

Official Minutes
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
March 17, 1960

The State Soil Conservation Board held its regular meeting in the Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas, on March 17, 1960 beginning at 3:00 P.M.

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

Others present were: A. C. Spencer, Harvey Davis and Garner Jones of the State Soil Conservation Board, Joe Carter of the Texas Water Development Board, Howard Boswell of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts and Steve Matthews of the Texas League of Municipalities.

Minutes of the January 14, 1960 meeting were read and approved.

Chairman Wehman expressed appreciation to Joe Carter and Steve Matthews for meeting with the Board to discuss problems of mutual interest.

Joe Carter explained the organization and functions of the Texas Water Development Board. Mr. Carter stated that the Board's loans were limited to one-third of project costs ~~with~~ or a maximum of five million dollars whichever is least. Present investments are now paying the Water Development Board about \$130,000 per year. The Water Development Board has prospective loans of about sixty million dollars at the present time.

Problems concerning organization of Water Control and Improvement Districts for Public Law 566 projects were discussed. Mr. Carter suggested that a model law to be made available to local groups wanting to organize Water Control and Improvement Districts would be helpful. The State Board requested Mr. Carter's assistance in drafting a model law that would meet the needs of Public Law 566 projects. Mr. Carter agreed to help draft the model law.

Opportunities for Towns and Cities to secure water supplies through participation in upstream flood prevention projects were discussed by A. C. Spencer. Mr. Matthews stated that towns and cities had not been properly informed about possibilities for

water supplies through upstream flood prevention projects and requested the State Board to furnish him with the locations of projects so that he could advise towns and cities.

Mr. Matthews also invited a representative of the State Board to appear on the program of the Texas League of Municipalities Convention to discuss the watershed protection and flood prevention program to be held October 2, 3, and 4, 1960 in Galveston.

The use of city sewage effluent for irrigation purposes was discussed by Frank Gray and Steve Matthews. Mr. Matthews stated that a survey is now being made by the League to determine the use being made of sewage effluent.

Mr. Matthews stated that a recent survey revealed that $1\frac{1}{4}\%$ of the land area in the state of Texas was within the limits of incorporated cities.

The meeting recessed at 5:30 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 P.M. with all Board Members present. Also present were: A. C. Spencer, H. D. Davis and Garner Jones of the State Soil Conservation Board, Clyde Graham of the Soil Conservation Service, and Howard Boswell and W. S. Gibbs of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts.

A new watershed application on Beals Creek located in the Martin-Howard Soil Conservation District was presented to the Board. A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by J. S. Sharp to disapprove the Beals Creek application pending a preliminary survey to determine feasibility. The motion carried.

Clyde Graham gave a report on the status of the Trust Fund Planning Party and stated that the Party needed a new watershed to begin planning. The Board determined that Valley Creek had met the requirements for a priority having voted a \$100,000 Bond issue and agreed to place \$42,000 in trust to pay for the plan. A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by A. F. Leesch to recommend priority for planning Valley Creek. The motion carried.

Garner Jones stated that notices had been mailed to 27 watersheds suggesting meetings to discuss new criteria for recommending priorities for planning. To date, meetings have been held with 11 of the 27 and several more have requested meetings.

A. C. Spencer discussed the importance of the Attorney General's office supplying legal information to the State Board in relation to Water Control and Improvement Districts in developing watershed protection and flood prevention projects. Mr. Spencer has contacted the Attorney General's office and a meeting is arranged for March 18, 1960 to work out a solution to this problem.

The matter of recommending priorities for planning watersheds by the Regular Planning Party was discussed by the Board. Due to the lack of information at the present time, a motion was made by J. S. Sharp and seconded by J. C. Porter to not set a date to recommend priorities at the present time. The motion carried.

W. S. Gibbs discussed the activities of the Association in trying to get the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention budget increased.

A. C. Spencer stated that a legal deed of conveyance had been executed by the Karnes County Soil Conservation District to the Karnes-Goliad Soil Conservation District to transfer easements and rights-of-way in relation to the Escondido Watershed Project and that the Attorney General's Department had drafted a deed of conveyance to be used by the State Board in transferring to the Karnes-Goliad Soil Conservation District any rights, privileges and responsibilities it may have gained in relation to the Escondido Watershed Project brought about by the dissolution and re-organization. A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by J. S. Sharp to execute the deed of conveyance. The motion carried.

A petition was presented bearing the signatures of a majority of the landowners in Ector County requesting the creation of a Soil Conservation District in Ector County. A hearing was set by the State Board for March 30, 1960 to determine the need.

A. F. Leesch reported on a hearing held on the proposed creation of the Chaparral Soil Conservation District. A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded

by J. C. Porter to make a Determination of Need and to set an election for the creation of the Chaparal Soil Conservation District at a date mutually agreeable with the local people and the State Soil Conservation Board. The motion carried.

A motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by Frank Gray to appoint Sothoron B. George as Polling Superintendent of the proposed Chaparal Soil Conservation District. The motion carried.

Frank Gray, A. F. Leesch, and W. S. Gibbs gave reports on three supervisors leadership meetings held since the last State Board meeting and stated that two more leadership meetings have been scheduled.

J. C. Porter suggested the districts wherein leadership meetings have been held be contacted to determine subjects of interest for the next meetings and that field personnel discuss subjects when they are in contact with supervisors.

Frank Gray discussed meetings held with the Duck Creek Soil Conservation District and the Staked Plains Soil Conservation District at the request of the supervisors to discuss dissolving and re-organizing these districts. Considering the situations involved, Mr. Gray recommended that the State Board approve dissolution and re-organization of these districts if sufficient interest was shown by the local people at public hearings and elections.

A. C. Spencer reported that a Conservation Education Meeting would be held with 300 school teachers in Abilene, Texas on April 5 and that the State Board had been invited to participate.

Upon recommendation in the form of a letter written by Mr. Henry W. Turney, Chairman of a Committee appointed by the Directors of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts, the State Soil Conservation Board passed a motion requesting that the Soil Conservation Service authorize its Work Unit personnel to assist the supervisors of each local district in preparing total on the land figures for each applicable conservation practice. The motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by J. S. Sharp. In the case of annual practices all units applied during the current year will be included. In the case of permanent

practices total to date figures plus in some instances a few units of individually applied practices will be included.

Garner Jones read a letter from a landowner in the Tehucana Creek Watershed complaining about two sites that have been selected on her property. J. C. Porter agreed to write the landowner informing her that this was a local problem and should be discussed with the local board of supervisors and the directors of the Water Control and Improvement District.

The problem of working out an arrangement with the Highway Department to provide proper openings under Highway 20 near Forney, Texas to accommodate drainage from a flood prevention project on Buffalo Creek was discussed. A. C. Spencer read a proposal from the Highway Department. (See copy attached) Clyde Graham of the Soil Conservation Service stated that he thought the Service could accept this proposal.

A motion was made by J. S. Sharp and seconded by Frank Gray for E. W. Wehman and A. C. Spencer to attend the National Watershed Congress in Washington, D. C. April 18 and 19, 1960 and if Mr. Wehman is unable to attend one of the other representatives of the Board will attend. The motion carried.

A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by Frank Gray to set January 11, 12, 13, 1961 as the date for the 1961 Annual Statewide Meeting to be held in Dallas, Texas. The motion carried.

A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by J. S. Sharp to hold the next State Board Meeting on May 6, 1960 at Dallas, Texas at which time the facilities for the 1961 Statewide Meeting of Supervisors will be inspected and the Board will attend the Ft. Worth Press Conservation Awards Program the next day. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 P.M.



Chairman



Secretary



Date

May 6-1960