

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
December 7, 1965

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session at the Trade Winds Motel at 3:30 p.m. in Wichita Falls, Texas.

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

Others present: Harvey Davis, Executive Director and J. W. Norton of the State Board staff, Gilbert Kretzschmar, President, and A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, and Fred Parkey, General Manager, Red River Authority.

Mr. Porter announced that the other State Board Member, Mr. J. S. Sharp was absent due to illness.

The minutes of the regular meeting of October 14, 1965 of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board were read and approved.

A new application under Public Law 566 on the Rankin Draw watershed, Upton County, in the Middle Concho Soil and Water Conservation District #234 was reviewed for the Board. On Motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board disapproved the application pending a field examination to determine economic feasibility.

A preliminary survey and examination on the Hog Creek watershed project was reviewed by Norton as being economically feasible for development. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the application for assistance as being feasible for planning and development.

The status of the Wichita Valley-Pond Creek watershed application was reviewed by Harvey Davis for the Board and Mr. Parkey. The application was accepted as an

amendment to the Wichita County watershed and disapproved pending an examination to determine feasibility on the area added to the original application. This will be scheduled possibly by February, 1966. It was recognized that sponsors have pledged a trust fund for planning and the Board agreed to try to inform the Red River Authority in March, 1966 as to the possibility of a planning priority being granted so that planning funds can either be used or released for other operations.

The status of the Sweetwater Creek watershed was reviewed. Mr. Parkey gave a report on the plans for development of the water supply reservoir on Sweetwater Creek by the Authority. Mr. Parkey also expressed an interest and desire on their part to include and assist in the development of a watershed protection and flood prevention project on the Sweetwater Creek watershed in conjunction with the supply reservoir. Mr. Smith reported on the recent increase in permissible flood control storage under Public Law 566 from 5,000 acre feet to 12,500 acre feet. This might prove beneficial to developing a water supply in upstream structures.

Mr. H. N. Smith reviewed the status of watershed planning over the State. Escondido Creek, Williams Creek and Chocolate, Little Chocolate & Lynn Bayou watersheds have been approved and authorized for operations. Choctaw Creek and Rush Creek are complete and in review draft. Cameron County watersheds are from 60 to 80 percent complete with estimated completion date in January and March, 1966. Bennett Creek and Farmers Creek are 45 to 50 percent complete respectively, with completion date scheduled by January 1, 1966. Running Water Draw and Lower Running Water Draw are 75 and 68 percent complete. Development of recreation in Clovis and Plainview sites has been questionable because of seepage problems. Soil Conservation Service-Washington office has reported they cannot approve Public Law 566 assistance for recreation storage because of uncertainty and lack of assurance in sealing sites to hold water. Planning authorization has been granted on McClellan Creek, Ruckers Creek, and Aquilla-Hackberry Creeks watersheds.

Mr. Davis reviewed correspondence on Bitter Oaks-John Mann-Polecat Creeks and stated that all requirements prior to planning seem to have been met with the exception that the sponsors have not assured land rights.

A resolution from the Waco Chamber of Commerce in support of Hog Creek watershed project was reviewed. The resolution stated that the project was needed to keep silt out of new Lake Waco.

Harvey Davis reported on a hearing held October 27, 1965 at the Chamber of Commerce office in Cleveland, Texas, on the proposition of transferring approximately 90,000 acres in Liberty County from the San Jacinto Soil and Water Conservation District # 425 to the Lower Trinity Soil and Water Conservation District #435. Since the hearing was favorable and there are less than 100 landowners involved, a motion was made by A. F. Leesch and seconded by Frank Gray to make a determination of need and a determination of practicability and feasibility for transferring this territory without an election, since an election is not required where there are fewer than 100 landowners involved. The motion carried.

Mr. Davis reported on a hearing held November 16, 1965, at the J. A. Garcia Ranch headquarters, Kenedy County, on the proposition of annexation of approximately 25,035 acres of land in Kenedy County to the Willacy-Hidalgo Soil and Water Conservation District #312. The Tax Assessor-Collector for Kenedy County certified that the petition carried signatures of 2/3 of the landowners involved in the territory to be annexed. Since there are fewer than 100 landowners an election is not required. Whereas the hearing was favorable and the petition was signed by 2/3 of the landowners involved, a motion was made by Frank Gray, seconded by A. F. Leesch, to make a Determination of Need and a Determination of Practicability and Feasibility for the annexation of the specified territory to the Willacy-Hidalgo Soil and Water Conservation District # 312. The motion carried.

Mr. Davis reviewed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 68 for the Board. This resolution sets up a planning Agency Council for Texas, to serve as the official Coordinating Planning Agency for the State. Eight State Agencies, including the State Soil and Water Conservation Board, were named to the Council with provisions for adding other agencies, and each agency is to be represented at meetings of the Council by the administrative heads of the agencies. Two meetings have been held with another scheduled for December 13, 1965. The Governor will perform all coordinating and administrative functions of the Council.

Mr. Kretzschmar reviewed some of the work of the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors together with some of the problems as related with the Soil and Water Conservation Program. He requested consideration by the State Board toward employing additional field men to the Board's staff so as to work more closely with the districts. He emphasized the assistance needed from the Board in working with the Association as well as with the individual districts, to coordinate the many varied programs for resource development. The Board took his request under advisement but took no action.

Harvey Davis reported on the Board's responsibility for determining the residence of District Supervisors and the ensuing payment of claims. Mr. Davis was advised by the Attorney General's office that the responsibility rests with the individual seeking office or permitting himself to be elected as a District Supervisor. The Board can only advise and consult on the procedure for elections and qualifications of the office. The individual is responsible for his qualifications and can be challenged locally on validity of qualifications and election procedures. The State Board is not responsible for establishing the residences of District Supervisors.

Mr. Davis gave a financial report on the Annual State Meeting. The income from registration was 367 fees @ \$2.00 making a total of \$734.00. Expenses incurred amounted to \$329.32, leaving a balance of \$404.68. Davis reported that Mr. Porter

had personally paid the air travel expense involved with getting Attorney General Waggoner Carr to Corpus Christi to be the banquet speaker at the Annual State-wide meeting of District Supervisors October 14, 1965 and had not been re-imbursed. Mr. J. C. Porter stated that the expenses amounted to \$189.08 for plane service and motel accommodations. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved re-imbursing Mr. Porter for expenses incurred in the amount of \$189.08 and payment to be made out of the State Meeting fund.

A letter from the Donley County Soil and Water Conservation District requesting information relative to setting up an underground water conservation district was reviewed for the Board. The Underground Water Conservation District would have the same boundaries as the Soil and Water Conservation District with the supervisors as directors, and with taxing authority and powers of regulation. After discussing the many facets of the proposal, on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to check on what is needed and a procedure to follow toward giving the Donley County Soil and Water Conservation District the necessary powers and authorities to accomplish their water conservation objectives instead of creating another political subdivision.

The Board next considered the matter of establishing regular meeting dates, with additional meetings to be scheduled as need warrants. After due consideration, the Board agreed to set the 3rd Wednesday of each odd month beginning in January of 1966 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. as regular meeting dates.

The place and program for the coming State Board Member election in Area V was discussed. Mr. Davis was authorized to work out a place and program and confirm it with J. C. Porter.

Mr. Davis reported that all election results were in from all the districts, which is the first time they have been completed this early.

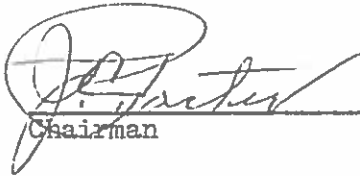
A letter from the Copano Bay Soil and Water Conservation District requesting operating funds through the State Board was discussed. They were advised to discuss their needs with their legislators since the Supervisors at the Annual Meeting at Corpus Christi in October, 1965, did not vote to ask the State Board to request funds for Districts.

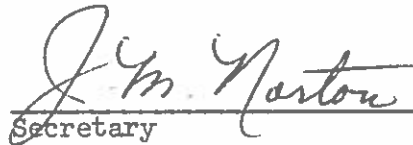
The financial report in the NACD Tuesday letter as related to State financial assistance to Districts was explained.

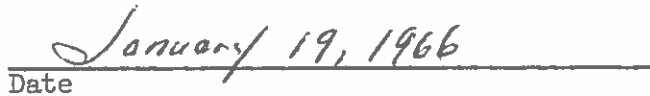
A request from the League of Women Voters for representation at a Seminar in Austin was determined as inapplicable to the Board.

Some invitations from Hotels and Cities desiring to host the 1967 Annual State Meeting were reviewed. The Board decided to take action on this at a later meeting.

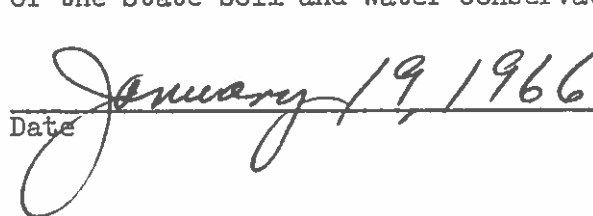
The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

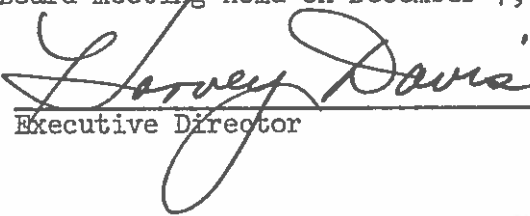

Chairman


Secretary


Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on December 7, 1965.


Date


Executive Director