

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Workgroup Meeting and Conference Call
Workgroup:

Date: December 4, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Remote (GoToMeeting)

<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
John Foster	John Bender	Paula Paciorek	Josh Sendejar
Kevin Kluge	TJ Helton	Stacy Pandey	John Sutton
Leah Martinsson	David Villareal	Steve Walthour	Cameron Turner
Wayne Halbert		Allen Berthold	Kyla Peterson

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

- I. Introduction of Participants
The conference call began at 1:04 p.m.
- II. Discussion on BMP Updates
John Bender led conversation regarding proposed BMP Updates.

TWDB Staff noted that some preliminary updates have been made to the Irrigation Scheduling BMP for the workgroups review and consideration. A new BMP entitled Gate Automation with SCADA has been drafted for the workgroup to consider as well.

It was noted that the Agricultural BMPs have not been updated in some time, certain technologies and processes have advanced in areas which could be reflected in updated BMP documents.

John Bender asked what the process was for BMP progression. Josh gave a brief overview of the process for updating/drafting new BMPs for consideration. The process begins in the workgroup, proceeds to the full council, and then is considered for inclusion in the BMP Guide by TWDB’s Executive Administrator. It was also noted that typically a member of the workgroup serves to champion individual BMPs and usher them through the review process.

Stacy Pandey and Wayne Halbert noted they would be interested in helping to develop the Gate Automation BMP.

John Bender is willing to take on the revisions to the Irrigation Scheduling BMP.

A deadline of January 15th was given to submit feedback on the drafts previously sent out. A workgroup meeting will be scheduled after the deadline to discuss submitted feedback.

Discussion was also brought up regarding the Brush Control BMP. Staff with the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board noted that while there is not much to be updated with the BMP, increasing awareness and participation with the practice would be beneficial.

A BMP regarding soil health was also discussed. Several pointed out that soil health would encompass several BMPs already in existence. While it is worth having a discussion over what aspects that might encompass, it may be difficult to draft an overarching BMP, quantifying water savings may also prove challenging.

III. Discussion on Expanding Workgroup Participation

Discussion began with John Bender stating the need to reach out and increase participation with major agricultural water users. It seems that there are some missing (some include rice, vegetable producers, and citrus growers).

John Bender stated we want to make sure that stakeholders are not being left out.

Increasing participation from university systems and professional groups (i.e. Texas A&M University/AgriLife, Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association, etc.)

IV. Other Discussion

No other discussion was held.

V. Adjourn

Meeting ended abruptly at 1:45 p.m. (Technical Issue with GoToMeeting)