

Summary of Minutes: Agricultural Workgroup Meeting (Conference Call)

02/03/16

Time Start: 10:05 AM

Time Stop: 10:45 AM

Members	Alternates	Interested Parties	TWDB Staff
Jay Bragg Kevin Wagner	Jennifer Allis Steve Bednarz John Tracy David Villarreal Brian Wenberg	Alan Berthold Patrick Dudley Stacy Pandey	Antonio Delgado Cameron Turner

1. Introductions /Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM and roll call was taken.

2. Timeline/Deadlines for the Report

Jay Bragg asked about the timeline for the Council's report to the Legislature (due December 1, 2016). Cameron Turner noted that the Council will have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed timeline for the report at the Council meeting on February 9, 2016.

3. Report format

This item was not discussed.

4. Status of content review & updates

This item was not discussed.

5. Discuss adding/evaluation of additional best management practices (BMPs)

The group discussed the status of the revised BMP on Brush Control/Management, and Cameron Turner noted that the revised document was under review by staff at the Texas Water Development Board.

Several possible new BMPs were proposed:

- SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems and automated canal gates;
- irrigation scheduling through the use of real-time soil moisture monitoring and ET networks;
- raised beds and narrow border flood irrigation in citrus production,
- crop stress monitoring;
- unmanned aerial systems (UAS, UAVs, "drones") use for various uses such as crop stress monitoring, irrigation distribution uniformity, and canal seepage analysis; and
- land stewardship.

Kevin Wagner and Stacy Pandey volunteered to start drafting some of these new BMPs for the Council to consider.

6. Recommendations to the Legislature

Jay Bragg asked if the group had any specific recommendations at this point and wondered how the state agencies would handle this item. Cameron Turner suggested that drafting the content of the report first could assist the group in identifying potential recommendations for the Council's consideration.

7. Other

David Villarreal asked about deadlines related to the Blue Legacy Awards. His agency would like to begin promoting the award and encouraging nominations, but the nomination packet online includes dates from 2015. Cameron Turner suggested discussing the timelines for the award at the upcoming Council meeting. In the meantime, TWDB staff altered the online award packet so that the dates say "to be determined."

Jay Bragg mentioned that he is testifying at a House Natural Resources Committee next week and will not be able to attend the Council meeting. Kevin Wagner will also be unable to attend the Council meeting. Steve Bednarz volunteered to provide the Ag Workgroup update.

8. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Note: Topics were taken up in random order but are presented here in order of the posted agenda.