

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 7, 2017
AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Agricultural Committee of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District met on July 7, 2016, at 5:38 P.M. in the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District offices, 603 East First Street, Dumas, Texas. The following persons were present:

Members Present at 5:30 P.M.

Zach Yoder, Chairman and Director;
Harold Grall, President; and
Danny Krienke, Vice-President.

Staff Present during part or all of the meeting:

Steve Walthour, General Manager;
Dale Hallmark, Assistant General Manager Hydrologist/Producer Services;
Kirk Welch; Assistant General Manager Outreach;
Paul Sigle, Agricultural Engineer;
Stan Spain, Farmer;
Leon New (Phone), Conservation Engineer.

Chairman Yoder called the meeting to order at 5:38 P.M.

General Manager Steve Walthour discussed the planting of crops and the installation of a sand separator at the North Plains Water Conservation Center. Member Krienke asked if nozzles on the east pivot were replaced with new nozzles and if any sand is being captured by the sand separator. Stan Spain said the nozzles were not replaced at this time but the District has received the new nozzles. Spain stated the separator is catching a little sand, but Spain has the valve bypassing the separator opened about one fourth open in order to have the required flow and pressure for the pivot. Leon New discussed the issue with having the bypass valve opened.

New, Krienke, and Harold Grall updated the Committee on the current progress of the 3-4-5 Project. Grall stated a possible 50% yield lost from the hail damage at his 3-4-5 field.

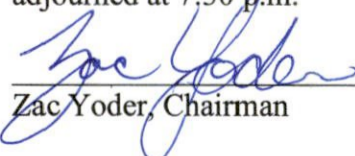
Walthour discuss possible future projects for the District's Agriculture Conservation Programs. The National Corn Growers Association is looking to expanded their Soil Health Partnership Program. The program helps farmers to identify their soil health concerns and identify which practices would be feasible to incorporate into their existing management. This process allows for farmers to customize how they implement soil health improvement on their farm. Krienke ask who is paying for the data collection and how the farmers in the program would compare to the farming practices in our region. The Committee requested the Staff to research the program further and have Steve Amosson evaluate the economic portion of the program.

New said Walthour discussed the possibility of a No-till Conference in the area. Krienke suggested a residue management conference.

Krienke discussed the possible development of an economic based program. This program would look at the economics of different crops. Grall discussed adding a competition to the program, rewarding the most profitable farmers.

The committee requested the development of protocols for demonstration projects. New indicated that he would develop those protocols. Grall discussed a company, Growers, that is providing a farm management solution that may be of interest to the District. The committee requested that Growers, present their program at a future Board or Committee meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chairman Yoder declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.


Zac Yoder, Chairman


Daniel L. Krienke, Vice-President