

Summary of Minutes

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

Date: 27 February 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Call

<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
Jennifer Allis Leah Martinsson John Foster Aubrey Spear	David Villareal John Bender Tom McLemore TJ Helton	Steve Walthour Molly Burke Rick Kellison Samantha Borgstedt Phil Brown Allen Berthold Chuck West C.E. Williams	Cameron Turner Josh Sendejar

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

I. Introduction of Participants

The conference call began at 9:03 a.m.

II. Discussion on Revisions and Updates to Drafted Legislative Recommendations

Agricultural representative alternate member John Bender began discussion on revising the background for the drafted legislative recommendation regarding the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board’s Water Supply Enhancement Program. This recommendation was considered by the WCAC at the February 11th meeting; however, the Council felt more background information was needed and decided to send the recommendation back to the workgroup for further development.

A comment was made that the highlighting of water savings was needed for the recommendation to be more effective.

John Foster stated that the intent of the program is to conserve water at a local level to provide future water supply. With the revisions to the statute regarding the program in 2011, the program ties water conservation and water supply together.

David Villareal stated that the Council also brought up at the last meeting that the funding request for this recommendation was rather large compared to funding requests in other drafted recommendations. There may need to be additional justification for the program budget included in the recommendation.

John Bender made the comparison of brush control in agriculture is similar to water loss in cities.

Leah Martinsson stated that the sources sent out by TSSWCB (TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program Summary and TSSWCB Water Supply Enhancement Program Annual Report, found at the link above) provide good background on the program and include the requisite information to be incorporated into the drafted recommendation.

John Bender will work with TSSWCB staff to revise the drafted recommendation.

Aubrey Spear noted that some Regional Water Plans mention brush control as a strategy.

Discussion then moved on to the other draft recommendations pertaining to Ag. The Council at the last meeting decided to accept the other three recommendations (listed below) from a conceptual standpoint but noted the following regarding each recommendation.

TAWC Recommendation:

- Need metrics on water saved
- Highlight a few site-specific examples/testimonials
- Discern difference between TX AWE Project
- Add the TAWC project name to the italicized recommendation language

Texas AWE Project Recommendation:

- Mention 'in-kind' contributions from the Harlingen Irrigation District #1
- Research Available to the public
- Add TxAWE project name to the recommendation language

Maintain Grant Funding Recommendation:

- Change language to 'Maintain level of funding...'
- Include background on Agricultural Water Conservation Fund appropriations and funding projections

John Bender has drafted some additional background information for the TAWC recommendation, TAWC staff will review and work with John Bender to complete a revised draft.

Tom McLemore and Wayne Halbert will work to revise the recommendation regarding the TxAWE Project.

Additional background information has been added for the Maintain Grant Funding recommendation regarding the TWDB's Agricultural Water Conservation Program.

John Bender suggested that the workgroup aim for a March 3rd deadline for drafts to ensure that there is enough time for any further revision prior to the March 5th deadline to get revised drafts to Josh.

III. Other Discussion

There was no other discussion topics.

Josh mentioned that he will attempt to have minutes drafted by the end of the week.

The next Water Conservation Advisory Council meeting will be held on March 10th at 10:30 a.m. and will be held at the LCRA Redbud Center (3601 Lake Austin Blvd, Austin ,TX 78703)

IV. Adjourn

The conference call ended at 9:34 a.m.