

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
NOVEMBER 17, 1966

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the Conference Room, 10th Floor, First National Building, Temple, Texas, at 1:15 p.m. on November 17, 1966.

Board Members present were: A. F. Leesch, Vice Chairman; J. Frank Gray, E. W. Wehman, and Henry Turney.

Others present were: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, and S. E. Jones, Assistant Executive Director of the Board staff; H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, L. J. Lann, Assistant State Conservationist and Leland Barnes, Hydrologist, of the Soil Conservation Service; Gilbert Kretzschmar, President, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and Arthur Bading, Executive Director, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the Board meeting of October 11, 1966, were read and approved.

A favorable field examination was reviewed with the Board on the Paluxy River watershed application by Harvey Davis. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the application as being economically feasible for project development, and recommended that the sponsors request cancellation of the Berry Creek application since the Paluxy watershed application includes the area covered by the Berry Creek application.

Harvey Davis reported on the status of the Leona River watershed application. The local people are very much interested in the project and would like for the Board to reaffirm the priority that was given the application several years ago. There was no action taken by the Board on this application.

Correspondence was read on the Rancho Viejo watershed application by Harvey Davis. It was pointed out that a field level review of the plan will be held on December 15, 1966. This application is sponsored by the Cameron County Commissioners Court and the Southmost Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Lower Sabine watershed application was discussed with the Board by Harvey Davis and H. N. Smith. Correspondence was reviewed from Mr. Roy Hauger to Mr. Smith stating that the Commissioners Court of Newton County desired to withdraw from the application and that the Jasper-Newton Soil and Water Conservation District also wanted to withdraw from the application. Mr. Smith pointed out to the Board that if the Soil and Water Conservation District should withdraw, the application could not be considered since the land treatment program in the watershed is of vital importance. There was no Board action necessary on the application at this time.

Mr. Lann reported on the status of watershed planning as follows: Rancho Viejo work plan - ready for field level review. A field level review was held on November 8 on the Farmers Creek plan, and a field level review of the Bennett Creek plan was scheduled for November 22, 1966. The Los Fresnos and Lower Running Water Draw plans are in Washington for final review. Mill Creek watershed plan is complete and in Washington for comments. Pecan Creek watershed plans are complete and waiting for comments from Governor Connally. The North Cuero draft is in Washington for comments. Ruchers Creek and Running Water Draw drafts are in the State office for review. McClellan Creek plan - 85% complete; Aquilla-Hackberry - 80% complete; Darrs Creek - 68% complete; Upper Cibolo - 42% complete; Lakeview - 60% complete. Pond Creek, Comal Creek, Hog Creek and Cibolo Creek are in the preliminary examination stages at this time.

A cooperative agreement between the State Board and Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts was read and discussed by Harvey Davis. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the State Board authorized

Vice Chairman, A. F. Leesch to sign the Cooperative Agreement between the State Board and the State Association.

Harvey Davis discussed the proposed legislation affecting Soil and Water Conservation Districts as was adopted at the Annual State Meeting held in Austin, October 11-13, 1966. The proposals are: (1) allow Soil and Water Conservation Districts to have audits prepared on a biennial basis instead of annually, (2) allow local Boards of Supervisors to appoint supervisors to fill unexpired terms in case of death or resignations on the Board, with the approval of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and (3) secure a simplified procedure for adjusting Soil and Water Conservation District boundary lines.

A discussion was held as to whether a State Board member has to be present at a State Board Member election in order to qualify as a delegate. On motion by Frank Gray and seconded by E. W. Wehman, the State Board authorized Harvey Davis to ask for an Attorney General's opinion on what constitutes a delegate to the election convention to elect a State Board member, and does a State Board Member have to be present at the election convention in order to be re-elected.

Ernest Wehman reported on the Public Hearing held at San Diego, Texas, on November 15, 1966, on the proposition to transfer territory from the San Diego-Agua Dulce Soil and Water Conservation District to the Agua Poquita Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Wehman reported that it was a favorable hearing and that he would recommend to the Board that an election be held on the proposition. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board authorized a determination of need be made and call for an election. Motion carried.

Harvey Davis reported on the Public Hearing to include the T. J. Waggoner Estate in the Wilbarger-Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District. Based on the hearing report, Henry Turney made the motion, seconded by E. W. Wehman, that a determination of need be made and authorize the transfer. Motion carried.

Harvey Davis discussed with the Board a proposed act wherein the State Board could enter into agreements with private and governmental agencies to receive grants and other services. On motion by Henry Turney and seconded by Frank Gray, the Board authorized Mr. Davis to proceed with this proposed legislation with the inclusion of power of eminent domain for the State Board.

Harvey Davis read and discussed correspondence from the Attorney General's office in regard to Soil and Water Conservation Districts securing the power of taxation and eminent domain. The Board authorized Mr. Davis to work with the Board of Directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts in getting the power of eminent domain for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and for the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Due to certain constitutional limitations, the State Board felt that the power of taxation for Districts was not feasible at the present time.

With the recent annexation of territory in the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District, a request from the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District was read by Harvey Davis to change the name to Polk-Jacinto Soil and Water Conservation District. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Henry Turney, the request was approved. Motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 5:45 p.m. for dinner and re-convened at 7:15 p.m. in the Conference Room, 10th Floor, First National Building, Temple with the same Board Members and Staff Members present. Others present were Gilbert Kretzschmar, President and A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Harvey Davis discussed Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsoring insurance for District cooperators. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board authorized Mr. Davis to prepare a letter to District Supervisors recommending that Districts not enter into any agreement with Insurance Companies.

The selection of the 1968 Annual State Wide Meeting site for Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors was discussed by Harvey Davis. The Board suggested that Mr. Davis investigate the possibilities of holding the meeting in either Houston or Corpus Christi.

On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board authorized Harvey Davis and S. E. Jones to attend the National Meeting of Conservation Districts in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 5-9, 1967, plus all State Board Members. Motion carried.

The statistics on the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors were discussed by Mr. Davis. No Board action was necessary.

Results of the elections of District Supervisors were given by Harvey Davis. Eleven Districts have not reported to date. No Board action was necessary.

The nomination of Mr. H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Temple, Texas, for the American Motor Conservation Award, 1967, was discussed by Harvey Davis. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the State Board endorsed Mr. Smith for this award.

Mr. Leesch reported that he had been selected to serve on a Committee in regards to Amendment No. 11. He had attended one meeting of the Committee

lection.

Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated November 17, 1966.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*John Connally*



*Famer*

copy of the minutes of the November 17, 1966.

*Harvey Davis*  
Director



Date