

Item 10 – BVWaterSmart Platform

BVWaterSmart was funded by and began collecting rainfall data and information necessary to calculate evapotranspiration in late 2014. A weather station and several wireless rain gauge stations were purchased by the District and granted to the City of College Station and Wickson Creek SUD. The City of Bryan also has both a weather station and rain gauge stations throughout the city but opted to purchase their own equipment.

Dr. Ron Kaiser and the General Manager have been deeply involved with BVWaterSmart from day one. He and I have had long discussions concerning what the best platform is for collecting and disseminating the weather information to interested homeowners.

The City of College Station is annually granted \$20,000 to contract with an entity to:

1. Collect the weather and rainfall data
2. Calculate the need for lawn irrigation based on the data
3. Disseminate the information via:
 - Maintain BVWaterSmart website for public access
 - Create and email lawn irrigation recommendations every Monday morning

Texas A&M University has been the entity chosen each year to accomplish the above tasks under supervision by Dr. Kaiser and his staff. Ron has recently retired from TAMU leaving a supervisory “hole” in the system.

I reached out to Conrad Harrison, Halff Associates, about hosting BVWaterSmart in the same manner as in previous years. I was told this task is well within Halff’s “wheelhouse” and would provide the District with direct access to the system and an avenue to make the application more interactive.

The current contract year ends October 1, 2025. Ron and I have been working diligently with Dr. Keith Biggers, Director of Texas A&M Center for Applied Technology, to assess the movement of data and cost of shifting the responsibilities associated with BVWaterSmart from TAMU to the District.

The Grant Committee met Wednesday, August 6, 2025, to discuss budgeting for 2026 grant funding and the future home for BVWaterSmart. Members of the committee are:

Jeff Kennedy – Chair
Lisa Rolke
Gary Mechler

The committee was in complete agreement and to move forward with bringing BVWaterSmart in house. I am currently gathering:

1. Annual cost estimate from Halff Associates to host BVWaterSmart
2. Cost estimate to take the current program and interface it with the Halff platform
3. Freshen the program to make it more mobile device and browser friendly
4. Cost to the District for the remainder of FY 2025. We want to make sure the site does not GO DARK.

Dr. Biggers has offered to alter the current 3-year contract (October 1, 2025, begins Year 3) to a 6-month contract:

Tasks for this effort are as follows:

- Assist with defining server requirements for hosting the system, and software setup and configuration
- **Transfer all software source code and builds, along with the respective databases**
- Provide explanation of software organization, development tools, and deployment processes
- Provide explanation of connectivity and management of deployed weather stations, and support transfer of the LoggerNet software license over to the new server

Budget

	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Total TCAT Support Costs</i>	<i>\$10,000</i>

It is the recommendation by the Grant Committee members and the General Manager to move operation of and responsibility for BVWaterSmart to BVGCD using Halff Associates as the hosting entity.