of the conservation practice(s).
6. To permit free access to the participant’s land for District and NRCS representatives to inspect the conservation practice(s) upon completion.
7. To maintain the conservation practice(s) as outlined in the cost-share Maintenance Agreement for the specified life of the conservation practice(s) at no cost to the District.
8. To accept the District’s method of calculating the cost-share payment for completed work.
9. To complete and attach an IRS W-9 Form-Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification.

B. The District agrees:

1. To provide assistance to the participant to develop a new or revised Conservation Plan that reflects the conservation practice(s) outlined in Part I.
2. To provide specifications and technical assistance for work described in Part I.
3. To provide and pay a cost-share rate of _____ or the lesser of the established District average cost or actual cost to construct the conservation practice(s). Cost-share reimbursement will not exceed _____.
4. To accept in-kind contributions from the participant for work performed by the participant on approved cost-share conservation practice(s) constructed.

Part III – Signatures

This agreement shall be effective from the last date of signature below. Work can not begin until an effective agreement is signed and dated by the participant and the conservation district.

PARTICIPANT:

CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Participant Signature

Authorized District Representative Signature

Date

Date Approved by the Board of Directors

Completed W-9 Form Attached

STATE OF OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

This agreement 9 9 - 0 2 0 - 0 0 1, made and entered into by and between the
Happy County Conservation District, hereinafter referred to as District, and
Joy Gladman hereinafter referred to as participant.

Part I – Conservation Practice(s) To Be Completed

Brush Control is the conservation practice(s) to be constructed as set forth in the participant’s Conservation Plan.

Part II – Stipulations

A. The participant agrees:

1. To perform or have performed all work described in the Conservation Plan in accordance with conservation practice standards and specifications furnished by the District or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
2. To submit to the District a detailed, itemized statement of costs and copies of contractor’s invoices when conservation practice(s) are constructed by a contractor.
3. To submit to the District detailed invoices for participant in-kind contributions.
4. To complete or have completed all work described in the Conservation Plan on or before 9/30/19.
5. To obtain required permits and approvals prior to the construction of the conservation practice(s).
6. To permit free access to the participant’s land for District and NRCS representatives to inspect the conservation practice(s) upon completion.
7. To maintain the conservation practice(s) as outlined in the cost-share Maintenance Agreement for the specified life of the conservation practice(s) at no cost to the District.
8. To accept the District’s method of calculating the cost-share payment for completed work.
9. To complete and attach an IRS W-9 Form-Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification.

B. The District agrees:

1. To provide assistance to the participant to develop a new or revised Conservation Plan that reflects the conservation practice(s) outlined in Part I.
2. To provide specifications and technical assistance for work described in Part I.
3. To provide and pay a cost-share rate of 75% or the lesser of the established District average cost or actual cost to construct the conservation practice(s). Cost-share reimbursement will not exceed \$2,500.
4. To accept in-kind contributions from the participant for work performed by the participant on approved cost-share conservation practice(s) constructed.

Part III – Signatures

This agreement shall be effective from the last date of signature below. Work can not begin until an effective agreement is signed and dated by the participant and the conservation district.

PARTICIPANT:

CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

Joy Gladman
Participant Signature

Tom Green
Authorized District Representative Signature

5/5/19
Date

5/3/19
Date Approved by the Board of Directors

Completed W-9 Form Attached

PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Performance Agreement is a written contract between the participant and conservation district wherein the participant agrees to construct conservation practices for which obligated funds are being paid. Funds become obligated when the Performance Agreement has been signed and dated by both parties.

It is the district's responsibility to review the Performance Agreement with the participant and answer any questions they may have. Be able to explain to the participant the district's method of calculating cost-share payments. Point out the date that the participant has to complete the construction of the practice(s). Explain to the participant that they will receive a 1099 form for payments received under the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

The Performance Agreement is effective from the last date of signature. Work cannot begin until an effective agreement is signed and dated by the participant and the conservation district.

1. Assign a Performance Agreement number. This is an eight digit number.
The first 2 digits are the conservation district number.
The next 3 digits are the program year number. This number is assigned by the Commission.
The last 3 digits identify individual participants and are assigned by the district.
2. Enter the conservation district name.
3. Enter the participant name.
4. Enter the conservation practice(s) name approved for this participant.
5. Enter the established completion date to construct the conservation practice(s) the participant has been approved for by your district. The completion date cannot exceed the program year ending date established in the Commission approved program year guidelines. The established completion date is determined by the district board and requires board action.
6. Enter the cost-share rate. Cost-share rate is the percentage of the total cost of constructing an approved cost-share conservation practice that will be paid by public funds. The percentage approved for each conservation practice cannot exceed the percentage established in the Commission approved program year guidelines. This percentage is determined by the district board and requires board action.
7. Enter the maximum cost-share payment amount that the district board has authorized for each participant. The amount cannot exceed the range established in the Commission approved program year guidelines. This amount is determined by the district board and requires board action.
8. Participant's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
9. Enter the date signed by the participant.
10. A W-9 form must be attached to the Performance Agreement. Check the box indicating a W-9 form is attached. The participant will receive a 1099 form for payments received under this Program. Any payments received under the Conservation Cost-Share Program are considered income to the recipient.
11. Authorized district representative signature. The authorized district representative must be a district director. District directors making application in the program cannot serve as the authorized district representative. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
12. Enter the date signed by the authorized district representative.

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
 CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
 WAIVER REQUEST FOR APPROVED ALTERNATES
 TO START PRACTICE PRIOR TO FUNDING APPROVAL**

Participant Name	
Performance Agreement Number	

I applied for funding and have been approved as an alternate under the Conservation Cost-Share Program in _____ Conservation District. I am requesting a waiver to begin work on the following practice(s) prior to being notified funding is available:

The reason for my waiver request is (describe in detail):

I understand that funding is not currently available for my Performance Agreement, and that I am starting this project at my own risk, regardless of the outcome of this waiver request. I understand that even if the waiver is granted I may be ineligible to receive payment if any of the following occurs:

- Practices are started prior to the granting of this waiver.
- Practices do not meet NRCS standard and specifications.
- Practices are started without an NRCS approved design.
- Practices are started without Conservation Plan.

I also understand that, if granted, this waiver will expire on _____.

Participant Signature

Date

WAIVER APPROVED WAIVER DENIED

Reason for Denial: _____

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
 CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
 WAIVER REQUEST FOR APPROVED ALTERNATES
 TO START PRACTICE PRIOR TO FUNDING APPROVAL**

Participant Name	Sue Jolly
Performance Agreement Number	99-020-003

I applied for funding and have been approved as an alternate under the Conservation Cost-Share Program in Happy County Conservation District. I am requesting a waiver to begin work on the following practice(s) prior to being notified funding is available:

Pasture Planting

The reason for my waiver request is (describe in detail):

If I'm able to start planting I will be able to meet the requirements of the NRCS specification and will not have to delay planting until next year.

I understand that funding is not currently available for my Performance Agreement, and that I am starting this project at my own risk, regardless of the outcome of this waiver request. I understand that even if the waiver is granted I may be ineligible to receive payment if any of the following occurs:

- Practices are started prior to the granting of this waiver.
- Practices do not meet NRCS standard and specifications.
- Practices are started without an NRCS approved design.
- Practices are started without Conservation Plan.

I also understand that, if granted, this waiver will expire on May 30, 2019.

Sue Jolly
Participant Signature

4/15/19
Date

WAIVER APPROVED WAIVER DENIED

Reason for Denial: _____

WAIVER INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Waiver must be completed by an approved alternate requesting to start practice construction prior to funding becoming available. Conservation Cost-Share Program.

1. Enter the participant's name.
2. Enter the participant's agreement number.
3. Enter the conservation district's name.
4. Enter the practice name.
5. Enter the participant's reason for the waiver request.
6. Enter the waiver expiration date.
7. Participant's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
8. Enter the date signed by the participant.
9. Did the board approve the request? Choose one.
10. If the board denied the waiver request, provide a reason for the denial.

Agreement No.: _____ - _____ - _____

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

It is hereby recognized and agreed that the construction of _____
_____ conservation practice(s) will be maintained as designed and
constructed for a minimum of _____ years. The undersigned participant hereby assumes
all responsibility for maintenance of the treated areas in a manner which will serve the intended
purpose of the conservation practice(s). The participant will protect the constructed conservation
practice from damage and make minor repairs as necessary. Should the participant choose to
remove or destroy the conservation practice before the end of its life span, the participant will be
expected to repay a prorated amount of the cost-share back to the conservation district.

Destruction of a conservation practice(s) by an act of nature is exempt from this provision. The
participant also agrees to permit free access to the participants land for District and NRCS
representatives to inspect maintenance of the conservation practice(s) for the life span of the
conservation practice(s). The _____ Conservation
District agrees to make available the needed technical assistance to assist the participant in
making sound maintenance decisions.

Participant Signature

Date

Agreement No.: 9 9 - 0 2 0 - 0 0 1

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

It is hereby recognized and agreed that the construction of Brush Management
_____ conservation practice(s) will be maintained as designed and
constructed for a minimum of 10 years. The undersigned participant hereby assumes
all responsibility for maintenance of the treated areas in a manner which will serve the intended
purpose of the conservation practice(s). The participant will protect the constructed conservation
practice from damage and make minor repairs as necessary. Should the participant choose to
remove or destroy the conservation practice before the end of its life span, the participant will be
expected to repay a prorated amount of the cost-share back to the conservation district.
Destruction of a conservation practice(s) by an act of nature is exempt from this provision. The
participant also agrees to permit free access to the participants land for District and NRCS
representatives to inspect maintenance of the conservation practice(s) for the life span of the
conservation practice(s). The Happy County _____ Conservation
District agrees to make available the needed technical assistance to assist the participant in
making sound maintenance decisions.

Joy Gladman
Participant Signature

7/5/19
Date

MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Maintenance Agreement is a written agreement between the participant and conservation district wherein the participant agrees to maintain the constructed conservation practices for a period of time established by the conservation district and outlined in the applicable conservation plan.

The numbers below correspond to numbers appearing on the completed example Maintenance Agreement.

1. Enter the participant's Performance Agreement number.
2. Enter the name of conservation practice(s) to be maintained.
3. Enter the number of years the conservation practice(s) will be maintained.
4. Enter the conservation district name.
5. Participant's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
6. Enter the date signed by the participant.

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AND ACCEPTANCE**

Conservation District			
Performance Agreement Number			
	Practice 1	Practice 2	Practice 3
Conservation Practice Name and Number			
Performance Agreement Effective Date (last date of signature)			
Established Completion Date (Part II A. 4. on Performance Agreement)			
Completion Date			
Legal Description			

I CERTIFY: That the participant has submitted evidence that all labor, materials, and other charges have been paid in accordance with the terms of the Performance Agreement; and that all records and documents required by the Conservation District have been submitted. Based upon this information, the Performance Agreement is hereby accepted as completed.

Authorized District Representative Signature

Date

I CERTIFY: That the conservation practice(s) has been satisfactorily completed in accordance with the applicable NRCS conservation practice standards and specifications as described in the Performance Agreement.

Designated Technical Representative Signature

Date

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AND ACCEPTANCE**

Conservation District	Happy County		
Performance Agreement Number	99-020-001		
	Practice 1	Practice 2	Practice 3
Conservation Practice Name and Number	Brush management 314		
Performance Agreement Effective Date (last date of signature)	5/5/19		
Established Completion Date (Part II A. 4. on Performance Agreement)	9/30/19		
Completion Date	7/15/19		
Legal Description	S2 T3 R4		

I CERTIFY: That the participant has submitted evidence that all labor, materials, and other charges have been paid in accordance with the terms of the Performance Agreement; and that all records and documents required by the Conservation District have been submitted. Based upon this information, the Performance Agreement is hereby accepted as completed.

Todd White

Authorized District Representative Signature

7/19/19

Date

I CERTIFY: That the conservation practice(s) has been satisfactorily completed in accordance with the applicable NRCS conservation practice standards and specifications as described in the Performance Agreement.

Pete Cotton

Designated Technical Representative Signature

7/19/19

Date

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AND ACCEPTANCE INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Certificate of Completion and Acceptance will ensure that the participant has completed construction of the conservation practice(s) in accordance with the Performance Agreement.

This form must accompany the participant's claim for cost-share payment.

The numbers below correspond to numbers appearing on the completed example Certificate of Completion and Acceptance.

1. Enter the conservation district name.
2. Enter the participant's Performance Agreement number.
3. Enter the conservation practice name and number.
4. Enter the effective date of the Performance Agreement. This is the last date of signature.
5. Enter the established completion date to construct the conservation practice(s). This date must be the same as Part II A 4 of the Performance Agreement. This date should include all approved completion date time extensions.
6. Enter the date construction of the conservation practice(s) was completed.
7. Enter the legal description of the land where the conservation practice(s) was constructed.
8. Authorized district representative's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable
9. Enter the date signed by the authorized district representative.
10. Designated technical representative's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
11. Enter the date signed by the designated technical representative.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION

Participant Name	<i>Joy Gladman</i>
Performance Agreement Number	<i>99-020-001</i>

To the best of my knowledge the goods and/or services listed below were provided to complete the construction of conservation practice(s) listed in my Performance Agreement.

Date of Service / Goods Used	Total Hours / Units	Service Performed / Goods Provided	Value of Service / Goods
<i>7/2/19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>cut cedar trees</i>	<i>\$3,500</i>
TOTAL			<i>\$3,500</i>

Joy Gladman
Participant Signature

7/15/19
Date

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION INSTRUCTION SHEET

The In-Kind Contribution form should be completed by a participant that performed all or a portion of the practice construction himself.

1. Enter the participant's name.
2. Enter the participant's agreement number.
3. Enter the date of service or goods used.
4. Enter the total hours or units.
5. Enter the services performed or good provided.
6. Enter the value of those services or goods.
7. Participant's signature. Stamped signatures are unacceptable.
8. Enter the date signed by the participant.

COST-SHARE PAYMENT CALCULATION SHEET

Conservation District						
Participant's Name & Agreement #						
Conservation Practice						
1 Conservation practice units completed						
2 Average cost (unit cost)						
3 Cost-share rate (percentage)						
4 Calculated total (line 1 x line 2 x line 3)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5 Maximum cost-share payment amount (Refer to Part II B 3 of the Performance Agreement)						
6 Actual total cost of installing the conservation practice (total of all invoices and in-kind statements)						
7 Cost-share rate (percentage)						
8 Calculated total (line 6 x line 7)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF COST-SHARE PAYMENT (lesser of line 4, 5, or 8)						

COST-SHARE PAYMENT CALCULATION SHEET

Conservation District		HAPPY COUNTY				
Participant's Name & Agreement #		JOY GLADMAN 99-020-001				
Conservation Practice		BRUSH MANAGEMENT				
1	Conservation practice units completed	10.00				
2	Average cost (unit cost)	\$251.40				
3	Cost-share rate (percentage)	75%				
4	Calculated total (line 1 x line 2 x line 3)	\$1,885.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Maximum cost-share payment amount (Refer to Part II B 3 of the Performance Agreement)	\$2,500.00				
6	Actual total cost of installing the conservation practice (total of all invoices and in-kind statements)	\$3,500.00				
7	Cost-share rate (percentage)	75%				
8	Calculated total (line 6 x line 7)	\$2,625.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF COST-SHARE PAYMENT (lesser of line 4, 5, or 8)		\$2,500.00				

COST-SHARE PAYMENT CALCULATION SHEET INSTRUCTION SHEET

The Cost-Share Payment Calculation Sheet should be used to calculate amount of the cost-share payment to each participant. This form must accompany the participant's claim for cost-share payment. Each component of each practice must be calculated separately. When determining the appropriate cost-share amount to pay you must consider 3 different amounts. They are:

- 1) the calculated total (district average cost calculation) – line 4 on the calculation sheet
- 2) maximum cost-share payment amount – line 5 on the calculation sheet
- 3) the calculated total (actual cost calculation) – line 8 on the calculation sheet

After calculating these 3 amounts the cost-share payment will be the lesser of the three amounts. Refer to Part II B 3 of the Performance Agreement.

1. Enter the conservation district name.
2. Enter the participant's Performance Agreement number.
3. Enter the conservation practice number. A calculation must be completed for each practice.
4. Enter the conservation practice units completed. For example: the number of cubic yards or number of acres.
5. Enter the average cost for completing the conservation practice component. Refer to Section IV of the State Guidelines for the Conservation Cost-Share Program.
6. Enter the established district cost-share rate. Refer to Part II B 3 of the Performance Agreement.
7. Line 4 - Calculate this amount by **multiplying** the practice units completed, average cost, and cost-share rate.
8. Line 5 - Enter the maximum cost-share payment amount. Refer to Part II B 3 of the Performance Agreement.
9. Enter the actual total cost of constructing the conservation practice component. This amount will be the total of all invoices submitted by the participant for each component. This amount must be calculated by component.
10. Enter the established district cost-share rate. Refer to Part II B 3 of the Performance Agreement.
11. Line 8 - Calculate this amount by **multiplying** the actual total cost of constructing the conservation practice and cost-share rate.
12. Enter the **lesser amount of lines 4, 5, or 8** on the calculation sheet. This will be the amount of cost-share payment to the participant. If you have multiple columns take the lesser amount for each column.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Notarized Claim Voucher
And
Disbursement of Payroll Withholdings

CLAIM OF:			
ALT. NAME:			
Vend I.D.: _____ LOC.: _____			
ASSIGNMENT SECTION			
ASSIGNEE: _____			
Vend I.D.: _____ LOC.: _____			
Agency, Board, Comm., Dept.: _____			

OMES - AUDITED BY: _____

FOR AGENCY USE:

I hereby assign this claim to the above assignee and authorize the State Treasurer to issue a warrant in payment to said assignee. _____ Claimant _____ Date

ORDER NO.	AMOUNT	OBJECT ACCOUNT	OBJECT SUB-ACCT	FUNDING CLASS	ACT/SUB DEPT	BUDGET REF YR	CFDA CHARTFIELD	PROGRAM	PROJECT	OPER UNIT	RESERVED	RESERVED
TOTAL												

DATE	ITEM	QUANTITY	ARTICLE	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT CLAIMED	OBJECT ACCOUNT

THE SECTION BELOW IS NOT REQUIRED FOR WITHHOLDING PAYMENTS-EXCEPT FOR WITHHOLDING REFUNDS TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED \$ _____

The undersigned contractor, vendor, individual, or duly sworn agent, of lawful age, upon oath says that this claim is true and correct. Affiant further states that the work, services, or materials as shown by this claim have been completed or supplied in accordance with the plans, specifications, orders, requests, and all other terms of the contract. Affiant also states that any refunds represented by this payment are due. (NOTE: Claimant signature only for payroll withholding refunds.)

I hereby approve this claim for payment and certify it complies with the purchasing laws of this State. And as appropriate, with the payroll withholding rules and regulations of this State.

Claimant

State of _____ County of _____

Subscribed and sworn before me _____

Notary Public (or Clerk or Judge)

My Commission expires _____

Agency's Approving Officer

Title _____ Date _____

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Notarized Claim Voucher
And
Disbursement of Payroll Withholdings

CLAIM OF: **Happy County Conservation District**
ALT. NAME:
Vend I.D.: _____ LOC.: _____

\$2,500.00			
TOTAL CLAIM AMOUNT	AGENCY BUSINESS UNIT	CLAIM VOUCHER NO.	WARRANT NO.
Agency, Board, Comm., Dept.:			

OMES - AUDITED BY: _____

FOR AGENCY USE:

ASSIGNMENT SECTION
ASSIGNEE: _____
Vend I.D.: _____ LOC.: _____
I hereby assign this claim to the above assignee and authorize the State Treasurer to issue a warrant in payment to said assignee.
Claimant _____ Date _____

ORDER NO.	AMOUNT	OBJECT ACCOUNT	OBJECT SUB-ACCT	FUNDING CLASS	ACT/SUB DEPT	BUDGET REF YR	CFDA CHARTFIELD	PROGRAM	PROJECT	OPER UNIT	RESERVED	RESERVED
TOTAL												

DATE	ITEM	QUANTITY	ARTICLE	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT CLAIMED	OBJECT ACCOUNT
7/20/2019			CSP agreement 99-020-001		2,500.00	

THE SECTION BELOW IS NOT REQUIRED FOR WITHHOLDING PAYMENTS-EXCEPT FOR WITHHOLDING REFUNDS

TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED	2,500.00
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The undersigned contractor, vendor, individual, or duly sworn agent, of lawful age, upon oath says that this claim is true and correct. Affiant further states that the work, services, or materials as shown by this claim have been completed or supplied in accordance with the plans, specifications, orders, requests, and all other terms of the contract. Affiant also states that any refunds represented by this payment are due. (NOTE: Claimant signature only for payroll withholding refunds.)

I hereby approve this claim for payment and certify it complies with the purchasing laws of this State. And as appropriate, with the payroll withholding rules and regulations of this State.

Tom Green

Claimant

State of **Oklahoma** County of **Happy**

Agency's Approving Officer

Goldie Plum

Notary Public (or Clerk or Judge)

Subscribed and sworn before me **20-Jul-19**

Title Date

My Commission expires **1-Aug-22**

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM
RELEASE OF WARRANT**

Conservation District	
Agreement Number	

For and in consideration of this warrant, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I do hereby remise, release, and discharge the Conservation District from any and all actions, which I ever had, now have, or may have, on account of or in any way arising from the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

- Warrant was delivered in person.
- Warrant was delivered by mail.

Participant Signature

Date

I have witnessed the acceptance of the warrant and execution of the release by the above-named participant.

Witness Signature

Date

Example Correspondence

DRAFT NEWS RELEASE

Add local information in the blank areas, edit as necessary for local accuracy, and retype on **district stationery** before submitting to local news media.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For more information contact: _____
Date: _____ Conservation District
Telephone No. _____

_____ Conservation District Announces Cost-Share Assistance Available to Benefit Soil and Water

The _____ Conservation District has announced that funds are available for cost-share assistance on selected conservation practices benefiting soil and water conservation. The State of Oklahoma has provided limited funds to conservation district across the state to help landowners implement measures that protect soil and water resources.

“The great advantage of the Conservation Cost-Share Program for Oklahoma is that it is a locally-led program,” said _____, chairman of the _____ Conservation District. “Our conservation district, with input from local residents and agricultural producers, select which of the available conservation practices to provide assistance on.”

Conservation practices available for cost-share assistance through the _____ Conservation District include the following: _____

_____.

The percentage of cost-share varies according to the conservation practice to be constructed. The district will be accepting applications starting _____ through _____. For more information contact the _____ Conservation District, (____) _____. The district office is located at _____ and office hours are _____.

DRAFT PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT FLYER

Add local information in the blank areas and edit as necessary for local accuracy.

COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO PROTECT SOIL AND WATER

Funds are available for cost-share assistance on
_____ conservation practices.

If eligible and approved, a participant may receive up to \$ _____.

Applications are being accepted starting _____ through
_____ at the _____
Conservation District office.

For more information, contact the

_____ Conservation District

Telephone No. _____

Office Hours _____

DRAFT LETTER TO UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Add local information to the following letter and retype on district stationery. You must give a specific reason for your rejection of the application. This letter would be used when the applicant did not meet the eligibility/selection criteria requirements of the Program.

Enter the date.

Enter the unsuccessful applicant's name and address.

Dear _____:

Thank you for your application for conservation cost-share assistance. Based on _____, we are unable to approve your application.

You do have the right to appeal our board's decision. The appeal must be written and set forth the basis for the appeal. It must be received in our office within _____ days from the date of this letter.

The State of Oklahoma has provided limited funds to our conservation district for cost-sharing with our cooperators. We recognize there is a great need for financial assistance to landowners to put conservation practices on the ground. Unfortunately, the need far exceeds the amount of funds available for cost-share. We will be working with the Governor and Legislature in an effort to continue the funding for conservation practices and provide more opportunities for conservation assistance. If you would like to see additional funding for this program, please contact your local legislator.

Please feel free to call the district office if you have any questions. We appreciate your interest in the Conservation Cost-Share Program and hope that you will utilize the other services of our conservation district and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sincerely,

Board Chairman

DRAFT LETTER TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Add local information to the following letter and retype on district stationery.

Enter the Date

Enter the address of the successful applicant.

Dear _____:

Thank you for your application for conservation cost-share assistance. We have reviewed and approved your application.

Prior to beginning construction of your approved conservation practice you must sign a Performance Agreement with the district which outlines items to be completed by you, the applicant. Please contact this office by _____ to make an appointment to sign your Performance Agreement and schedule the district's technical representative to design and layout the approved conservation practice. Construction of your approved conservation practice cannot begin until a properly executed Performance Agreement is in place.

Please feel free to call the district office if you have any questions. We appreciate your interest in the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

Sincerely,

Board Chairman

**DRAFT LETTER TO
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT
Approved as Alternate**

Add local information to the following letter and retype on **district stationery**. This letter would be used when the applicant met the eligibility/selection criteria requirements of the Program but because of lack of funds was approved as an alternate.

Enter the date.

Enter the alternate name and address.

Dear _____:

Thank you for your application for conservation cost-share assistance. We have reviewed your application. Based on the number of applications and limited available funds for the Program, we have approved your application as an alternate. If additional cost-share funds become available during this program year our office will contact you.

So that you remain eligible during this program year you must sign a Performance Agreement with the district prior to _____. Please contact this office to make an appointment to sign your Performance Agreement. Construction of your approved conservation practice cannot begin until a properly executed Performance Agreement is in place and you are notified by this office that your agreement has been fully funded.

The State of Oklahoma has provided limited funds to our conservation district for cost-sharing with our cooperators. We recognize there is a great need for financial assistance to landowners to put conservation practices on the ground. Unfortunately, the need far exceeds the amount of funds available for cost-share. We will be working with the Governor and Legislature in an effort to continue the funding for conservation practices and provide more opportunities for conservation assistance. If you would like to see additional funding for this program, please contact your local legislator.

Feel free to call the district office if you have any questions. We appreciate your interest in the Conservation Cost-Share Program and hope that you will utilize the other services of our conservation district and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sincerely,

Board Chairman

DRAFT LETTER TO RECIPIENT OF COST-SHARE PAYMENT

Add local information to the following letter and retype on district stationery.

Enter the date.

Enter the unsuccessful applicant's name and address.

Dear _____:

The _____ Conservation District is pleased to transmit your Cost-Share Program check to you. Your participation in our conservation district's Cost-Share Program is appreciated.

The State of Oklahoma has provided limited funds to our conservation district for cost-sharing with our cooperators. The Conservation Cost-Share Program allows our conservation district to share the expense of conservation practice construction. In order for this Program to continue, additional funding must be approved by the Legislature and Governor during the next legislative session. Please let our board know if you would like to see the Conservation Cost-Share Program continued. As we continue to manage the Program, we would also appreciate your input on how it worked and what can be done to improve the Program. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks again for participating in our cost-share program. It is our hope you will continue to utilize the services of our conservation district and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Sincerely,

Board Chairman

enclosure

Checklists

CHECKLIST OF BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

After current program year guidelines are approved and distributed by OCC and prior to advertising the current program year locally your district board must discuss and vote on items 1-10 listed below. The action taken must be recorded in the board meeting minutes and on this form.

BOARD ACTION ITEM	DATE	ACTION TAKEN
1 Is your district participating in the current program year? You do not need to send a letter to OCC, simply take action in your board meeting.		
2 Are district board members allowed to make application in the local program? Complete the <i>Director Participation</i> form and email it to OCC. At this point any board member making application <u>must immediately</u> remove themselves from board discussions and votes on program items.		
3 Designate the authorized district representative. This person <u>must</u> be a district board member. Any board member making application in the local program is <u>not</u> eligible to serve as the district representative.		
4 Designate the technical representative. <u>Must</u> meet the requirements stated in the Rules.		
5 Review the conservation practices listed in the Program Year Guidelines. Approve practices and associated average costs that your district will offer locally.		
6 Establish your district's local cost-share rate (percentage) and maximum cost-share payment amount. Your cost-share rate can't exceed <u>75%</u> and the maximum cost-share payment amount can't exceed <u>\$5,000</u> per participant.		
7 Establish specific local eligibility and selection criteria/priority system that will be used to select successful applicants.		
8 Establish your district's application period and how the program will be advertised locally.		
<i>STOP STOP After the application period has closed your district can proceed to item 8. STOP STOP</i>		
9 Review and rank all applications using the eligibility and selection criteria/priority system approved under item 7 above.		
10 Board meeting minutes <u>must</u> include the following for <u>each</u> approved <u>and</u> funded participant: agreement number, participant name, practice(s), completion date, cost-share rate, and maximum amount. Alternate participants approved on the condition that funding is available, must be listed separately and include the following: agreement number, participant name, practice(s), cost-share rate, and maximum amount.		

Agreement No.: _____ - _____ - _____

CASE FILE CHECKLIST

- 1. Approved application
- 2. Copy of estimated cost sheet
- 3. A reference to the approved conservation plan, which should include:
 - conservation plan map
 - record of decisions
 - construction permits
 - district cooperator agreement
- 4. Performance Agreement (signed and dated by both parties)
- 5. Amendments to Performance Agreement
- 6. Maintenance Agreement
- 7. Amendments to Maintenance Agreement
- 8. Certifications of conservation practice quantities and cost
- 9. Copies of vouchers, bill, or receipts
- 10. Copies of any approved cost-share payment claims and back-up documentation
- 11. Any receipts of payment
- 12. Consent Form (if applicable)
- 13. Release of Warrant Form
- 14. Any correspondence to and from the participant (successful applicant, time extensions granted, cancellations, etc)
- 15. Any notes of relevant conversations with the participant

Agreement No.: _____ - _____ - _____

COST-SHARE CLAIM CHECKLIST

Multiple completed agreements can be listed on one claim form. For each agreement listed on the claim form the following back-up documents must be attached:

- Copy of all relevant receipts and/or in-kind statements
- Copy of signed Performance Agreement
- Copy of signed Conservation Plan
- Certification of Completion and Acceptance
- Payment Calculation Sheet
- Consent Form (if applicable)
- All documentation is legible
- Claim has been signed by the board chair
- Claim has been notarized