

Summary of Minutes

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

Date: April 8, 2022
Time: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
Charles Ring	John Bender	Darren Turley	Josh Sendejar
Jennifer Allis	David Villarreal	JC Essler	Erika Mancha
John Foster	Mitch Conine	Kyle Wright	John Sutton
Leah Martinsson		Peyton Schumann	Kyla Peterson
Wayne Halbert		Rodney Mosier	Antonio Delgado
		Stacy Pandey	Travis Brice
		Steve Walthour	

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

I. Introduction of Participants
The meeting began at 2:02 p.m.

II. Discussion on Legislative Recommendations
John Bender began the discussion noting he would like to take up the recommendation regarding replenishing the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund, the funding mechanism for TWDB’s Agricultural Water Conservation Grants program.

At the current rate, it is projected that available funding levels will run out in FY 2024. Additional funding would need to be secured this legislative session to avoid any lapse in programmatic activities.

John B. noted he will begin drafting a general recommendation to continue funding at the \$1.2 M level.

Leah Martinsson asked what level of funding is needed to meet current demand

TWDB Conservation Staff noted that historically there have been more applications than available funding.

A question was then asked on any common factors for those receiving funding.

TWDB Conservation Staff noted that the focus of each funding cycle changes, however those directly engaging with producers as well as those directly connected to their Regional Water Plan and can demonstrate quantifiable water savings are several common factors for those projects that receive funding.

Leah M. noted that data on those applied for those funded would be helpful in drafting a recommendation.

It was also suggested to include those willing to cost share but did not receive funding.

TWDB Conservation Staff noted that any increase in funding level would require additional staff to manage the associated contracts.

Wayne Halbert noted from his experience, there are plenty of projects to fund, however due to the limited funding available, many do not apply.

III. Discussion on Updates to the 2022 WCAC Legislative Report

John Bender asked for an update on the Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency Demonstration and Education project facility

Wayne Halbert noted that the district has decided to no longer seek funding for the project and has begun to repurpose some of the facilities for its use.

John B. then asked about an update regarding Brush Control and the Water Supply Enhancement Program with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

John Foster noted that while Brush Control is included in 14 out of 16 Regional Water Plans, there has been no change or additional funding provided for the practice.

John B. noted that input for conservation trends will be needed for the body of the legislative report, particularly regarding current and emerging practices and technologies. John B. has reached out to those who contributed with the 2020 WCAC Report and will seek their input again for the 2022 report.

IV. Other Discussion

Darren Turley noted that there is a methane capture project coming online that may have some water conservation implications. He will keep the group updated on progress.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.