Welcome by Robert Ziehr
Charles Kneuper looking for activities for the next FY.
Kristy Oates, State Conservationist, welcomes everyone to Sep session of State Technical Committee. COVID safety plan. There are some cases with high transmission in counties. Currently at 25% staffing in those counties. As conditions change, we will adapt and stay within policies. Our field work continues. Current staffing is 699 employees across Texas including a lot of new employees.
Eddie Trevino with the Farm Service Agency- several offices are at the 25% staffing with no outside visitors because of COVID-19.
- PLIMP- Apply for assistance due to COVID19 deadline Sep 17th
- Timber harvest affected by COVID-19 deadline July22-oct 15th
- CVAP-continues to be open until Oct 12, 2021
- Emergency Livestock Honeybees and Farm Raise Fish- available nationwide.
Mr. Hundl- National Agricultural Statistics- 3rd quarter of the year going into data collection for acreage production of small grains in Texas coming Sep 30th. County agricultural survey is next Dec 9th and 12th. Projects this fall will consist of Marketing practicing Nov 18th, 2021. Feral Swine date collection, hemp survey, crop production annual survey, Dec will mail consensus packets.
Risk Management Agency- 569 million paid out. Tropical storm that’s currently in Texas right now will change that. Cover Crop Program during 2021 crop
Rural Development- Daniel Torres- 1.1 billion in funding across 27 programs. Food banks, food distribution programs. 20,000 or fewer for a rural area.
Sub Committee-
AFO-CAFO: Tx Poultry Federation- working with Agrilife for Nutrient Management training. Manure Management Conference was postponed for the DFW area in April timeframe.
Agronomy Update- Met last week with some non-profits, Agrilife- updating conservation standards, organic training for NRCS staff. Discussed Soil health to regenerative Ag and how they play off eachother. Review and ranking of management practices.
Easement- Changes to the WRE ranking, confirmation that it will be based on 80% of value, updated to reflect current policy. Addresses disadvantaged landowners.
Forestry- Rob Hughes- filling in for James, fall meeting Oct 8th. Thank Eddie Trevino for hosting webinar for program relief for loggers. Research ongoing for climate change, carbon. Aquatic working group is greatly appreciated
Grazing- feral hog damage was a huge concern. Concerns with Lesser Prairie Chicken listing and that grazing was not exempt but had a discussion and feel comfortable that landowners can do good grazing practices.
Irrigation- Keith Sides- No chair currently, will have one by next meeting. Come Oct 1, 9 programs will be active. 1 hopefully by next year Oct 2022.
Urban- Susie Marshall- Equip programs being adaptive for smaller urban farms. ¼ acre can apply for EQUIP.
Water Resources- Recommendations for source water protection. Sep 30 is deadline for that. Water resources and NRCS is working with Texas association waterworks to develop information to include in a newsletter.
Wildlife- met Sep 10th, 40 total were in attendance on Teams. WLFW-request to have input on priority practices/ranking; can partners help monitor success in focal areas and request to
understand the connection btw National comments and State office. WLFW Monarch- adding Quail.

- Texas Water Action Collaborative- water quality, quantity and soil health. March 22nd is World Water Day.
- Charles Kneuper discussed practices scenarios to cover a general idea of how a practice would be conducted. Requested feedback from subcommittees regarding the information needed to update the scenarios.
- Farm Bill Updates (NRCS) Claude Ross- FY21 summary. 3016 total contract. Treated 2,222,476 treated acres and $86.5M. EQIP winter storm, 52 Contracts $866,586- Emergency animal mortality, obstruction removal etc. CSP- 182 contracts, $15.4M. Discussed proposed EQIP practices. CIC 5-10 year contracts, at least one PRC and within watershed. EQUIP pilot expected to move to all states in FY22.
- Rob Ziehr- Feral Swine and Urban Conservation- first 2 pilots ran by Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Amended the first round to add more contracts. Urban Conservation, there is an office within NRCS Urban Conservation and Agriculture. There are 6 urban conservationists across the state.
- Farm Service Agency - Jeff Dudensing –
  - Discussed CRP program. Provided program updates. Increase collaboration with partners, increase the technical assistance capacity through NRCS.
    - SAFE acres moved from CRP general to CRP continuous.
    - PIP program payments from 20% to 50% to encourage more land enrollment.
    - Discussed Notice CRP-936 (Conservation Priority Areas).
      - Discussed importance of CPAs
      - Stated historically have renewed existing CPAs
        - Wildlife state CPA – Discussed with Wildlife Subcommittee
        - Water quality
        - Air quality
    - With no dissention or requests for change during discussion, STAC concurs with renewing current CPAs.
- Questions: New budgets for ALE, WRE?
  - Nothing has been announced yet (Claude Ross)
- Question for FSA- Regarding relending program for ARIS property, are there any restrictions on the fees and rates?
  - It will be at their decided interest rate and terms.
- The CAP will only be for the counties that requested it
- How the quail initiative will process the application and funding
  - There is a ranking process developed through the work groups.
- RCPP- do the easements need to be ready to go or do you receive funding then can go out and gather interest from the landowners?
  - Have some projects identified before proposal.
- Closing from Kirsty Oates