

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
April 26, 1974

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met at 8:50 a.m., April 26, 1974 in the Conference Room, 1016 First National Building, Temple, Texas.

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

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director; John Millican, Assistant Executive Director; Sonny Kretzschmar, Engineer; and Josephine Chupik, Office Manager of the State Board staff.

Mr. Davis gave a brief report on his attendance at the hearings held April 23 and 25, 1974 in Washington, D. C. on H. R. 10294, the land use bill sponsored by Congressman Morris K. Udall, Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Environment, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Dee Brune, President of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts testified before this Committee in opposition to the bill.

While in Washington, Mr. Davis and Sonny Kretzschmar met with Larry Myers in Senator Bentsen's office to discuss the status of the McClellan Creek watershed.

Since copies of the March 28, 1974 minutes were mailed to each Board member, on motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Albert Roach, the minutes were approved without being read.

Due to inadequate sponsorship of the Chiltipin and San Patricio Creeks watersheds on which contingent planning priorities had been granted, on motion of E. W. Wehman, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board disapproved the watersheds.

Seco Creek watershed at D'Hanis was discussed by the Board. Mr. Wehman had talked with Judge Jerome Decker of Medina County. With a resolution from the Commissioners Court assuming responsibility to maintain the project it would remain intact for planning. A meeting is planned for May 13, 1974 to work out this possibility.

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

Ralph L. Ware - Cochran SWCD #149
Leslie S. Keese - Llano County SWCD #233
C. Lee Williamson, Jr. - Montgomery-Walker SWCD #425

Of the \$401,181 allocated in Matching funds for the 1974 fiscal year, \$268,607.66 had been expended as of April 25, 1974. We have expended \$1,153.66 over the two-thirds appropriated amount; therefore, no funds are available for supplements as of May 15, 1974.

"Zero Budgeting" for the proposed 1976 and 1977 biennium was discussed by the Board. The budget will consist of four program activities: Administration, Field Services, Watershed planning, and Matching funds. The budget will be set up at four levels of funding for each fiscal year. At the lower than present budget level, the Board, upon motion of Henry Turney, seconded by E. W. Wehman, cut \$5,000 in travel expense, \$500 in consumable supplies and \$25,000 in watershed planning.

At the 2nd level of budgeting, the Board, upon motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, agreed to increase Board Members Per Diem to \$9,000 at \$30.00 per day; add \$500,000 for land stabilization projects; add \$100,000 for study of surface mining; increase watershed planning to \$150,000; submit matching funds as requested by districts for the fiscal year 1976 and increase land stabilization projects to \$2,000,000 and the study on surface mining to \$100,000 for fiscal year 1977, with additional

staff people to carry out these responsibilities.

At the 3rd level, the Board agreed to budget an additional \$750,000 in land stabilization projects and \$2,000,000 in watershed planning for each fiscal year with an additional staff consisting of five field men, additional travel expense and an additional increase in consumable supplies.

At the 4th level, the Board agreed to budget \$75,000 for a Mobile Conservation Laboratory with \$4,000 in consumable supplies; \$6,000 for fuel and upkeep; \$3,726 in insurance; 125 Conservation Coordinators and a personnel officer.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board agreed to raise the salary of the Executive Director to \$25,000 in 1976 and \$27,500 in 1977; re-classify the Assistant Executive Director to a group 20; and increase all classified positions by 2 steps for each fiscal year. Final budget approval will be made by the Board at a later date.

Mr. Davis read a letter from Billie Washington in regards to our Equal Employment Affirmative Action Plan. Since the Board felt that the requirements of the general appropriation bill had been met, additional evaluation was needed of the reasons given disapproving the plan and suggestions to be included in the plan; therefore, no official action was taken.

The State Conservation Awards Program will be held on May 3, 1974 in Fort Worth at the Texas Christian University.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board changed its policy on the hosting of the Area Conservation Awards Program sponsored by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce. If a district volunteers to host the program and the location is suitable, it may be approved by the

State Board Member, Ass'n Director and Field Representative and allowed to host the area meeting.

The State Board will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the Shorthorn Room of the Sheraton-Fort Worth Hotel in Fort Worth jointly with the Directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts on May 3, 1974.

John Millican explained the new Texas Agency Network telephone system that went into effect February 28, 1974 and how it is used.

Correspondence from Paul Hamilton dated April 19, 1974 in regards to a "Conservation Program" was discussed. Mr. Hamilton asked that the Board consider drafts of two letters from the State Board to the Directors of the Pedernales SWCD. One draft would incorporate the Board's agreement with the principals and objectives of the Program while the other draft would simply acknowledge a presentation of the program to the Board was made by Mr. Hamilton. The Board felt that anything more than a negative position might be construed as an endorsement; therefore, the Board agreed that any correspondence to the Pedernales SWCD at the present time would be untimely.

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board was audited for the period beginning September 1, 1971 through August 31, 1973 by the State Auditor's Office. No discrepancies were found and each member had received a copy of the audit report.

Mr. Davis read a letter from Horace Scott of the Coke County SWCD #219 in regard to changing the qualifications of a district director so that a cooperator could serve. Since the need for changing qualifications has been discussed several times at the Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors but has never been resolved, the Board took no

official action.

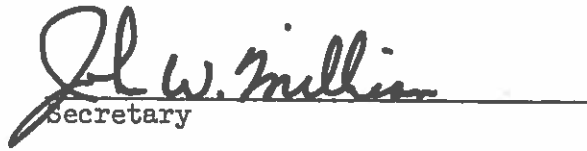
The National Watershed Congress will meet in Pittsburgh, Pa. on June 16-19, 1974 at the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel. A motion was made by Henry Turney, seconded by Albert Roach that the Chairman, Harvey Davis and/or his designee be authorized to attend the Watershed Congress.

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Board will be scheduled as needed by the Chairman.

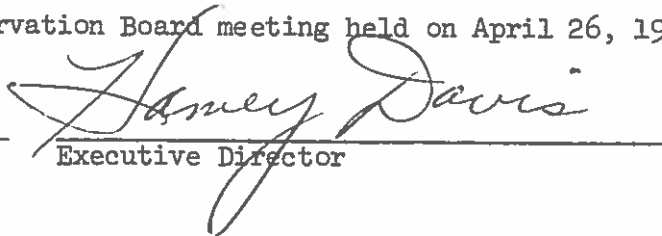
The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.


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 April 26, 1974.


Executive Director

Date