

Minutes: Agricultural Workgroup Meeting (Conference Call)

09/29/15

Time Start: 9:00 am

Time Stop: 10:00 am

Members	Alternates	Interested Parties	TWDB Staff
C.E. Williams Jay Bragg Wayne Halbert Dan Hunter	Steve Bednarz David Villarreal	Sarah Schlessinger	Mindy Conyers Antonio Delgado John Meyer Cameron Turner

1. Introductions /Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am and roll call was taken.

Due to time conflicts, the workgroup took up the remaining agenda items in the order described below.

2. Update on Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) groundwater mapping project

John Meyer, of the TWDB's Innovative Water Technologies group, provided an update on the progress of the BRACS (Brackish Resources Aquifer Characterization System) project. Mr. Meyer answered questions from members on House Bill 30, passed in 2015 by 84th Texas Legislature, on thresholds for considering water to be brackish, and on the process by which staff maps brackish water in the state. Mr. Meyer also noted that the TWDB is seeking public input to identify and designate brackish groundwater production zones through October 30th. A public meeting will be held October 26, 2015, at 10:00 am in Room 170 of the Stephen F. Austin Building, 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, TX.

3. Consider the addition of new agricultural best management practices

Jay Bragg mentioned the possibility of adding agricultural best management practices on SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems and water audits related to irrigation districts. The workgroup also discussed the status of the best management practice on brush control and whether or not it includes language on prescribed burns.

4. Discuss data collection efforts for estimating irrigation water use

Antonio Delgado, of the TWDB's Agricultural Water Conservation group, provided a brief overview of the irrigation water use estimation process and described the recent high response rate from groundwater conservation districts. Jay Bragg suggested the possibility of distributing the draft estimates to Texas counties for comments via the Texas Farm Bureau. David Villarreal added that the regional water planning group consultants might have data to consider in the future.

5. Discuss future activities of the workgroup

The workgroup briefly discussed potential future activities including evaluating existing and potential additional agricultural water conservation best management practices and the process for including recommendations in the Water Conservation Advisory Council's biennial report to the legislature.

6. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.