

1 recommendations.

2 (f) The Kansas department of agriculture division of conservation in
3 consultation with the state conservation commission shall have the
4 following duties and powers:

5 (1) To offer such assistance as may be appropriate to the supervisors
6 of conservation districts, organized as provided hereinafter, in the carrying
7 out of any of their powers and programs;

8 (2) to keep the supervisors of each of the several districts organized
9 under the provisions of this act informed of the activities and experience of
10 all other districts organized hereunder and to facilitate an interchange of
11 advice and experience between such districts and cooperation between
12 them;

13 (3) to coordinate the programs of the several conservation districts
14 organized hereunder;

15 (4) to secure the cooperation and assistance of the United States and
16 any of its agencies and of agencies of this state, in the work of such
17 districts and to contract with or to accept donations, grants, gifts and
18 contributions in money, services or otherwise from the United States or
19 any of its agencies or from the state or any of its agencies in order to carry
20 out the purposes of this act;

21 (5) to disseminate information throughout the state concerning the
22 activities and programs of the conservation districts organized hereunder
23 and to encourage the formation of such districts in areas where their
24 organization is desirable;

25 (6) to cooperate with and give assistance to watershed districts and
26 other special purpose districts in the state of Kansas for the purpose of
27 cooperating with the United States through the secretary of agriculture in
28 the furtherance of conservation pursuant to the provisions of the watershed
29 protection and flood prevention act, as amended;

30 (7) to cooperate in and carry out, in accordance with state policies,
31 activities and programs to conserve and develop the water resources of the
32 state and maintain and improve the quality of such water resources;

33 (8) to enlist the cooperation and collaboration of state, federal,
34 regional, interstate, local, public and private agencies with the
35 conservation districts; ~~and~~

36 (9) to facilitate arrangements under which conservation districts may
37 serve county governing bodies and other agencies as their local operating
38 agencies in the administration of any activity concerned with the
39 conservation of natural resources; *and*

40 (10) *to take such actions as are necessary to restore, establish,*
41 *enhance and protect natural resources* ~~for purpose of compensatory~~
42 *mitigation required under section 404 of the federal clean water act,*
43 *including:*

with conservation easements

the

1 (A) Accepting, purchasing or otherwise acquiring conservation
2 easements, as defined in K.S.A. 58-3810, and amendments thereto, for the
3 purpose of protecting compensatory mitigation sites;

4 (B) contracting with engineering consultants, surveyors and
5 construction contractors for the purpose of restoration, establishment and
6 enhancement of natural resources; and

7 (C) establishing fees for the administration of compensatory
8 mitigation credits, accepting such fees from state and local government
9 agencies, and assuming responsibility to ensure the mitigation projects are
10 in existence, as approved by the department, for the length of term of the
11 easement for which fees have been accepted.

12 (g) There is hereby established in the state treasury the conservation
13 fund, which shall be administered by the department of agriculture. All
14 expenditures from the conservation fund shall be for conservation. All
15 expenditures from the conservation fund shall be made in accordance with
16 appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports
17 issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the secretary of agriculture or
18 the designee of the secretary. The secretary of agriculture shall remit all
19 moneys received by or for the secretary under this section to the state
20 treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and
21 amendments thereto. Upon each such remittance, the state treasurer shall
22 deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the
23 conservation fund.

24 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 2-1904 is hereby repealed.

25 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
26 publication in the statute book.

acquisition and

conservation easements

terms of the conservation easement are met