

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
May 24, 2004

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 24, 2004, at 1:00 p.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Aubrey Russell, Vice Chairman
Reed Stewart, Member
Guillermo (Memo) Benavides, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
W. T. (Dub) Crumley, Chairman

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Interim Executive Director
Dawn Heitman, Program Specialist
John Foster, Natural Resources Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator
Andy Garza, Program Administrator
Mel Davis, Program Specialist
Edna Etheredge, Administrative Technician
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

AGENDA ITEM 1. New Board Member Training

Board member training was conducted by Mel Davis, Dawn Heitman, Kenny Zajicek and John Foster. All agenda items were covered in detail and questions were taken and answered.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
May 25, 2004

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 25, 2004, at 8:00 a.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Aubrey Russell, Vice Chairman
Reed Stewart, Member
Guillermo (Memo) Benavides, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
W. T. (Dub) Crumley, Chairman

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Interim Executive Director
Dawn Heitman, Program Specialist
Richard Egg, Engineer
John Foster, Natural Resources Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator
Tuffy Wood, Natural Resource Specialist
Kevin Wagner, NPS Team Leader
Jay Bragg, 319 Grant Coordinator
Lee Munz, 319 Project Manager
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Andy Garza, Program Administrator
Mel Davis, Program Specialist
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Norman Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kraig Gallimore, Texas Water Development Board
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
John Grant, Colorado River Municipal Water District
Okla W. Thornton, Jr., Colorado River Municipal Water District
Myron Calley, Scurry County Soil and Water Conservation District
Diane Cayce, Ft. Worth Convention and Visitor's Bureau
Denise Gentsch, BASF Corporation
Bryan Gentsch, TDCA
Daren Harmel, USDA, ARS
Charmaine Delmatier, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ren Lohofener, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Jack DeLoach, ARS
Charles Hart, Texas Cooperative Extension Service
Mike McMurry, Texas Department of Agriculture

Chairman Crumley called the meeting to order at 8:03 and welcomed those present. He also recognized newly elected board member Reed Stewart and re-elected board member Jerry Nichols.

Reports from Agencies and Guests

Diane Cayce, Ft. Worth Convention and Visitor's Bureau invited the State Board to hold their Annual State Meeting for 2005 or 2006 in Ft. Worth.

Daren Harmel, USDA-ARS gave a short presentation on his agency's activities and thanked the State Board for grants awarded them and trust placed in them.

Norman Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service reported on: Dr. Butler's health, Farm Bill Programs and their implementation, EQIP, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, Wetland Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Farm & Ranchland Protection Program, Conservation Security Program (not yet funded), Technical Service Providers (133 districts ready to participate) and took questions from the Board.

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality reported on: changes in personnel, CAFO rules will be presented June 23rd to Commission (present rules will expire July 27th) and development of general permit for CAFO's.

Kraig Gallimore, Texas Water Development Board reported on: Water Conservation Task Force, all grant applications are in and their board will act on them June 16th.

Ren Lohofener and Charmaine Delmatier, US Fish & Wildlife Service stated their agency's willingness to assist with the Salt Cedar Program.

Tamara Daniel, Texas Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts answered questions concerning a joint meeting of the State Board and Association.

Jack DeLoach, ARS reported on results of his agency's Salt Cedar Program using biological control.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Minutes from the February 19, 2004 Board Meeting

Chairman Crumley called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2004, meeting as mailed. Mr. Russell moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2. District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications. Mr. Benavides moved the appointments be approved and Mr. Russell seconded. The following appointments were unanimously approved:

Craig Demere, Coke County #219, Zone 3, Replace Don Fields
Debbie Benke, Medina Valley #226, Zone 1, Replace Mary Crain
Tim Pennell, DeWitt County #339, Zone 2, Replace Paddy Burwell

AGENDA ITEM 3. Adoption of proposed amendments to Agricultural & Silvicultural Water Quality Management Program

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

Mr. Benavides moved that the board adopt the amendments to 31 TAC, Chapter 523 as presented. Mr. Stewart seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information stating that unobligated funds were reallocated within regions and remaining amounts will go into the statewide fund.

Mr. Nichols moved that the board approve requests for supplemental funds for the five regions as listed. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Allocation of FY 04 Water Quality Cost Share Funds

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Benavides moved that the board approve the requests for Statewide Funds as listed. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Approval of Grant to Trans Pecos SWCD for Santa Rosa Springs Well Plugging Project

Mr. Bragg reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the board.

Mr. Benavides moved that the State Board contract with the Trans Pecos SWCD to provide Mr. Schuyler Wight 100% cost not to exceed \$95,050 to decommission the abandoned well. Mr. Reed seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Benavides requested that staff report on this project at future board meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Approval of 319 E.V. Spence Project Plan of Operation

Mr. Wood reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the board with input from Mr. Noelke concerning the contract and Jack DeLoach, John Grant and Charlie Hart concerning the project.

Mr. Stewart moved the board approve the contract with appropriate discrimination being given to the Executive Director to make modifications until the next board meeting. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stewart moved the board approve the plan of operation for the E.V. Spence Project. Mr. Benavides seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Amendment of Aerial Spray Average Cost

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the board.

Mr. Stewart moved the board amend the average cost of aerial applied herbicides for control of mesquite to \$27.00 per acre for a pound of Clopyralid and a pound of Triclopyr per acre in a 4-gallon per acre mix. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Reallocation of Brush Control Funds

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the board.

Mr. Benavides moved to reallocate future releases and unobligated balances in the amount of \$77,985.25 from Lake Ballinger, \$6,814.23 from Mountain Creek, \$263,297.23 from Oak Creek and \$175.00 from Pecan Creek Watershed to the Twin Buttes Watershed in the total amount of \$348,271.71. Mr. Stewart seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Allocation of FY 05 Brush Control Funds for Pecos Salt Cedar Project

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the allocation of \$100,000.00 of FY 05 funds to salt cedar control on the main channel of the Pecos to match EQIP and National Parks Service funds at 25% state match and 75% federal match. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Allocate funding for administrative costs associated with the Dairy Manure Export Support (DMES) Project

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Russell moved the board approve the allocation of \$80,000.00 of AY 04 general revenue to support administrative costs associated with the DMES project for the remainder of FY 04. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation Projects

Mr. Egg reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the board.

Mr. Nichols moved the board approve the projects as listed. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Proposed rule for removal of district directors

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. After discussion the board directed Mr. Davis to send a mail-out to all districts requesting their input concerning rules for removal of district directors. The Board also requested that the matter be discussed with Association Directors.

AGENDA ITEM 14. Future State Meetings

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Benavides moved that the 2005 Annual State Meeting be held in Corpus Christi. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Russell moved the 2006 Annual state meeting be held in Ft. Worth. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15. Contribution agreement with NRCS for Technical Services

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information with input from Mr. Bade and took questions from the board.

AGENDA ITEM 16. Conservation Awards Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information with input from field representatives, represented by Mr. Freeman.

The board directed Mr. Davis to have the conservation awards program be an agenda item at the joint board meeting in June and at the areas discussion sessions during the annual state meeting. The suggestion of a "special recognition category" which could be customized for each area was suggested.

AGENDA ITEM 17. 2004 State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information and was directed to contact the Marriott in Laredo concerning rooms for the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 18. NACD South Central Region Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19. Coastal Coordination Council Report

Mr. Benavides reviewed the agenda information with input from Mr. Egg.

AGENDA ITEM 20. NACD Report

Mr. Benavides discussed: how the NACD based its level of assistance to districts, South Central Regional plans to increase their participation, new CEO and stated that the League City property is for sale.

AGENDA ITEM 21. Texas Water Conservation Task Force Update

Mr. Egg reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the board. The board suggested that Texas Water Conservation Task Force award winners be recognized at local awards programs.

AGENDA ITEM 22. Changes to Poultry Program

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information with input from Mr. Bohmfalk and took questions from the board. The board suggested that Mr. Foster keep districts apprised of this program through mail-outs.

AGENDA ITEM 23. 2006-2007 District Budget Requests

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information stating that the districts have been very conservative and realistic with their input.

AGENDA ITEM 24. Biennial Strategic Plan and Legislative Appropriation Request

Mr. Zajicek and Mr. Wagner had a power point presentation on budget structure.

AGENDA ITEM 25. General Status Reports

Mr. Isom stated the board packet included status reports on: Human Resources, Public Information/Education, TMDL Program, Clean Water Act 319(h), Brush Control Program, Water Quality Management Program, and the Fiscal Report. He asked for questions from the board and addressed a question concerning FTE's.

Chairman Crumley presented five year service plaques to Kenny Zajicek and Lee Munz and recognized Yolanda Brown for 15 years of service.

Chairman Crumley conducted election of board officers and called for nominations for chairman. Mr. Russell nominated Mr. Crumley. Mr. Nichols moved that nominations cease and Mr. Crumley be elected by acclamation, Mr. Benavides seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Crumley called for nominations for vice chairman. Mr. Benavides nominated Mr. Russell. Mr. Nichols moved that nominations cease and Mr. Russell be elected by acclamation, Mr. Steward seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Benavides moved that the date of the next board meeting be set as June 24 with a work session to be held June 23, 2004, in Austin. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

W. T. Crumley
Chairman

Jackie L Davis
Secretary

6/24/04
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on May 24 & 25, 2004.

6/24/04
Date

[Signature]
Executive Director