

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING  
November 30, 1962

The State Soil Conservation Board met in regular session in the First National Bank Building Conference Room at 8:00 a.m., November 30, 1962, at Temple, Texas, in conference with representatives of the Soil Conservation Service and the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts.

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

Others present: H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, Paul Walser, C. W. Graham, W. T. Moon, James Abbott, Assistant State Conservationists, Gary Bobst, Washington SCS office, John D. Wells, President, Earl Laney, Gilbert Kretzschmar, Dan Sparks, C. N. Webb, Arthur Koehn, Vice Presidents, and A. L. Bading, Executive Director, Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Harvey D. Davis, Executive Director, R. L. Carlisle, O. F. Armstrong, L. F. Stewart, A. W. Dalrymple, J. M. Norton, State Soil Conservation Board Staff.

Upon calling the meeting to order, Mr. Leesch turned the program over to Mr. H. N. Smith. Mr. Smith and members of his staff reviewed new legislation passed in the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, Title I - Land Use Adjustment, as it pertains to the revision of the P. L. Law 566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, the Great Plains Program, and the Rural Area Development Program. The policies as set forth by the Secretary of Agriculture were reviewed and discussed as they pertain to procedures and administration toward implementing these programs. The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon.

After lunch, the State Soil Conservation Board reconvened in its office in the First National Building, Temple, Texas, at 1:00 P.M.

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

Others present: Harvey D. Davis, Executive Director, R. L. Carlisle, L. F. Stewart, O. F. Armstrong, and J. M. Norton, State Board Staff, and C. W. Graham, Assistant Conservationist, SCS.

The minutes of the September 21, 1962, Board meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Graham discussed the need for additional funds to complete the Upper Bosque River Watershed work plan due to some re-evaluation of sites and the possible inclusion of some recreational facilities in some of the sites. After discussion, a motion by E. W. Wehman that \$6,500 be allocated for the completion of the Upper Bosque River Watershed plan; \$2,000 of this would come from the original \$55,000 allocation for watershed planning, and \$4,500 to come from the \$20,000 Reserve Fund, was seconded by J. S. Sharp, and approved by the Board. The Board also authorized Mr. A. F. Leesch to sign a supplemental contract agreement with the Soil Conservation Service for planning of the Upper Bosque River Watershed with the additional funds.

Mr. Graham further discussed the 8 applications in the Rio Grande Valley for assistance under P. L. 566 comprising some 1,185,000 acres of land needing watershed protection and flood prevention projects. He expressed a need and interest in making a Basin Survey of the entire Valley to facilitate and aid in the planning of these projects. He mentioned that the Texas Water Commission was also interested in such a study being made. After discussion of the interest of local Soil Conservation Districts and agricultural landowners and operators in the protection and development of the Valley, a motion was made by E. W. Wehman, seconded by J. Frank Gray, and approved by the Board, to request the Soil Conservation Service to make a Basin Survey and Study of the entire Lower Valley.

A new watershed application on the "South Concho River", sponsored by the Eldorado Divide Soil Conservation District was reviewed by J. M. Norton as being in order. Upon motion by J. Frank Gray, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board disapproved the application pending a field examination to determine economical feasibility.

Favorable reports from field examinations on "Hitson, C & L, and Washburn Draw" in the El Paso-Hudspeth Soil Conservation District and "Chicota" watershed in the North Texas Soil Conservation District were reviewed by Norton for the Board. On motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board approved the two applications as being economically feasible.

The field examination of the Upper Medio Creek watershed in the Karnes-Goliad Soil Conservation District was reviewed by Norton as not being economically feasible due to an unfavorable cost-benefit ratio. On motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board disapproved the application for assistance on the Upper Medio Creek watershed.

Davis discussed the problem created by the Attorney General's Opinion that Counties cannot use their Permanent Improvement Fund to finance the local cost-share in developing watershed projects. Judge J. C. Davis of the Attorney General's office will be contacted relative to this matter and to see if a reversal of opinion can be secured or to determine if perhaps new legislation is needed to permit Counties to participate in this program.

The status of the \$35,000 allocated for Soil Conservation District Operations was reviewed and discussed by the Board.

115 Districts have been paid \$196.63 each	\$22,612.45
8 Districts are pending payment of \$196.63 each	<u>1,573.04</u>
123 Districts paid out of 178 SCDs	Total \$24,185.49

This leaves a balance of \$10,814.51 to be re-allocated. A review of the total funds on hand by Soil Conservation Districts revealed the following:

- 11 Districts have total funds less than \$1,000
- 17 Districts have between \$1,000 and \$2,000
- 12 Districts have between \$2,000 and \$3,000
- 16 Districts have between \$3,000 and \$5,000

After discussion and evaluation and realizing that those districts with total funds in the lower brackets were in more dire need, a motion was made by J. S. Sharp, seconded by E. W. Wehman, and approved by the Board to re-allocate the balance as follows:

\$410.41 each to the 11 Districts with less than \$1,000	\$4,514.51
\$300.00 each to the 17 Districts with funds of \$1,000-2,000	5,100.00
\$100.00 each to the 12 Districts with funds of \$2,000-3,000	1,200.00
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	Total \$10,814.51

At this time John Wells, C. N. Webb, Arthur Koehn, Earl Laney, and Gilbert Kretzschmar of the Association of Soil Conservation Districts joined the meeting. The allocation of the State funds was reviewed with them and their approval was expressed.

Harvey Davis then reviewed the plans and program for the Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors to be held in Lubbock, January 16, 17 and 18, 1963.

Davis then discussed the results of the past supervisors election. Returns have been received by the Board on 173 Districts out of the 182. Of these returns canvassed, there are 69 new supervisors and 104 old supervisors re-elected. The Field Representatives of the Board are to check on those Districts not having submitted returns.

Audits from the Districts are being received by the Board. To date 81 audits have been received. They are due at the Governor's office by December 31, 1962. The Board's staff members will review the audits prior to submission to the Governor so that errors may be corrected in the future. The audits as a whole are in good shape.

Invitations have been received by the Board to locate the 1964 Annual State Meeting in Dallas, El Paso, Ft. Worth, Galveston, Houston, McAllen, Mineral Wells, and Corpus Christi. With some discussion, the Board agreed to postpone the final decision until their January meeting in Lubbock.

A report on the meeting of Boards and Commissions of the twelve southern states at Atlanta, Georgia, October 1, 1962 was given by L. F. Stewart, A. F. Leesch, and Harvey Davis. Texas is the only state that elects their Board Members.

The Land and People's Conferences held in New Orleans, La., and in Denver, Colorado were discussed by Gray, Leesch, and Davis. New programs were discussed and the importance of keeping the direction, supervision, and administration of these on the local level with assistance from State and Federal Agencies was stressed.

Brochures were given Board members emphasizing the need for the new Research Laboratory being located in the Lubbock area.

The next Board meeting is to be held in Lubbock. Davis is to schedule the time and place. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*W. F. Stewart*  
Chairman

*January 16,*  
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated November 30, 1962.

**RECEIVED**

MAR 19 1963

TEXAS STATE  
SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD  
TEMPLE, TEXAS

Sincerely,  
*John Connally*