

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
MARCH 16, 1966

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the Kyle Hotel, Temple, Texas at 9:00 a.m. on March 16, 1966.

Board Members present: J. C. Porter, Chairman, E. W. Welman, A. F. Leesch, J. Frank Gray, and J. S. Sharp.

Others present: Harvey D. Davis, Executive Director, S. E. Jones, L. F. Stewart, O. F. Armstrong, A. W. Dalrymple, and J. M. Norton of the State Board staff; C. W. Graham, Deputy State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service; and A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the Board meeting of January 19, 1966, were read and approved.

New applications for assistance under Public Law 566 were reviewed for the Board on Willow Creek watershed in the Runnels and Concho and North Concho Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Seco Creek watershed in the Medina Valley and the Nueces-Frio-Sabinal Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Western Portion of Pine Island Bayou in the Lower Trinity and the Lower Neches Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and Madera Canyon watershed in the Toyah-Limpia Soil and Water Conservation District. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board disapproved the applications pending a field examination to determine economic feasibility.

Reports of field examinations recently held on the Sanderson Canyon watershed and on the Wichita Valley-Pond Creek watershed were reviewed for the Board as being favorable. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved

the above watershed applications as being economically feasible for project development.

Mr. Graham reported on the current planning status in the watershed protection program giving an estimated percentage of completion on each watershed and the progress being made. Several watersheds are virtually complete and will be ready shortly for field level review and submission to Washington. He also reported that new planning starts had been limited to 100 watersheds for this fiscal year in the United States. The State Board expressed much concern about limiting planning starts to 100 since there is such a great need for the program.

A planning agreement for Darr's Creek between the Soil Conservation Service and the State Board in the amount of \$30,000 was reviewed with the Board. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the agreement. Mr. Davis reported on the Watershed Planning Funds for the Board, giving an account of the funds spent and allocated to each project, together with the balance to be allocated for project planning.

A report was given by the Board Members on the tours and hearings held on several watersheds for consideration of planning priorities to be set in the near future. The watersheds reported included Red Deer Creek, Hog Creek, Upper Navasota River, Faulkenberry Creek, Upper Cibolo Creek, and Comal River Basin. Of special interest to the Board was the attendance of Mr. David Spurgin of the Governor's Budget Office and Mr. Bill Wells of the Legislative Budget Board at the tours and hearings on Hog Creek and Upper Navasota River.

Re-scheduling of tours and hearings on the Maverick County watershed, Sanderson Canyon watershed, South Concho River, and Lipan Creek watersheds was necessitated by the cancellation of previous schedules due to inclement weather. On recommendation of the Board, tentative dates of March 22 to 24, 1966, were set to re-schedule the tours and hearings pending concurrence by the local sponsors.

After due consideration the Chairman of the Board called a meeting of the Board for April 14, 1966, at 6:30 p.m. for the consideration and establishment of additional planning priorities on selected watershed projects,

The National Watershed Congress being held in Oklahoma City, May 15-18, 1966 was called to the attention of the Board. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board approved the attendance of A. F. Leesch and J. M. Norton to the Congress.

S. E. Jones reported on the public hearing held at Cold Springs in San Jacinto County, to determine the need for withdrawing territory from the San Jacinto Soil and Water Conservation District and annexing the same to the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the Determination of Need and called an election upon the question of the withdrawal and annexation of the territory indicated.

Mr. Davis reviewed a letter from the State Auditor recommending that State Agencies pay per diem in the amount of \$7.00 plus the amount of a receipt for lodging not to exceed \$12.00 per 24 hour period of travel. In view of the fact that motel accommodations is averaging more than \$5.00 per employee of the State Board, the State Board decided to continue the present procedure outlined by the Legislature in the last session on per diem allowances for travel expenses.

Mr. Davis questioned the Board on their desire as to including State Senators and Representatives on the mailing list for the State Board NEWSLETTER. The State Board approved sending copies of the NEWSLETTER to all State legislators.

A report was made to the Board on the meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts held in New Orleans on February 7-10, 1966. Each staff member gave a brief report on the committee meetings which he attended giving the highlights and any new proposals or programs presented.

Mr. Davis posed several items which the Board might consider for possible legislative changes. These items included the appointment of supervisors to fill

vacancies in unexpired terms, changing annual audits of Districts to "biennial audits", change the name of "supervisor" to "director", and amend the law to permit the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to coordinate programs with other organizations and agencies. The Board expressed approval of these changes.

The Board was reminded of the State Board Member Election in Area V to be held at the Research Station, McGregor, Texas, on May 3, 1966 at 10:30 a.m.

The Fort Worth Press Awards program to be held at the Texas Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas, on May 6, 1966 was discussed. A Board Meeting was scheduled on this date at 3:00 p.m. at the Hotel Texas in Fort Worth prior to the Awards program.

The Board reviewed its need in consideration of preparing a budget request for the next biennium. Final adoption of the request was postponed until the next Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

J. L. Sharp
Chairman

J. M. Norton
Secretary

April 14, 1966
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of
your minutes dated March 16, 1966.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Connally

ect copy of the minutes of
on March 16, 1966.

J. Davis
Director