

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD
MAY 31, 1965

The State Soil Conservation Board met at 9:00 a.m. in the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts office in League City, Texas on May 31, 1965.

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

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, S. E. Jones, and J. M. Norton of the State Soil Conservation Board Staff, Gilbert Kretzschmar, President, A. L. Black, W. P. Coleman, Dan Sparks, and A. L. Bading of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts; Gordon Zimmerman, Executive Secretary, Philip Glick, Legal Council, and Dave Stewart of the National Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Rollins Hill, Rancher & former SCD Supervisor.

The State Board met with the Directors of the State Association and representatives of the NACD to review and discuss the responsibilities and requirements of Soil Conservation Districts in the future relative to Resource needs to meet the requirements for a nearly doubled U. S. population by the year 2,000.

Mr. Zimmerman reviewed a working paper prepared by the NACD Special Committee on District Outlook that indicates a need for many changes in the present day programs of Soil Conservation Districts. (A copy of the NACD Working Paper is attached.)

The panel reviewed the programs and responsibilities of Soil Conservation Districts in planning ahead and working with all groups in developing a program to meet these demands.

Mr. Zimmerman reported that the NACD would present specific recommendations in 1965 for consideration by States on proposed changes in the organization and operation of Soil & Water Conservation Districts geared to help meet the future requirements.

Following this session, the State Board reconvened to take up the business at hand before the Board.

On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board elected J. C. Porter as Chairman. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board elected J. S. Sharp as Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Porter asked if there was opposition to postponing the reading of the May 1, 1965, Board meeting minutes to the next meeting in the essence of time. There being no opposition, the reading of the minutes was deferred.

A new watershed application on the Red Deer Creek in Gray, Hemphill, and Roberts Soil Conservation Districts was reviewed for the Board. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board disapproved the application pending a field examination to determine economic feasibility.

A favorable field examination on the Kickapoo Creek watershed near Lipan in the Hood-Parker SCD was reported to the Board as indicating an economically feasible project. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board approved the application for future project planning and development.

Work plans on Escondido Creek and Duck Creek watersheds were reviewed for the Board together with comments of reviewing agencies at recent field level reviews with local sponsoring organizations.

Mr. Wehman reviewed a tour and meeting with the Ecleto Creek watershed sponsors and their commitment to pay the cost of developing a work plan. Land treatment is in much better shape than it was at the last hearing. The watershed is ready to be planned and the Board agreed to consider it when other priorities are set. The cost of approximately \$60,000 for planning will be shared equally by the Ecleto watershed district and the San Antonio River Authority.

Harvey Davis gave a report on a recent Attorney General's opinion on the Attoyac Watershed Authority using tax monies to finance the development and maintenance of a

multiple purpose structure in the Attoyac River Watershed under Public Law 566 that includes recreational facilities. The opinion cited the Authority as being legal and having such authority to carry out responsibilities of recreation and of using tax monies for development and maintenance.

Davis reported to the Board on S. B. 99 relative to raising the total flood storage in a retarding structure from 5,000 acre feet to 12,500 acre feet. An amendment had been proposed to the effect that benefits could only be claimed within a 250,000 acre watershed. This would be very limiting and defeat the purpose of the increase. Such an amendment would be detrimental to the watershed program in Texas and Davis had sent wires to Senators Yarborough and Tower and Congressman Bob Poage advising them of this.

RC & D project applications were discussed briefly but tabled for further discussions until the next meeting.

Mr. Davis reviewed the purposed budget of the State Board for 1966 and 1967. The budget was about the same as previously reported. Per diem for State employees was increased to \$12.00 per day and mileage left at 8 cents per mile.

Davis reported that Mary Jo Minnox is leaving and applicants are being interviewed for the job which is to become full time September 1, 1965.

The legislation pertaining to districts and the State Board, SB 33 and HB 232, has been passed and signed by the Governor. No funds are provided at present to pay for increased mileage and per diem of supervisors.

Harvey Davis reported that the State Board could be a sponsor for the Neighborhood Youth Corps. It was proposed that some 40 Soil Conservation Districts start in the program with possibly 6 months contracts to give the program a trial prior to trying to initiate it in all of the districts. This item to be discussed further at the next meeting.

The program for the annual supervisors meeting in October was reviewed and discussed. It was proposed that a registration fee be charged to help finance the program. On

motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. S. Sharp, the Board approved a \$2.00 registration fee for each male attendant. Plans are to discuss the program at the next meeting when details are more nearly completed.

The South Central Area Meeting of the NACD is scheduled for July 18, 1965, in the Hotel Skirvin, Oklahoma City. Davis and Jones and any Board Members that want to are to attend. Senator Richter is to be one of the speakers and talk on working effectively with State Legislatures.

The Great Plains Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 24 at Tulia, Texas. Frank Gray will attend for the Board.

Davis discussed the recreation survey of private lands and reviewed a meeting with the Parks and Wildlife Department relative to coordinating efforts and procedure for carrying out the survey.

The next Board meeting is to be set by Chairman Porter and H. D. Davis and other members notified accordingly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

J. Porter

Chairman

Samuel E. Jones

Secretary

7/17/65

Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated May 1, 1965 & May 31, 1965.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Connally