

## Minutes: Agricultural Workgroup Conference Call

05/19/11

Time Start: 10:00 am

Time Stop: 11:00 am

<u>Council Members, Alternates, and Interested Parties</u> Richard Egg Hughes Abell Gary Walker	<u>TWDB Staff</u> Vanessa Escobar Mark Michon Comer Tuck Cameron Turner Erin McAuley
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The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am and roll call was taken.

The meeting began with discussion on the workgroup's updated work plan document. The core action items in the work plan were reviewed and discussed. Those action items include:

- Development of Overview Document
- Development of Stakeholder List
- Development of Stakeholder Engagement Process
- Development of Recognition Award Program
- Publicizing the Best Management Practices (BMP) notice

Because some of the workgroups selected new chairs there was some brief discussion on the role of a workgroup chair in terms of leading and participating in the workgroup.

Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff provided some specific updates on some of the items in the work plan relating to future website updates. There was discussion that changes in the website should allow for more information on public recognition efforts to be posted in the council website. Additionally TWDB staff is going to begin the process of placing BMPs in a user friendly format on the website as well.

There was some discussion on the draft overview document. It was suggested that the workgroup focus on reaching out to the largest of the agricultural water users which would be irrigation rather than livestock. The workgroup suggested that they should begin by putting together a list of the various contemporary metrics, formulas, and methodologies that are currently being used to measure agricultural irrigation water use. Comments and feedback on the overview document were requested by May 27.

There was some discussion on the Agricultural Stakeholder List. Comments and feedback were requested by May 27.

There was discussion on what the process should look like for engaging stakeholders. One approach that was suggested involved the following steps:

1. Reach out to new stakeholders through written contact.
2. Invite stakeholders to workgroup conference calls.
3. Identify the most interested stakeholders and arrange for small group meetings or conference calls.

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:

- Contemporary agricultural metrics.
- 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 conference call adjourned at 11:00 am.