

Item 5 – Grant Committee Recommendation to the Board

The Grant Committee met at the District Office August 4, 2017 to discuss:

- Grant proposal received from the Brazos and Robertson counties Soil & Water Conservation districts addressing salinity issues in the Brazos River Alluvium and proposing to collect and test water and soil samples for use in identifying possible avenues to increase water use efficiency
- Grant proposal solicitation from entities regarding possible water conservation projects
- Grant Program budget needs for 2018

Committee Members:

Bill Harris (Chairman) – Present
Stephen Cast – Present
Bryan Russ, Jr, - Absent

Others in attendance:

Mark Carrabba

The grant proposal from the Soil & Water Conservation districts is attached. Members present thoroughly discussed the merits of the grant and the background work done by the Natural Resource Conservation Service staff, District staff, David Stratta and Mark Carrabba to vet the need for the project. A copy of the grant proposal is attached for your review.

The committee recommends the grant project for \$8,200 be funded with the following conditions:

- Any approved laboratory capable of testing water and soil samples may be used in this project
- A copy of all data derived from the soil and water sampling will be provided to the District
- GPS coordinates for all water and soil samples will be provided to the District
- A map of all water and soil sample locations will be provided to the District

The committee further recommends that no grant proposal solicitation be done for the 2017 fiscal year.

It is the recommendation by the General Manager to accept the recommendations by the Grant Committee to fund the grant proposal received from the Soil & Water Conservation districts serving Brazos and Robertson counties and to forego any grant proposal solicitation for the 2017 fiscal year.

Brazos Bottom Salinity Project Proposal
between the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District
and the Brazos County SWCD #450 and Robertson County SWCD #451

The Brazos and Robertson County SWCDs are requesting educational grant funding in the amount of \$8,200 to be split equally between the SWCDs. The funds will be used to buy water and soil sampling supplies and pay for sample analysis by the Texas A&M Soil, Water and Forage Testing Laboratory.

The purpose of the proposed project is to assess irrigation water salinity and soil salinity in the irrigated cropland areas of Brazos and Robertson Counties known as the "Brazos Bottom". The SWCDs will sample irrigation water from irrigation wells and collect soil samples to establish baseline data on potential salinity issues in the Brazos Bottom.

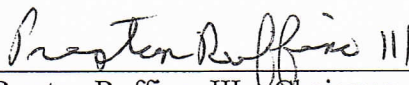
The water test will be the routine analysis (conductivity, pH, Ca, Mg, K, CO₃, HCO₃, SO₄, Cl, P, B, Nitrate-N, Hardness, and SAR) and the soil test will be the routine analysis + detailed salinity. We will do the profile sample with 0-6" sample, then 6"-12" subsurface sample. For each well sampled, two soil samples will be taken of the area irrigated by that well and/or to account for different soils types found in the field.

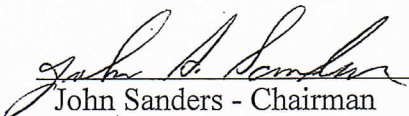
The SWCDs will collect up to 100 irrigation well water samples and up to 200 soil samples in Brazos and Robertson Counties lying within the Brazos Bottom production area to determine whether salinity is an agricultural production problem and identify specific areas where the issue is most damaging to crop production. Samples would be divided equally between the two counties.

The budget break down is \$2000 for water well testing (\$20/sample, 100 samples), \$6000 for soil samples (\$30/sample, 200 samples), and \$200 for the purchase of water and soil sampling supplies and SWCD administrative fees.

The SWCDs will start data collection in August 2017 and plan to be completed by the end of October 2017. The SWCDs and the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District will host a producer workshop in December 2017/January 2018 to publicize the findings of the salinity project and provide information to farmers on mitigating salinity issues as they relate to crop production and irrigation water use. The SWCDs with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide on-farm technical assistance and conservation planning services to farmers to address salinity concerns.

This proposal was approved at both SWCD Board meetings held on July 17, 2017.


Preston Ruffino, III - Chairman
Brazos County SWCD #450


John Sanders - Chairman
Robertson County SWCD #451



**Agenda
Open Meeting**

**BRAZOS VALLEY GROUNDWATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**District Office
112 W. 3rd Street
Hearne, Texas**

**Grant Subcommittee Meeting
Friday, August 4, 2017
10:00 a.m.**

(1) Work Session of the Grant Subcommittee including discussion by the committee members, other directors present, and staff for review of:

- Consider Grant Proposal tendered by the Brazos & Robertson counties Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Grant Funding solicitation
- Grant Funding Budget for Fiscal Year 2018
 - a) BVWaterSmart
 - b) Well Plugging

Signed this 1st day of August, 2017

Alan M. Day
General Manager

The Board of Directors may meet in closed session, pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code §§ 551.071-551.076, to:

- (1) consult with attorney ;
- (2) deliberate regarding the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the District in negotiations with a third person;
- (3) deliberate a negotiated contract for a prospective gift or donation to the District if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the District in negotiations with a third person;
- (4) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a Board member or District employee;
- (5) to receive information from employees or question employees, but not deliberate public business or agency policy that affects public business; and
- (6) to deliberate the deployment or specific occasions for implementation of security personnel or devices.

The Board may also meet in open session on these matters as required by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code § 551.102.

**** Agenda items may be taken out of order at the discretion of the Board Chairman**
