

Summary of Minutes

Water Conservation Advisory Council Workgroup Conference Call
Workgroup: Agricultural

Date: June 13, 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Call

<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>	<u>Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
Jay Bragg	Steve Bednarz	John Bender Guillermo Martinez Stacy Pandey Chuck West	Cameron Turner John Sutton Whitney Johnson Victoria MacClements Shae Luther Josh Sendejar

The conference call began at 10:07 a.m.

- I. Introduction of Participants
 - *[Note: Not everyone on the line introduced themselves. TWDB staff observed there were at least two other callers who did not introduce themselves or speak during the call.]*

- II. BMP Review/Update
 - Steve stated that all the existing Ag BMPs are up-to-date, except for the one on brush control. Revisions are in the works, with regards to that BMP, however.
 - It was noted that several other practices or technologies have been suggested for inclusion as new BMPs, but no progress has been made to draft those, yet.
 - Jay mentioned the challenge associated with determining the economics and cost savings associated with certain BMPs. TWDB staff noted that not all BMPs in other sections of the Guide contain this information, thus that should not serve as a barrier to including proven agricultural conservation practices in the BMP Guide.
 - There was consensus amongst those on the call that the Ag BMPs should be kept generic and simple, as more prescriptive, detailed guides already exist elsewhere.

- III. Revisions to Legislative Report
 - Chuck West discussed the work being done by the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation (TAWC) in demonstrating and implementing agricultural best management practices in the Southern High Plains. He also brought up a multidisciplinary research project focused on groundwater supplies, agricultural

sustainability, and soil health. More information can be found at <http://www.ogallalawater.org/>.

- Chuck agreed to provide Jay with a paragraph discussing the work of the TAWC project and the Ogallala Water effort, for inclusion in the 2018 Legislative Report.
- Jay Bragg mentioned that additional information is also needed in the report from the perspective of the irrigation districts, regarding improvements to infrastructure, conveyance losses, and funding needs.

IV. Review of Legislative Recommendations

- Chuck West pointed out that the importance of agricultural research was currently missing from the report. The group agreed that the term “research” should be added to *Recommendation 4: Maintain funding for agricultural and water conservation programs*.
- Chuck West also mentioned that education funding is important for Higher Education, to ensure that we are training the next generation of scientists to facilitate technology transfer in the agricultural sector.
- Stacy Pandey mentioned that there are challenges in terms of quantifying water savings, which should also be considered when developing the funding recommendation.

V. Other Discussion

- John Bender stated having updated data on agricultural water use efficiency is necessary.
- Guillermo Martinez also noted the need for field boundary data for remote sensing analysis.

VI. Adjourn

The conference call was ended at 10:47 a.m.