

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Workgroup Meeting and Conference Call
Workgroup: Agricultural

Date: 8 July, 2019
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Conference Call

<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
Jay Bragg	David Villareal Steve Bednarz	John Bender Rudy Ritz Samantha Borgstedt Leah Martinson Daniel Nix C.E. Williams	Director Kathleen Jackson Cameron Turner Whitney Johnson Josh Sendejar

** Documents can be found at: <https://savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/agricultural.html>

I. Introduction of Participants

The conference call began at 10:32 a.m.

Josh reminded all participants that the nomination period for interest groups with terms expiring ends today. Should anyone have any nominations, please submit them to Josh by close of business today.

II. BMP Update

J. Bragg began discussion by stating that in a previous workgroup meeting, it was discussed that the BMPs were needing to be updated. It was then asked how the BMPs were being used.

C. Turner stated that BMPs are 1 of the charges of the WCAC, with the BMPs originating in the Workgroup, then submitted to the full WCAC for approval and submission to TWDB for inclusion in the BMP Guide. The existing AG BMPs are still relevant but do need to be updated. There are also a few technologies available that are not currently represented in the BMP Guide.

J. Bragg mentioned that Texas Tech was working on gathering data in terms of Irrigation Scheduling.

S. Borgstedt stated that due to the wet weather, irrigation has not been as needed in much of the area, so while there is data available, it may not be representative of average conditions. More individuals are also incorporating dry land into their crop rotation.

J. Bragg asked what the timeline would be for the release of the newest data?

S. Borgstedt stated there is data available from last year, which would be included in their annual report. Ms. Borgstedt asked if that would be suitable for the workgroups needs for the BMP or if a stand-alone document would be needed.

C. Turner stated he believed that the annual reports from the TAWC project would be a good source of information for citing examples of quantified water savings from specific conservation practices.

The Workgroup was asked for thoughts on getting the BMP format to reflect more of a reference document.

S. Bednarz mentioned that he was part of the last update to BMPs, some were updated, and one was never finalized. S. Bednarz does have those documents and will forward them to Josh for dissemination to the workgroup.

C. Turner noted that previous discussion centered on altering the format of the BMPs to make them more simplistic and include external resources.

It was noted that some of the topics discussed in the BMPs may not allow for easily quantifying water savings.

III. Other Discussion

Josh brought up that at the last several WCAC meetings, it has been brought up that perhaps the Council should move up their timeline for creating legislative recommendations for the legislative report to better coincide with state agencies developing their legislative requests. Josh asked whether there were any issues within the industry that the workgroup thought would be fit for development of a recommendation.

David V. noted that he would like to potentially develop a recommendation around ET Networks after discussion with Dr. Guy Fipps at the May WCAC Meeting. Jay B noted that it sounded like a great subject with a wide array for applications.

Director Kathleen Jackson (TWDB) asked what work needs to be done in terms of data relating to irrigation/agriculture. She stated from her perspective, a good baseline of data is needed to show savings which would then make funding an easier task.

Jay B. noted that he was not sure that there is a good handle on the irrigation efficiency data across the industry.

Cameron T. noted that the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) data can be analyzed on a statewide level, however, it is unable to be incorporated into the Regional Water Planning Process because it is unable to be analyzed at the county level. A lot of data is collected through the TWDB annual irrigation estimates,

however, the irrigation efficiency piece is missing from that process since there is not a good source of county-level data on the subject.

C.E. W. noted that Region A believes they have a handle on their estimates through TAMU Agrilife.

It was mentioned that there may need to be focus on efficiency at the regional/district-level.

Director Jackson reiterated, if you have the data and can prove the benefit, that will help secure funding.

The conference call was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.