

VTS project meeting

14 December 2004

Ag Hall 150

Attendees:

Wayne Smith	Scott Jones	Sara Smith	Todd Trooien
Jarrold Johnson	Van Kelley	Mike Stahly	
Ron Gelderman	Steve Pohl	Gary Taylor	
Pete Jahraus	Mike Schmidt	Ken Taylor	

Wayne Smith and Mike Schmidt summarized their meetings with EPA Region VIII (Denver) and EPA in DC. Main EPA contacts were Deb Thomas in Denver and Allison Wedeman in DC.

Ken Taylor noted that NRCS currently has a VTS design standard for AFO's of less than 300 animal units.

Ken also noted that the Blair Bros site is currently being designed. The EQIP contract for that site has been funded.

Trooien noted that the EPA Section 319 grant has been approved and contracts have been signed and the project is underway as of 1 Dec 2004.

Ken T visited the potential Johnson site in Roberts County and noted that he thinks it is not an appropriate site for this project (he said it's a "bad site"). He is currently looking at a different site nearby.

The question of which plant species will be used in the VTA was raised. Gary Larson, SDSU, should be consulted for information (tpt do this).

Selection of the 5th project site: Consensus of the group was that the James River Valley would not be the best location for the fifth site, but that a site farther west would be more appropriate. Immediately west of the Missouri River or in the Todd County area were mentioned as good potential locations. Scott Jones and Mike Stahly will ask about potential backgrounding lots for a VTS site in the Todd County area. Jarrod Johnson will ask Duane Bly about his location in Minnehaha County for a potential site. SDSU will design the system when the 5th site is selected.

Pete Jahraus provided an overview of the procedure to obtain the Conservation Commission grant (amount of \$38,500 is noted in the 319 project). The application will have to come from a Conservation District. Moody County was mentioned as one district that has gone through this process successfully in the past. They will be approached and asked to complete the application and administer the grant (if successful). Pete noted that the narrative required on the third page of the (3-page) proposal can be lifted from the

319 proposal. The deadline is 1 April 2005. In the future, the Conservation Commission may be considered for additional monitoring funding (or other dollars) if required by the project. The Cons Comm *prefers* to fund practices but they have in the past funded monitoring projects.

Threatened and Endangered Species clearance was raised by answers were few. Dennis Clarke raised the issue for the agenda but was unable to attend the meeting. NRCS obtains T&E clearance when EQIP \$\$ are used.

Also raised by Dennis for the agenda list was sampling/training protocol. The sampling and analysis plan is outlined in the 319 proposal. Training will be provided for the county educators that retrieve or handle samples at each of the sites, in accordance with EPA and DENR regulations.

Next meeting: 18 January 2005, 1:00 PM, Ag Engineering bldg on the SDSU campus. The first item of business will be an update on the selection of the 5th research site.

Recorded by tpt