

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
February 16, 1984

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on February 16, 1984,  
at 8:00 a.m. in Room 1006, First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

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

Directors of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
present were:

Waldo Smith, Vice President  
W. Q. Richards, Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilson Scaling, Director  
Judge Larry McCasland, Director

Others present were:

Gilbert Turrieta, Legislative Budget Board  
Anne Gomez, Legislative Budget Board  
Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service  
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service  
Gary Westmoreland, Soil Conservation Service  
Charles Thompson, Soil Conservation Service  
Doug Bartosh, Soil Conservation Service  
Bob King, Texas Department of Agriculture  
Steve Munday, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association  
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service  
Dr. B. L. Harris, Extension Service

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order, welcomed all in attendance  
and had each one introduce himself.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the minutes of  
the November 17, 1983, meeting were approved as mailed to each board member.

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

Keith Jackson - Floyd County SWCD #104  
Eileen W. Cochran - Stonewall SWCD #167  
Philip Shay - Copano Bay SWCD #329  
E. G. Nava - Monte Mucho SWCD #331  
Pete Saenz, Jr. - Webb SWCD #337  
Kenneth E. Haynes - Harrison Co. SWCD #412  
Robert H. Beavers - Coastal SWCD #432  
Glenn Koelemay - Coastal SWCD #432  
Gerald Charles Wilbanks, Jr. - Long Leaf SWCD #439  
Steve R. Lovecky - McLennan County SWCD #512

Billy Griffin reported on items in the proposed 1985 budget of Soil Conservation Service. Personnel cuts and no hire policy will remain in effect. Griffin reported a reassignment from Assistant State Conservationist to Area Conservationist at Abilene has been granted to James Abbott effective April 15, 1984.

Dale Fishgrabe reported on conservation acreage reserve and coverage on set aside acreage. Soil Conservation Service will provide soil class data and copies of soil maps to help farmers and ASCS determine eligible land.

Gary Westmoreland reported on additional targeting. Requests are to be submitted 2 years in advance. Westmoreland reviewed the Rolling Plains targeting area.

Dr. Earl Burnett reported that six scientists are now working on brush control research. There are no additional budget funds for research.

Dr. Harris encouraged attendance at the "Soil Survey and Land Resource Workshop" to be held on March 8-9, 1984, at Texas A & M University in College Station.

John Millican presented a request from the Webb Soil and Water Conservation District #337 to change the subdivision boundaries of zone 4 and 5 to more equally distribute cooperators and to include a part of the City of Laredo in both zones. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the changes in zone 4 and 5 boundary lines.

John Millican reported that the Freestone-Leon SWCD #424 was considering dividing and re-organizing its district into two districts. One would consist of Freestone County and the other that part of Leon County that is presently in the Freestone-Leon SWCD. Indications are the entire board is not in agreement. A petition has not been received to date. No action taken by the Board.

Bob Buckley reported on the progress of the technical assistance program to districts. Cooperative agreements have been signed by 156 districts. Claims have been processed from 93 districts totaling \$214,195.42. On January 27, 1984, a performance survey to be completed by each district participating in the program was mailed to the chairman. Information from the survey will be included in the agency's semiannual performance report to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Budget Office.

By letter the following Soil and Water Conservation Districts have released their allocation of technical assistance funds for the 1984 fiscal year:

Tom Green SWCD #248	\$2,000.00
Colorado SWCD #333	3,000.00
Navasota SWCD #440	1,100.00
Jasper-Newton SWCD #441	5,000.00

In a letter dated 1-13-84, the Coastal SWCD #432 requested funding from the technical assistance program in the amount of \$5,400.00 for a technician. Since limited funds are available, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Hermon Petty, the board allocated \$5,400.00 for the fiscal year 1984 to the Coastal SWCD.

The salary rate of \$6.50 per hour for technicians funded from the technical assistance program was reviewed. Since this rate had been set when the program was implemented 9-1-83, on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board decided to leave the salary rate the same at this time.

A letter dated 1-9-84, from Kerr County SWCD #217 requesting additional matching funds (conservation assistance) in the amount of \$1,575.00 for fiscal year 1984 and 1985 was discussed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board increased the allocation from \$1,425.00 to \$3,000.00 for fiscal year 1984 and 1985.

A letter dated 12-8-83, from the Brown-Mills SWCD #523 requesting additional matching funds (conservation assistance) was discussed. Since the Brown-Mills SWCD was allocated the \$3,800.00 maximum initial allocation allowed for any district for the 1984 fiscal year, on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the board declined the request at this time. Should funds become available the district will be given an opportunity to request supplemental funds later in the fiscal year.

James Moore reported on the status of watershed activities in the State which included a report on a hearing that was cancelled on the Dry Fork of the Little Wichita River in Clay County, a field examination conducted during December 12-14 on a potential project in Haskell County and a field examination scheduled for March 5-8 1984, on a potential project in Lavaca County.

An application for assistance under the PL 83-566 program for the Hudspeth County Conservation and Reclamation District No. 1 watershed was considered by the Board. On a motion by Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel the application was approved as being practicable and feasible for planning.

James Moore updated the Board on the status of the statewide salinity study. Harvey Davis advised the Board that the position made possible by the contract with the Texas Department of Water Resources had been filled effective March 1, 1984, by Dr. Carl Gray.

Bob Buckley reviewed a report by the State Auditor on the audit conducted for the fiscal year ended 8-31-82. Recommended changes in accounting records are now implemented. In the process of development is an accounting procedures manual as recommended by the Auditor.

Harvey Davis reported on the possibility of having to move the State Board office to another building. According to the Worker's Compensation Division of the Office of the Attorney General the present space does not meet the requirements of the NFPA, 101 Life Safety Code - fire safety - due to only one means of egress. The State Purchasing and General Services Commission is responsible for leasing office space; however, they adhere to the safety rules of the Attorney General's Office. The present office space in the First National Building is in compliance with Temple's fire code but does not satisfy the requirements of the Attorney General's Office. It is difficult at this time to determine what is necessary to obtain approval for state leased office space. No action taken by the Board.

Harvey Davis reported on the Agriculture Land Preservation Meeting in Austin on January 26, 1984.

Bob King expressed the Texas Department of Agriculture's concern about farmland protection. He indicated that TDA had recently received many calls on specific problems relative to protection of farmland. He gave a report on a draft executive order dealing with farmland protection which had been developed by TDA for the January 26th meeting.

Bob King commented to the board on an upcoming request for a "Land Evaluation and Site Assessment" system to be implemented in Colorado and Fayette Counties. This was followed by a general discussion of farmland protection, agency responsibilities and the potential impacts of such programs. Bob King was invited to work through the State Board when he needs to work with Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Harvey Davis informed the board of a scheduled meeting with the Sunset Commission on February 27, 1984. A hearing with the Commission will be held on March 29-30.

The board reviewed Title 7, Chapter 201, Agricultural Code of Texas, creating the State Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1939. Since the Board is presently under review by the Sunset Advisory Commission needed changes in the statutes were discussed.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board recommended removal of the second sentence from Section 201.001, paragraph (d). In its place the wording should indicate that the State Soil and Water Conservation Board is the agency with responsibility for carrying out legislative policy regarding soil resources of this State.

After giving consideration to a survey conducted by field personnel among district directors, the Board agreed on the following proposals:

(1) leave the name of the agency and districts as it is presently in the statutes and keep the structure of the board and districts as is.

(2) continue convention type elections, with no change in director qualifications, allowing all resident landowners to vote, with the location of the election any place within the district instead of the zone and elect two directors one year, and one director each year for the next three years to implement the four year term. According to the constitution, directors are limited to four year terms instead of the five year terms presently provided by statute. The dates for elections to remain October 1 thru October 16.

(3) mileage for district meetings paid to directors be the same mileage rate as paid to state employees.

(4) mileage paid directors to attend the Annual State Meeting be paid from the county seat of the county where the director resides to the place of the annual meeting.

(5) mileage be paid to two directors in attendance at the Annual State Meeting and two days per diem to attend the Annual State Meeting.

Other recommended changes in the statutes as agreed upon by the Board are as follows:

Section 201.051. "Dissolution of Conservation District" develop new wording to clarify dissolution procedure.

Section 201.076. "Director Vacancy; Removal" discussed and made no change.

Section 201.080. "Records, Reports, Accounts and Audits" paragraph (c) wording be changed stating any/all funds of districts shall be deposited with state or national banks or in savings and loan associations.

Section 201.101. "Corporate Powers" paragraph (b) remove wording on time of note maturity and interest rate.

Section 201.123. "Election" paragraph (a) discussed and made no change.

The budget request for the 1986-1987 biennium was discussed. It was the consensus of the board that districts be surveyed for matching funds (conservation assistance) with a limitation of the allocation to \$7,500.00 per district per annum.

In considering technical assistance in the 1986-1987 budget request, on motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Albert Roach, the board decided to continue the program as technical assistance and to survey the districts to determine their needs.

Clyde Gottschalk showed the new film on wind and water erosion entitled "A Land Called Texas."

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 15, 1984.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

J. Frank Gray  
Chairman

Josephine Chupik  
Secretary

March 15, 1984  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the board meeting held on February 16, 1984.

March 15, 1984  
Date

Sammy Davis  
Executive Director