



Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
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Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board  
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October 1, 2023

Soil and Water Conservation Districts Directors:

Every year Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) lead an important task of convening a Local Work Group (LWG) meeting to seek community input and develop conservation priorities for the next fiscal year.

However, LWG meetings are about more than just developing priorities for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) allocations. Information from these LWG meetings is critical to the overall development of a successful conservation local work plan. LWG meetings allow for community engagement and builds support for conservations programs at all levels of the conservation delivery system.

As you know, many of the duties associated with the Local Work Group meetings are a direct responsibility of the local SWCD and in many instances this can determine the success of the LWG meeting.

In 2023, many SWCDs rose to the challenge and in their words hosted some of the most successful meetings they have ever led. They were innovative in their approaches to ensure greater participation and community input.

We want to encourage more districts to prioritize their LWG meetings. Districts can apply for up to \$500 in reimbursement for time and expenses related to holding a LWG meeting through the Association's grant program and the Association is developing a special section on their website to help districts in planning a successful LWG meeting.

SWCDs are being asked to host their local LWG meetings between November 1, 2023, and April 30, 2024. Each SWCD will work with their local District Conservationist to provide a summary of the results of the meeting.

Thank you for your continued leadership on locally led conservation in Texas. We look forward to another year of successful LWG meetings .

Kent Batman, President  
Association of Texas Soil and Water  
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