

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 4, 1976

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 4, 1976 at 8:45 a.m. in the Conference Room, 1016 First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were: Henry Turney, Chairman; Albert Roach, Vice Chairman; Joe Antilley, Frank Gray and E. W. Wehman.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director; John Millican, Assistant Executive Director; Sonny Kretzschmar, Engineer; Bob Buckley, Staff Services Assistant; Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist; and Josephine Chupik, Office Manager of the State Board staff and Bob Swenson, Deputy State Conservationist; Logan Crews, Assistant State Conservationist, Watersheds; D. B. Polk, State Resource Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service and Dr. Bill Harris, Land and Water Use Specialist, Agricultural Extension Service.

Since copies of the minutes of the January 15, 1976 meeting were mailed to each Board member, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the minutes were approved without being read.

A letter dated February 10, 1976 from Alvin Schulz, Chairman of the Austin County Soil and Water Conservation District # 347 in regards to problems encountered in the Allen's Creek watershed relating to easements, etc. was discussed by the Board. Due to the sponsors' request, on motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved termination of planning on the Allen's Creek watershed project.

Logan Crews reviewed current activities in the Public Law 566 - Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program in Texas.

Bob Swenson discussed the Soil Conservation Service budget proposal for 1977. The Great Plains Conservation program would be cut severely and several other conservation programs such as River Basin surveys, watershed planning, watershed and flood prevention operations, resource conservation and development projects were being cut back on funding. Increased funds were proposed on conservation operations. The personnel ceiling would remain at 13,530.

D. B. Polk reviewed correspondence from Roy D. Payne, Director of the Railroad Commission of Texas in regards to regulation of surface mining of coal and uranium in Texas. As per the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act passed by the Legislature during the last session, the State Soil and Water Conservation Board will receive a copy of each permit application for review and comment.

On motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the following District Director appointments:

Jim Willingham, IV - Nueces-Frio-Sabinal SWCD #221
Joe M. Ball - Upper Nueces-Frio SWCD # 238
Leslie J. Koehl - Colorado SWCD #333
Elmer Ray Oates - Long Leaf SWCD #439

A petition to transfer a portion of Bee County consisting of approximately 33,000 acres presently in the Copano Bay Soil and Water Conservation District #329 to the Bee Soil and Water Conservation District #344 was considered by the Board. On motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board tabled action on the petition pending additional information from the local people.

A request from the Lubbock County Soil and Water Conservation District #108 to change zone boundaries to equalize population was considered by the Board. On motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the new zone boundaries.

The Brazos-Robertson Soil and Water Conservation District #431 by letter requested consideration for matching funds for fiscal year 1976. The district thought it had submitted a request for funds at the time the State Board budget was submitted but the State Board had no record of receiving such a request. On motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved an allocation of \$1500.00 to the Brazos-Robertson Soil and Water Conservation District # 431.

Dr. Harris reported that Dr. John Hutchison retired as Director of the Agricultural Extension Service.

The Board discussed the budget for fiscal years 1978 and 1979. After attending the Governor's Budget Conference of all State agencies, the Board agreed to honor the Governor's request and hold the line on its budget request for the biennium of 1978 and 1979.

The Board discussed Matching funds for districts for the 1978-1979 biennium. A motion was made by Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, to submit the matching fund budget as it is for the 1977 fiscal year in the amount of \$435,889. E. W. Wehman and Frank Gray voted against. Joe Antilley and Albert Roach voted for. The motion passed with the chairman breaking the tie vote. Since some district's needs for matching funds in 1978 and 1979 may vary from their 1977 allocation, on motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board agreed that each district's needs for 1978 and 1979 be surveyed with justification if there is an increase in the requests for matching funds.

The Board discussed matching funds for this fiscal year ending August 31, 1976. Since the provision in the appropriation bill states that 2/3 of this amount has to be expended within the first three quarters of the fiscal year, on motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved releasing funds for supplemental claims up to the \$5,000

limit to districts if the money is available for supplemental allocation out of the unexpended 2/3 amount. The deadline for claiming supplements out of the 2/3 allocated amount is May 15, 1976. Districts will be allocated 1/3 of their original allocation or less if they have claimed more than 2/3 of the original amount in the last quarter of the fiscal year ending August 31, 1976. Districts will be limited to 1/3 of their allocation during the last quarter of the fiscal year if they claimed less than 2/3 of the amount during the first three quarters of the fiscal year. This does not prevent a district from participating in supplemental funds.

The Board discussed the possibility of establishing a sediment erosion control project and decided not to take any action until the next meeting.

Mr. Davis reviewed activity on Section 208 of Public Law 92-500. Several meetings with the Governor's staff have been held. Apparently, the Board will have some official part in the agriculture portion of the 208 program.

The NACD Directors' Meeting will be held on March 22-24, 1976 in Washington, D. C. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board authorized Frank Gray, Harvey Davis and Sonny Kretzschmar to go to Washington, D. C. to meet with the Directors relative to problems confronting the Soil and Water Conservation Districts' program.

The Board discussed changing its name and the name of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Due to the fact there are several water agencies at the State level and our primary purpose is soil conservation and related natural resources, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board agreed to discuss with Soil and Water Conservation Districts the possibility of dropping "and water" from the name of the

Board and Districts.

The entire Board plans to meet with the Deep East Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Lufkin, Texas on April 6, 1976. Followed by attending the Conference at A & M University on April 7, 1976 at which time a Board meeting will be held.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Albert Roach
Chairman

Clyde Littlejohn
Secretary

4-6-76
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 March 4, 1976.

4-6-76
Date

Lancey Davis
Executive Director