

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
State Soil Conservation Board  
March 11, 1957

The regular meeting of the State Soil Conservation Board was called to order by Chairman J. P. Martin in its office at Temple at 8 A.M.

Members of the Board present were J. P. Martin, S. J. Payne, J. C. Porter, E. W. Wehman, and A. F. Leesch.

Others present were A. C. Spencer, H. D. Davis, O. F. Armstrong and L. F. Stewart of the State Soil Conservation Board; H. N. Smith, W. T. Moon, and Homer Taff of the Soil Conservation Service; Howard Boswell of the Association of Soil Conservation Districts and Jack Barton of A. & M. College.

The minutes were read and approved.

Homer Taff read and explained Public Law 1021 which sets up the Great Plains Conservation Program.

A. F. Leesch reported on the National Meeting of Soil Conservation Districts. Mr. Leesch stated that about 75 Texans attended the meeting. It was also stated that much interest was shown by Supervisors in the vicinity of St. Louis.

A. C. Spencer stated that 32 states were represented by Executive Officers for their meeting which was held at the National Meeting of Soil Conservation Districts. It was decided at this meeting not to officially organize but to hold a meeting each year when and where the National Meeting of Districts was held. The Executive Officer of the state in which the National Meeting of Districts is to be held will arrange the program for the Executive Officers. Carl Spencer explained some phases of the Texas Soil Conservation Act at the meeting. It was brought out that Texas was the only state that granted money to the Districts to be governed by the Supervisors.

Jack Barton stated that the State of Nebraska holds short courses for Elementary teachers in conservation. Jack also stated that he thought a program of this nature could be organized in Texas. The Board asked Jack to get the

details on this type of program and present them at the next Board Meeting.

A motion was made by E. W. Wehman and seconded by J. C. Porter to disapprove the following watershed pending a preliminary survey:

1. Tri-Bay Water shed - San Patricio Soil Conservation District No. 324

The motion carried.

An unfavorable report having been received on the following watershed from a preliminary survey, a motion was made by S. J. Payne and seconded by E. W. Wehman to disapprove the Sandes Creek Watershed application. The motion carried.

After the Board heard a report from the Committee that studied the facilities of Corpus Christi, Abilene, and Waco as possible sites for holding the 1958 State Meeting of Supervisors, the Board voted to hold the meeting at Corpus Christi contingent upon the terms being the same as those presented to the Committee.

A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by A. F. Leesch to hold the 1958 State Meeting of Supervisors on January 15, 16 and 17, 1958. The motion carried.

H. N. Smith stated that watershed planning would be faster after July 1, 1957 because of increased funds. Mr. Smith also stated that the people in several watersheds were getting the counties to be the revenue bearing contracting agencies.

Mr. Smith recommended that the State Soil Conservation Board hold official public hearings before setting priorities on watersheds in the future. The following items are some of the things suggested in determining priorities:

1. Interest of local people
2. Soil and Water practices applied
3. Finances of local people
4. Obtaining sites for construction

W. T. Moon read the criteria for establishing priorities for Federal Assistance in watershed planning.

A. motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by E. W. Wehman for each Board Member and the Office Staff to work up criteria for setting priorities on watersheds to be presented at the next Board Meeting and that a public hearing be held before a priority is set and that two or more Board Members attend such hearings. The motion carried.

A. C. Spencer stated that notices had been mailed for the Board Member election to be held on the 1st Tuesday in May in State District IV.

It was decided to hold the next Board Meeting at the time of the Fort Worth Press Awards Program unless this date conflicts with the State Board election in Mr. Martin's District. The meeting adjourned.

Harvey Davis  
Secretary

J. A. Martin  
Chairman

May 4, 1957  
Date