

Minutes: Agricultural Workgroup Conference Call

03/01/11

Time Start: 10:00 am

Time Stop: 10:30 am

<u>Council Members, Alternates, and Interested Parties</u>	<u>TWDB Staff</u>
Wilson Scaling	Vanessa Escobar
Steven Bednarz	Aung Hla
Denise Hickey	Mark Michon
Richard Egg	Comer Tuck
Cole Camp	Cameron Turner
	Erin McAuley
	Doug Shaw
	Kevin Kluge

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am and roll call was taken.

The meeting began with a recap on the restructuring of the workgroups. It was reiterated that these workgroups were formed to more effectively focus on trends, best management practices (BMPs), and metrics within the large water user sectors such as Industrial, Municipal, and Agriculture.

There was some discussion about the objectives, function and goals of the agricultural workgroup, which the participants agreed was appropriate. Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff introduced a work plan document that was drafted by Gene Montgomery and adapted for the agricultural workgroup. It was explained that now that the workgroup has been able to clearly identify its function and goals the next step should be to formulate a work plan in order to accomplish some objectives. It was suggested that Regional Water Planning Groups, groundwater districts and irrigation districts would be good stakeholders to include on the agricultural workgroup stakeholders list.

TWDB staff offered to provide some information on the current data they have relating to historical water use, largest water users and consumption information within the agricultural sector, and projected water use within the agricultural sector. TWDB Staff also provided a list of agricultural BMP manuals and guides that are currently available from other states. It was suggested that workgroup members may want to begin reviewing these other agricultural BMP resources as they consider what elements need to be changed or added to for Texas agricultural BMPs.

It was suggested to the participants that the workgroup should begin thinking about what appropriate agricultural metrics should look like. The discussion included some key

points to consider in this effort. These points will play an important role as the workgroup begins to get further in to discussions about agricultural metrics.

Key Points:

- Current agricultural metrics being used by TWDB.
- Looking at agricultural metrics from a regional standpoint.
- Looking at agricultural metrics from a crop type standpoint.
- Looking at agricultural metrics by irrigation system type.
- Looking at separate metrics for confined livestock operations.
- Considering issues relating to conserving water versus increasing the efficiency of water and increasing crop production.

The workgroup is going to take the proposed work plan to the whole council for discussion and approval. Additionally at the next council meeting the workgroup will discuss renaming of the titles of the workgroups and suggestions for workgroup chairs.

The conference call adjourned at 10:30 am.