Texas Agricultural Finance Authority
November 20, 2025
9:30 am
Room 220-S (second floor)

Board Members Present:
Ted Conover, Chairman
Justin Tucker, Vice-Chairman (virtual)
Sarah Burnett (virtual)
John Crew (virtual)
Craig Davis
Georgina Macias (virtual)
Barry Smith (virtual)
Aaron Weichman (virtual)

Guests Present:
Kody Bessent
Kara Bishop (virtual)
Kelley Green (virtual)
Hilda Gutierrez (virtual)
Aaron Nelsen (virtual)
Jeff Nunley
Marissa Patton (virtual)
Andy Prihoda (virtual)

TDA Staff Present:
CJ Balderrama
Emily Daly
Mindy Fryer
Bradine Griffiths
Susan Maldonado
Zona Martin
Danielle Mitchell (virtual)
Kat Neilson
Marios Parpounas
Karen Reichek
Julia Rico
Kelly Sara

AGENDA:

I. **Call to Order.** Chairman Ted Conover called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

II. **Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum**. Mindy Fryer called roll and confirmed a quorum.

III. **Opening Remarks.**

a) Ted welcomed the Board and guests to the meeting.

b) Mindy gave an overview presentation of the current implementation status on HB43, which modified several TAFA programs, and the development process of the new programs. Next steps include publishing rules, receiving and reviewing public comments, and finalizing documents. The goal is still to launch the new grant programs in January 2026.

IV. **Discussion and Possible Action relating to approval of meeting minutes for the October 23, 2025 board meeting.** Ted Conover called for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Barry Smith motioned; Craig Davis seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

V. **Public Comment.** Members of the public were invited to provide comments throughout the meeting's agenda.

VI. **Discussion and Possible Action relating to Annual Financial Audit on the following Items:**

a) **Presentation/Review of the 2025 Audited Financial Statements, as conducted by Martinez, Rosario & Company, LLP, CPAs;** Presentation was made by Milo Martinez. The opinion of TAFA's audited financial statements for the state fiscal year 2025 was a clean opinion and all information was presented fairly. There were no significant changes; no significant difficulties with management and full cooperation; and no recommendations.

b) **Approval of 2025 Audited Financial Statements.**
Barry Smith moved to approve the audited financial statement for FY 2025. Justin Tucker seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. **Discussion and Possible Action relating to State of Texas Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.** No motion or vote was taken by the Board on this agenda item.

VIII. **Discussion and Possible Action relating to TAFA bonding authority.** Discussion around renewing efforts to launch a bond funded loan program raised several questions that will be reviewed by legal counsel prior to the next meeting. No motion or vote was taken by the Board on this agenda item.

IX. **TDA updates, if applicable, relating to rule review and/or revision of TAFA's administrative rules located at Texas Administrative Code, Title 4, Part 1, Chapter 28.**
TDA's General Counsel provided an update. No motion or vote was taken by the Board on this agenda item.

X. **Discussion and Possible Action relating to House Bill 43 program development, including but not limited to the following:**

a) Agriculture Grant Program

- AgLink:
    - Mindy presented a draft of a TDA-GO application for the AgLink Program which is directed at critical infrastructure services in the ag industry. The Board provided additional feedback and a

final version of the application will be presented at the next meeting.

- AgPro:
  - Mindy presented a draft of a TDA-GO application for the AgPro Program which is directed at agriculture producers across the state. The Board provided additional feedback and a final version of the application will be presented at the next meeting.
- AgBoost:
  - TDA-GO application requirements for the AgBoost Program directed at agriculture service providers and value added businesses were discussed. The Board provided significant feedback and a final version of the application will be presented at the next meeting.
- For all programs, the Board provided recommendations of edits and suggestions to collect information in the application that will be used during the evaluation process. No motion or vote was taken by the Board on these agenda items.

b) Pest Disease Control and Depredation Program

- Mindy presented a TDA-GO application mockup, received additional feedback for the final version of application which will be presented at next meeting. No motion or vote was taken by the Board on this agenda item.

c) Other programs

No motion or vote was taken by the Board on this agenda item.

XI. Discussion and Possible Action relating to the next meeting date.

December 18, 2025, and January 8, 2026, were agreed to be future meeting dates. No motion or vote was taken by the Board on this agenda item.

XII. Discussion and Possible Action relating to other business raised at meeting to be placed on next agenda.

Ted Conover called for additional business to be placed on the agenda. No motion or vote was taken by the Board on this agenda item.

XIII. Executive Session (as necessary)

The Board did not conduct an executive session.

XIV. Adjourn.

Ted Conover called for a motion to adjourn. Justin Tucker motioned; Sarah Burnett seconded; the meeting adjourned at 11:54 AM.