

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2016  
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
NORTH PLAINS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Agriculture Committee of North Plains Groundwater Conservation District met on July 13, 2016, at 5:00 P.M. in the Richard S. Bowers Learning Center of the North Plains Water Conservation Center, 6045 County Road E., Etter, Texas. The following persons were present:

**Members Present at 5:00 P.M.**

Danny Krienke, Chairman and Board Secretary;  
Harold Grall, Vice-President; and  
Zac Yoder, Director.

**Staff Present during part or all of the meeting:**

Steve Walthour, General Manager;  
Kirk Welch, Assistant General Manager/Outreach; and,  
Paul Sigle, Agriculture Engineer.

**Others Present during part or all of the meeting:**

Stan Spain

Chairman Krienke meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

The committee Discussed progress and review proposals to fund the 3-4-5 Demonstration Program, Master Irrigator Program, Texas Agrilife Extension and Research Irrigation Dashboard development, and the Texas Water Development Board Meter Reimbursement Program in the 2016-2017 budget.

The 3-4-5 Demonstration Project is in its second year of a three-year program and should extend through the 2018 irrigation season and the final report should be completed by May 2019. This program is an extension of the 200-12 demonstration program that operated from 2010-2014 with the final report issued in 2015. The following is the anticipated current and end-of-year (EOY)-expenses and anticipated proposed budget for 2016-2017 for this program, not including income from partners, internal staffing, and internal equipment expenses. Funding partners include TWDB and potentially NRCS.

Description	July 11th	Budget	2015-2016 Remaining	EOY	2016-2017 Budget Estimate
<b>Conservation Demo Project</b>					
8102 • Other Expenses	3,208.04	25,000.00	911.76	4,119.80	25,000.00
8103 • Subcontracted Services	61,091.43	80,000.00	17,362.78	78,454.21	80,000.00
8104 • Tech/Computer	58,175.44	70,000.00	16,534.03	74,709.47	70,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>122,474.91</b>	<b>175,000.00</b>	<b>34,808.56</b>	<b>157,283.47</b>	<b>175,000.00</b>

The committee received a report and discussed the Master Irrigator Program that is in its first year of an anticipated three- to five-year program. The program includes classroom and hands-on instruction in using new technologies and farming methods. The 2016 course should be completed on July 20th. The following is the anticipated current, and end-of-year (EOY)-expenses and anticipated proposed cost for 2016-2017 for this program, not including income from partners, internal staffing, and internal equipment expenses. Funding partners include NRCS, as well as, vendors that have



picked up part of the food expenses. NRCS has provided a matching grant for this year, for this and other outreach programs, in the amount of \$45,000.00 This item currently doesn't have a separate budgeted category.

Description		July 11th	EOY	2016-2017 Estimate	Preliminary Cost
	Other Expenses	5,000.00	10,000.00		10,000.00
	Subcontracted Services	20,700.00	29,000.00		30,000.00
	Tech/Computer	5,000.00	10,000.00		10,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>49,000.00</b>		<b>\$50,000.00</b>

This program has a producer advisory committee consisting of Danny Krienke, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District; Leon New, Irrigation Engineer; Steve Amosson, Texas A&M AgriLife; Charles Hillyer, Texas A&M AgriLife; Scott Strawn, Texas A&M AgriLife; Shawn Carter, Crop Production Services; Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board; Keith Sides, USDA NRCS; David Reinart, Better Harvest; Stan Spain, Spain Farms; and, Bryce Howard, Farmer.

The committee reviewed and discussed the anticipated current, and end-of-year (EOY)-expenses and anticipated proposed cost for 2016-2017 for this program, excluding income from partners, internal staffing, and internal equipment expenses.

Description		July 11	Budget	2015-2016 Remaining	EOY	2016-2017 Estimate
<b>Income</b>						
	<b>4152 · TWDB Meter Grant</b>	73,734.30	400,000.00	98,416.21	172,150.51	300,000.00
<b>Expense</b>						
	<b>8006 · TWDB Meter Grant</b>	172,150.51	400,000.00	48,926.85	221,077.36	300,000.00

The committee received a report and discussed the Texas AgriLife Extension and Research Irrigation Dashboard Development (Full Integrated Irrigation Management Application). The proposed project involves software development to integrate existing conservation technologies into a simplified irrigation management tool. The project team will use open source software licenses to build a fully-integrated system that collects soil moisture measurements, weather station data, weather forecasts, and water use data from center pivots. The system will integrate this information into a single interface and provide functionality necessary to perform efficient irrigation management. The project will include education and outreach through the support of the existing agricultural demonstration project funded by TWDB through the District. The system will also be available through Texas A&M AgriLife to interested agricultural producers. This project supports implementation of an irrigation conservation water management strategy in the 2017 State Water Plan and the 2016 Panhandle Regional (Region A) Water Plan. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$30,000. Walthour reported that the Texas Water Development Board approved to fund a proposed joint project between the District and Texas A&M AgriLife in the amount of \$15,000.

Discuss draft contract for Leon New to conform with Texas Water Development Board requirements for reimbursement for part of the District expenses related to the Agriculture Conservation Demonstration Programs.

Walthour discussed the Texas Water Development Board recently requested that Leon New's contract be updated so that the TWDB could pay its share of program expenses for Leon relating to the 3-4-5 Program. A primary contract concern is the liability requirements by the Texas Water Development Board. After looking into those requirements, District staff will be soliciting bids from a third-party vendor to insure Leon New similar to the insurance the District requires for CPS and Spain at the Water



Conservation Center. The General Manager is checking into the District covering the cost of general liability for New and will bring the contract to the Board at a later date.

The committee discussed the progress and provided input regarding the construction and facility maintenance, as well as, the agriculture water conservation programs at the Water Conservation Center. This summer, the District will finish its construction on the irrigation infrastructure at the North Plains Water Conservation Center. The following is the anticipated current and end- of-year (EOY)-expenses and anticipated proposed cost for 2016-2017 for this program, not including income from partners, internal staffing, and internal equipment expenses.

Description	July 11	Budget	2015-2016 Remaining	EOY	2016-2017 Estimate
<b>Income</b>					
4110 · North Plains Water CC	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	100,000.00
<b>Expense</b>					
<b>8200 · North Plains WCC</b>					
8205 · Irrigation Engineer	11,200.85	40,000.00	13,183.39	24,384.24	42,000.00
8206 · Irrigation Equip. Purchase	84,439.56	100,000.00	25,000.00	109,439.56	0.00
8207 · TWDB Project #21743 - Principal	62,000.00	62,000.00	0.00	62,000.00	62,000.00
8208 · TWDB Project # 21743 - Interest	614.00	174.00	0.00	614.00	614.00
<b>Total 8200 · North Plains WCC</b>	<b>158,254.41</b>	<b>202,174.00</b>	<b>38,183.39</b>	<b>196,437.80</b>	<b>104,614.00</b>

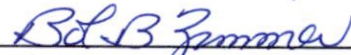
District staff is investigating the costs of moving the HVAC unit in the Richard S. Bowers Center to make the classroom more useable and working with a landscape architect to develop a landscape plan for parking and grounds at the Center.


The District anticipates receiving a reimbursement from Stan Spain related to NRCS EQIP for the drip irrigation system. The General Manager did not recommend any additional construction related to agriculture irrigation at this time.

Walthour reported that the District is currently working with High Plains Underground Water Conservation District to implement a Resource Conservation Partnership Program that would allow producers to get a cost share for soil moisture probes, as well as other things.

Kirk Welch led the discussion regarding demonstration field days. The committees selected August 30 in Ochiltree County and September 1st in Dallam County for 3-4-5 Demonstration. The committee agreed that the 3-4-5 demonstration in Moore County will be part of the CPS field day at the Water Conservation Center on August 16th.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Chairman Krienke declared the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

  
Bob B. Zimmer, President

  
Daniel L. Krienke, Secretary