

Summary of Minutes

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

Date: 24 March 2022
Time: 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
Leah Martinsson	John Bender Mitch Conine David Villarreal	Kyle Wright Stacy Pandey Steve Walthour	John Sutton Katie Dahlberg Kyla Peterson Antonio Delgado Josh Sendejar

Documents can be found at: www.savetexaswater.org/meeting/workgroup/agricultural.html

I. Introduction of Participants

The meeting began at 2:34 p.m.

II. Discussion on Legislative Recommendations

The discussion began with a quick run-through of the recommendations relating to agriculture from the 2020 WCAC Report:

- Continue funding for the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation
- Restore funding for the Texas Ag Water Efficiency Education and Demonstration Project facility.
- Maintain level of funding for TWDB’s Agricultural Water Conservation Grant program.

John Bender noted that the workgroup may want to consider a different approach with this report. Perhaps the recommendation should be to provide additional funding to TWDB to then fund appropriate programs.

J Bender also noted that it may not be the place of the WCAC to recommend specific programs for funding, especially with TWDB being well versed in the evaluation of program benefits through programs like the Ag Water Conservation Grant program.

A question was brought up about the legislative intent regarding the council’s recommendations.

Josh noted that within [Chapter 10 of the Texas Water Code](#) there is not specific language on what constitutes a recommendation other than the council shall submit:

“recommendations for legislation to advance water conservation in this state, which may include conservation through the reduction of the amount of water lost because of evaporation.”

David Villarreal noted that the workgroup may want to consider collecting several ideas and take them to the full council for discussion.

John Bender noted he would like more information on the Ag Water Conservation Fund to potentially include language that would replenish the fund. TWDB Staff will provide information at a future meeting.

Leah Martinsson noted she would support a recommendation to increase funding to TWDB for ag-related projects.

The question came up about a recommendation relating to a statewide ET Network. J Bender noted that he has been working Dustan Compton and others on that effort. He believes there is enough support to generate a legislative recommendation regarding a statewide ET network. Further details will be discussed.

David Villarreal noted that it will be important to work out the details on who would receive staffing and what organizations would be involved in a legislative recommendation.

A question was asked about the timeline of the report.

Josh noted that the council is hoping to decide on which recommendations the council is willing to pursue beginning with the next meeting. After drafts of the recommendations are developed, the council will vote on them in their substantial forms.

David Villarreal asked if the workgroup should consider the previous recommendations included with the 2020 WCAC Report.

It was discussed that reintroducing the previous recommendations would be brought to the council at the next meeting.

III. Discussion on Updates to the 2022 WCAC Legislative Report

John Bender began the conversation by stating assistance and input will be needed to update the section on trends in agricultural water conservation.

Organizations identified for potential information include:

- Texas Water Resources Institute
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board

Steve Walthour noted he would be able to put some information together.

Staff with the NRCS noted they may potentially be able to provide some information.

Staff with the TSSWCB noted they will research what information they can provide.

IV. Other Discussion
No other discussion was held.

V. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.