

3/12/08

Time Start: 2:00 pm

Time Stop: 2:55 pm

Teleconference Call:

*Work Group 4 ~ Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion in Best Management Practices Guide
& Develop a state water management resources library.*

Council Members & Other Participants

Spokesperson Gene Montgomery

Steven Bednarz

Luana Buckner

Greg Carter

Richard Egg

Wayne Halbert

Wilson Scaling

C.E. Williams

Debra Hastings

Linda Christie

Kelly Stripling

Tyson Broad

Comer Tuck

TWDB Staff Sitting In

Aung Hla

Tom Tagliabue

Vanessa Escobar

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm and roll call was taken. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff gave a brief overview of the status of our "Science on Tap" project. The workgroup was informed that the goal of the Science on Tap program is to build a standards and compliant digital repository to store water related publications and other products generated by or of relevance to TWDB. TWDB will also provide open, full and easy access to these documents by via internet. The primary audience that this tool is intended for is the general public. The projected timeline is to have the work completed in phases with the first phase being available in late 2008 and the entire project to be completed in 2010.

Gene Montgomery moved on to discuss a proposed name for the resource library search tool that this workgroup is charged with developing. Because the tool will be more than just a library or repository of information, and more like a compilation of resources with search features and subscription to information alerts, one idea would be to call it an online resource query system. There was some discussion that the term library would be more simplistic than calling it an 'Online Resource Query System'. Another possible idea could be 'Resource Portal'. The group decided that they would make this an action item to look further into some other terms synonymous with the term 'library'.

Comer asked that if the workgroup also wanted to discuss the naming of the workgroup as well. It was suggested that there should be a descriptive title to refer to workgroup 4 in order to make it easier to communicate the objectives of each workgroup to the general public. With some discussion there was a consensus that the group liked "Resource Library & BMPs". The group will take this name to the April 1st council meeting to have the title approved.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss the Best Management Practices (BMP) draft procedures. The group would like to take a final draft to the council meeting to have available for review. There was some discussion about some reorganization, rewording, and making a few policy changes. There were a few revisions and edits made throughout the document and in particular to sections C, D, H.

The workgroup also discussed whether the final decision making authority of adding/revising BMPS should be held by the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) or TWDB. There was some concern about who will be handling the extensive analysis. An observation was made that the Water Code Section 11.002 (15) delegates authority to the TCEQ & TWDB for inclusion of new BMPs. After some discussion there was basic agreement to revise the proposed approval process. Following the teleconference, Comer Tuck provided the Work Group with a proposed revision as follows:

1. *Anyone proposing to add a new water conservation BMP should submit an actual draft of the BMP to the TWDB staff.*
2. *The proposed BMP will be distributed to the Water Conservation Advisory Council (Council), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) staff, and any technical consultants the TWDB finds appropriate for review and comments on the proposed BMP.*
3. *After receipt of the comments and any suggested revisions on the proposed new BMP, TWDB staff will provide a summary of the comments/revisions to the Council which may then provide its recommendation on the new BMP.*
4. *If the proposal receives a favorable recommendation from the Council, TWDB and TCEQ staff will review the proposed or revised BMP with the contributor of the proposal as to its adherence with Texas Water Code Section 11.002 (15):*
"best management practices" means those voluntary efficiency measures developed by the commission and the board that save a quantifiable amount of water, either directly or indirectly, and that can be implemented within a specified time frame.
5. *Once all interested parties are in agreement, the new BMP can be added to the existing list of BMPs.*

There was some discussion as to the vision of the BMP guide and whether it is always going to be considered the guide of reference. It was stated that The BMP Guide is indeed an official collection of BMPs as determined by the state and that the guide is the official repository that is intended to be a living document where additions and revisions can be included in the future.

There was a brief discussion about the Resource Query system document. Additionally it was decided that the term Alert System is a better description of the feature that is envisioned to be included in this tool. There were some minor word changes and an overall approval of the document with changes.

After the workgroup reviewed the below action items the meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Immediate Actions	Long Term Actions
TWDB Staff will revise the procedures of adding BMPs.	The workgroup will think of some synonymous terms for the term " Library".
Gene will edit the content throughout the two documents and provide to the workgroup and Council before April 1 st .	
The workgroup will propose the suggested name 'Resource Library & BMP's" as the title for workgroup 4.	
TWDB will provide Science on Tap one-pager document to workgroup and Council.	