

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 17, 1985

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 17, 1985
at 8:00 a.m. in Room 1006, First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Chairman
Hermon L. Petty, Vice Chairman
Frank Gray, Member
Albert Roach, Member
Joe Antilley, Member

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Josephine Chupik, Office Service Supervisor
Carl Gray, Agronomist
Jay Kuykendall, Engineering Technician
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist

Others present were:

Charles "Buddy" Clark, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation
Districts
Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Charles Thompson, Soil Conservation Service
Gary Westmoreland, Soil Conservation Service
O'Gene W. Barkemeyer, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service

Chairman Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed all the
guests.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Frank Gray, the minutes of the
November 15, 1984 board meeting were approved as mailed to each board member.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Albert Roach, the board approved
the following district director appointments:

Robert Yaeger - Monte Mucho SWCD # 331
Romeo F. Montalvo - Monte Mucho SWCD # 331
Jim Cabbell, Jr. - Salt Fork SWCD # 133

The board reviewed requests for additional technical assistance funds from the Canadian River SWCD # 160, El Paso-Hudspeth SWCD # 205, and the Upper Neches SWCD # 438. Since all technical assistance funds for this fiscal year have been allocated, on motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Joe Antilley, the board decided to conduct a survey of districts to determine the status of technical assistance funds by the March 21, 1985 board meeting. The three districts requesting funds will be notified of this action by the board.

The Loma Blanca Soil and Water Conservation District # 328 requested additional matching funds for this fiscal year. Since matching funds are available, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Frank Gray, the board approved an additional allocation of \$400.00, making the total allocation for Loma Blanca SWCD \$1,350.00 for fiscal year 1985.

A petition and supporting documents to transfer the portion of Hays County in the Comal-Hays-Guadalupe SWCD #306 to the Hays-Caldwell-Travis SWCD # 304 was received on December 10, 1984. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the board determined the transfer to be practicable and feasible and approved the transfer of \$436.00 in matching fund allocations and \$2,445.00 in technical assistance fund allocations to the Hays-Caldwell-Travis SWCD # 304.

A request to change the name of the Comal-Hays-Guadalupe SWCD # 306 was considered by the board. Since Hays County has been transferred from this district to Hays-Caldwell-Travis, on motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Hermon Petty, the board approved the name change to Comal-Guadalupe SWCD # 306.

James Moore briefed the Board and presented pertinent information on an application for assistance under Public Law 83-566 on the Sulphur Creek watershed in Bee, Karnes and Live Oak Counties which had been received on January 16, 1985. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Albert Roach, the board approved the application as practicable and feasible. James Moore

Informed the board that the Soil Conservation Service had requested the board consider granting two additional planning priorities. O'Gene Barkemeyer explained the need for the two priorities and that the request for planning authorization had to be in the SCS national office before February 1, 1985 to be considered for fiscal year 1985 funding. After reviewing projects eligible for planning priorities, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the board granted priorities to the Hudspeth County Conservation and Reclamation District No. 1 watershed in Hudspeth County and to the Sulphur Creek watershed in Bee, Karnes and Live Oak Counties.

Bob Buckley reviewed the 1986-87 budget request as recommended by the Legislative Budget Board. The request reflects the 3.7% reduction in funding based on the 1985 appropriation. The recommendation inadvertently reduced the staff by three positions due to a misinterpretation in wording of rider # four which pertains to federal funding.

A letter dated January 10, 1985 from Jim Rudd, Chairman of the House Committee on appropriations requesting utmost care in budget requests and placing a moratorium on hiring was reviewed by the board. Since our agency only has 23 staff positions, even the loss of one position could impact the program rather severely, the board agreed to review each position as it becomes vacant and determine whether to fill it. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Hermon Petty, the board agreed to respond to Mr. Rudd stating our feelings and position.

The board discussed the hearings on the 1986-87 budget request. Since no new programs were approved by the Legislative Budget Board proposal and all existing programs were conservatively funded, the board agreed to contact a few State officials to determine its position at the 1986-87 budget hearings.

An evaluation report by Program Analyst, Anne Gomez of the Legislative Budget Board on the matching fund program analyzed from forty soil and water conservation district biennial audits revealed funds were being shown as one figure for a two-year period. In order to fulfill guidelines set up for the matching fund program, funds should be separated for each year. The board agreed to revise the procedures set up for audits of districts by updating the "Manual of Fiscal Operations" to reveal funding on a yearly basis for the two-year period. Districts will be advised of this change. The field staff will also be directed to work with districts on this problem.

The board conducted a field tour on January 16, 1985 to study land capability classes to be used in identifying prime farmland pursuant to the Federal Farmland Protection Policy Act. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the board's staff will work with Soil Conservation Service staff to develop soil property criteria that would be utilized to address the statewide farmland issue. The board would review each referral to determine if land is of statewide importance.

Harvey Davis reviewed proposed legislation pertaining to soil and water conservation districts and the operation of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

A proposed draft on surface mining reclamation legislation was discussed. Since the board members had not had an opportunity to study the draft, it will be discussed at a future date.

Billy Griffin reported on the proposed 1986-87 budget for Soil Conservation Service and the reassignment of personnel.

Bill Harris discussed updating the Memorandum of Understanding with the Board and Districts in 1985.

Earl Burnett reported on budget items for Agricultural Research Service.

Clyde Gottschalk reported the Public Information Committee will meet on January 21, 1985. Gottschalk briefed the Board on upcoming youth conservation education workshops.

James Moore briefed the board on the proposed dam safety rules of the Texas Department of Water Resources and updated the board on the status of the rules.

Mel Davis reported that the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts had met in December and considered the resolutions passed in the business session at the Annual meeting in October in Corpus Christi. Resolution # 9, "District Support for Vocational Agriculture in the Public Schools of Texas" asks the State Board to assist with the intent of this resolution. Key legislative leaders have received a copy of the resolution and its importance was discussed.

The 50th Anniversary of the signing of the law creating Soil Conservation Service will be commemorated in Washington, D. C. , April 22-27, 1985. Soil Conservation Districts are given an opportunity to host members of Congress at the banquet on April 27, 1985 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, D. C. The NACD Board of Directors will also have its meeting on April 28-May 2 to coincide with this banquet. On motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Hermon Petty, the board authorized Harvey Davis, Executive Director, Dick Schendel, Chairman, and any other board member to attend this function and call on the congressional delegation regarding conservation programs and attendance at the banquet. Field personnel will encourage districts to sponsor attendance of congressmen to the banquet.

The National Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 3-7, 1985 at the Sheraton-Waikiki

Hotel.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board is March 21, 1985.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Clarence J. Schendel
Chairman

Josephine Chyik
Secretary

March 21, 1985
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the board meeting held on January 17, 1985.

March 21, 1985
Date

Henry Davis
Executive Director