Cost Share Committee Meeting: February 2, 2016

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Decisions made to date:

- Pay for performance instead of a position
- Minimum technical assistance (TA) allocation = $20,000
- Weight NRCS BMP expenditures at 50%
- Weight Cost Share Programs BMP expenditures at 100%
- Grant funds – develop a matrix to determine eligibility
    - Must be for water quality or quantity BMP implementation
    - District must have provided TA for BMPs installed
    - Consider weight of 50%
    - Projects outside of matrix eligibility to be determined by a committee
- If district is not spending more from state cost share programs on BMPs than they receive for TA, they must account for and justify why they should continue to receive TA support.
    - This would be done on an average of the last three years; every three years when master agreements are completed. If your district spends less than their TA allocation as the average over those three years.
    - The Commission should have the ability to deny or defer TA funding.
- Retain the JAA requirement in addition to the performance data.
- *All district employee(s) shall obtain Job Approval Authority for a minimum of two best management practices from the Commission or the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service within two years of being hired or within two years of the effective date of this rule, whichever is later. At least one of the best management practices for which the employee has obtained Job Approval Authority must be a design practice, or*

  Design practice means an engineering practice as defined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the Community Conservation Assistance Program Detailed Implementation Plan.

Next Steps:

1. Develop a matrix to determine eligibility of grant funded projects
2. Adjust the FY2017 Strategy Plan to include the request for grant funds as described above
3. Prepare summary for Commission action to ensure we are moving the right direction
   Draft revisions to cost share allocation rules:
    a. Agriculture Cost Share Program
    b. Community Conservation Assistance Program
    c. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program
    d. Technical Assistance