

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
January 20, 1983

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 20, 1983 at 8:00 a. m. in Room 1006, First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director  
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs  
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor  
James Moore, Engineer  
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservation Service  
Joe Montgomery, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agriculture Research Service

Mr. Antilley called the meeting to order and recognized all the guests.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the minutes of the December 20, 1982 meeting were approved as read.

On motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Hermon Petty, the following district director appointments were approved:

Thomas W. Terrell - Blackwater Valley SWCD # 111  
Willard Crisp - Dos Rios SWCD # 322  
Tommy L. Hailey - Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos SWCD # 531

The agency's budget request and Legislative Budget Board's recommendations for the 1984-85 biennium were reviewed by Harvey Davis. On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Frank Gray, the board agreed to request the funding levels

recommended by the Legislative Budget Board when testifying before Legislative committees and to request changes in the agency's appropriation bill pattern to increase the maximum annual conservation assistance payment per soil and water conservation district from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and to reappropriate the balance in the agency's account # 13567 entitled HB 1623 - Directors Annual Meeting as of August 31, 1983 for use during the 1984-85 biennium.

John Millican discussed a recent Attorney General's Opinion (MW593) relating to soil and water conservation districts' involvement in the fish stocking program. Mr. Millican explained that the opinion stated that SWCDs have authority to serve as a central distribution point for landowners to purchase fish to stock farm ponds but did not have authority to charge a fee for this service. The board instructed the staff to investigate the possibility of obtaining a re-examination of the opinion and, if necessary, draft legislation needed to give districts the authority they need to carry out the program and charge for this service.

The Board discussed the Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council as established by the 67th Legislature. Because of the council's involvement in natural resource matters, on motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Albert Roach, the board agreed to pursue an amendment to this legislation to include the State Soil and Water Conservation Board as a member of this Council.

James Moore informed the board of the proposed resolution on State water resources policy prepared by the Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council as published in the Texas Register, January 7, recommending a reduction in the quantity of water that can be impounded for domestic and livestock uses without a permit. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Hermon Petty, the board reaffirmed its opposition to any change in current law and instructed the staff to send a letter indicating that position to the Council.

Bob Buckley reviewed the financial situation of the Salt Fork Soil and Water Conservation District # 133. Upon advice from the Attorney General's Office, Harvey Davis reported that he had written a letter to the Salt Fork SWCD recommending that the directors of the Salt Fork Soil and Water Conservation District contact the local district attorney relative to possible irregularities in the district's financial activities. The Board concurred in this action.

David Powell discussed a proposal by Dr. Kent Adair of Stephen F. Austin State University to hold a Student and Teacher Conference on Conservation during the summer of 1984. No action was taken by the Board.

Billy Griffin explained the Soil Conservation Service's new formula for allocation of funds for technical assistance to soil and water conservation districts.

James Moore reported on a study of salinity problems in the Runnels County area being done by the Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council. Implications of the study on agriculture and conservation programs were briefly discussed followed by a discussion of the Board's involvement in the TENRAC study.

Harvey Davis led a general discussion on the severity and apparent increase in salinity problems in the State. On motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved an investigation of the salinity problem on a state-wide basis and authorized Mr. Davis to seek resources that would allow an adequate analysis of the problem.

Clyde Gottschalk informed the Board on Public Information activities including working with absentee landowners in selected districts across the State and Boy Scout Troops in the Central Texas area.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 17, 1983.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Joe Antilly  
Chairman

Josephine Chyzik  
Secretary

March 7, 1983  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 20, 1983.

March 7, 1983  
Date

Sammy Davis  
Executive Director