

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Written Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
January 14, 2021
Andy Bohnenkamp, District Conservationist**

We made it to 2021! It doesn't feel much different, however with a new year is a chance at a fresh start and new goals and priorities for NRCS. The following is my report for NRCS for January.

Local Work Group Meeting – PMRNRD

It is that time of year again where NRCS hosts our annual local workgroup meeting. It's a chance for NRCS and the NRDs to sit down with other local representatives and provide recommendations relating to implementation and technical aspects of natural resource conservation activities and programs in our NRD area. I plan to host a hybrid meeting this year of in-person attendees (Field Office Staff) and virtually with members of the public and other agencies. Local Working Groups are generally composed of conservation district officials, agricultural producers and other professionals representing relevant agricultural and conservation interests, and a variety of disciplines in the soil, water, plant, wetland, and wildlife sciences who are familiar with private land agricultural and natural resource issues in the local community and are also open to the Public. The PMRNRD Local Workgroup meeting will be held Wednesday, February 24 from 9AM to 12PM. More information and details on how you can be a part of the meeting if you would like to will be sent out soon. Feel free to call me with questions or information on how to be a part of this meeting.

Programs

Our Field Office planners and technicians have been working since before the holidays to complete farm and conservation assessments of all program applications received to date so that we can be ready to start allocating federal dollars. So far our total applications for EQIP and CSP are down from last year, due in part to Covid-19 and in part to a low precipitation crop season with relatively little soil erosion. Soil erosion being our top Resource Concern in the NRD quite often is the reason for producers to stop in and talk about solutions, which leads to other conversations regarding other conservation opportunities on their farms. We are still anticipating a busy season writing contracts and promoting conservation.

Staffing

I was pleased to see that our request for a Soil Conservationist in the Walthill Field Office was advertised last Friday the 8th and is open until July on USAJobs.com. We will be going through candidates starting at the end of the month as they apply and hopefully find another good addition to the team soon!

That is all for now!

Respectfully,

Andy Bohnenkamp



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