

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
November 15, 1979

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 15, 1979 at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room, 1006 First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

E. W. Wehman, Chairman
Henry W. Turney Vice Chairman
Joe Antilley, Member
Albert Roach, Member

Staff members present were:

A. C. Spencer, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor
Barney Jefferson, Field Representative

Others present were:

George Marks, Soil Conservation Service
Jimmy Hill, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Agricultural Extension Service
Dr. Earl Burnett, Science and Education Administration

Chairman Wehman called the meeting to order.

Since each Board member received by mail a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on October 2, 1979, and there being no changes, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Henry Turney, the minutes were approved.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the appointment of Robert W. Brockman as director of the Edwards Plateau Soil and Water Conservation District # 222.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the appointment of Curtis L. Carr as director of the El Paso-Hudspeth Soil and Water Conservation District # 205 was approved contingent upon receipt of official resignation of W. T. Sharp.

John Millican reported on district director elections in zone 1 of each district held October 1-15, 1979. Of 199 soil and water conservation districts,

188 results have been received with 39 new directors elected and 149 directors re-elected. Statistics show an increase in number of voters compared to the previous year.

James Moore reported on 208 activities. Monitoring is now in progress on the Arroyo Colorado in the Rio Grande Valley and also on Lake Fork Creek in Area V.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board authorized A. C. Spencer to enter into an Interagency contract with the Texas Department of Water Resources for reimbursement of water quality planning related expenditures.

Carl Spencer reported on Document # 1 of the Resource Conservation Program. Texas hearings will be held between January 21, 1980 and February 28, 1980 in Dallas, Lubbock and San Antonio. Mr. Spencer reported that on December 17, 1979 the NACD Outlook Committee will meet in Washington, D.C. and develop a questionnaire for response to the proposals in the national RCA proposed program.

Action was postponed until March of 1980 on the allocation of \$122,000 in RCA grant funds.

John Millican reported on the attendance at the Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held in El Paso, Texas on October 2, 3 and 4, 1979. Of the 908 people who registered, 348 were directors representing 150 districts, 252 directors' wives, 66 other ladies and 242 other men. Each board member received a report showing attendance by individual districts within each of the five State areas. A financial statement on the meeting expenditures was presented to each board member.

The Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be held in San Antonio on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 29, 30, and October 1, 1980 with the Marriott Hotel as headquarters.

The Board authorized the staff to screen cities with available facilities for the site of the 1981 annual meeting.

Carl Spencer reported on the National Land Study Workshop he attended along with E. W. Wehman and Albert Roach in Irving, Texas on November 7 and 8, 1979. Of primary concern was the loss of productive agricultural land.

A meeting on farm structure is scheduled by Secretary of Agriculture Bergland on December 6, 1979 in Wichita Falls, Texas. The Board agreed to prepare a written statement.

Barney Jefferson reported on the status of the formation of a Soil and Water Conservation District in Tom Green County which would involve the transfer of land from the Concho Soil and Water Conservation District # 201, the North Concho SWCD # 208 and the Eldorado Divide SWCD # 212. Mr. Jefferson reported that it was not clear at this time if all three districts would agree to give up their portion of Tom Green County. The Board authorized the staff to proceed with the formation of a new district if two of the three districts involved agreed to the change.

A letter received October 29, 1979 indicates an ineligible director is serving on the Webb County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Conflicting information on ownership of land within the district is questionable. The Board decided to postpone action until its next board meeting pending further investigation of facts.

Activity in PL 83-566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program was discussed. Funds in the amount of \$60,000 are available for watershed planning. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board authorized Carl Spencer to contract for this amount with the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

Bob Buckley informed the Board of correspondence from the Fayette Soil and Water Conservation District as sponsor of the Cummins Creek watershed project in regards to requesting an opinion from the Attorney General as to the legality of collecting a maintenance tax without calling an election. The Board agreed

to notify the Fayette SWCD that it was not our responsibility to request an opinion since the maintenance agreement is between the county and the Soil Conservation Service.

Carl Spencer informed the Board that representatives of the Governor's Equal Employment Opportunity Office had met in our office on November 1 to discuss policies, procedures and functions of the State Board. Recommendations from EEO in a letter dated November 12, 1979 were reviewed in detail with the Board. On motion of Henry Turney, seconded by Joe Antilley, the staff was instructed to prepare a policy statement and update the board's affirmative action plan.

Bill Harris reported on their activities in the conservation tillage field demonstrations.

George Marks reported on a cut-back in hiring replacements in personnel within the next 18 months. The State office will be cut back first and then if necessary, field offices to meet the requirement.

The 1980 National Association of Conservation Districts meeting will be held in Houston, Texas on February 10-14, 1980. Reservations for the Board Members are to be made at the Shamrock Hilton.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on January 17, 1980.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

E. W. Welman
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

January 17, 1980
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 November 15, 1979.

January 21, 1980
Date

C. A. Spencer
Executive Director