

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
July 15, 1987

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, July 15, 1987 at 8:10 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
James Moore, Engineer
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Jay Kuykendall, Planner
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Robert Gruner, Soil Conservationist, Area I
E. R. Seidensticker, Soil Conservationist, Area II
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist, Area II
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist, Area III
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist, Area III
David Powell, Soil Conservationist, Area IV
Joe McKay, Soil Conservationist, Area IV
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist, Area V
W. T. "Dub" Crumley, Soil Conservationist, Area V

Others present were:

Waldo Smith, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Larry McCasland, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Coy Garrett, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. B. L. Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agricultural Research Service
Comer Tuck, Jr., Texas Water Development Board
Glen Jones, Texas Farm Bureau

Chairman Antilley called the meeting to order.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Hermon Petty, the minutes of the May 14, 1987, meeting were approved as mailed out to each Board member.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved

the following district director appointments:

Leon Ferguson - Floyd County SWCD # 104
Mary Gail Crain - Medina Valley SWCD # 226
Louise Crenwelge - Llano County SWCD # 233
Daniel Jurk - Fayette SWCD # 341
D. W. Thomas, Jr. - Limestone-Falls SWCD # 501

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved the appointment of Robert J. Haywood to the Piney Woods SWCD # 429 contingent upon receipt of a resignation letter from Ray Crocker and also approved the appointment of Charles W. Nutt to the Limestone-Falls SWCD # 501 contingent upon additional signatures of district directors on form # TSSCB-49 and TSSCB-50.

James Moore updated the Board on activities relative to agency responsibilities under nonpoint source pollution management provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act. Mr. Moore told the Board that work on the assessment and management plan is scheduled to begin September 1 and be completed by August 31, 1988. In addition, the Board was made aware of plans by the Texas Water Commission to add the Soil and Water Conservation Board to the State Groundwater Protection Committee beginning September 1, 1987 in anticipation of work relative to agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

James Moore briefed the Board on a meeting held June 25, 1987 concerning the State Dam Safety Program and its impact on flood control structures built under watershed protection and flood prevention programs. He reported that the meeting should result in improved coordination among state and federal agencies and that the Hood-Parker Soil and Water Conservation District followed up with a resolution requesting the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts to seek assistance from NACD to work with Congress to provide authority and funding for Soil Conservation Service to upgrade dams.

Mr. Moore then reported on a planned field examination of two watersheds in Medina County to determine the feasibility of water conservation projects under the watershed protection and flood prevention program.

Clyde Gottschalk reported on the recent and upcoming Teacher Workshops at Texas A & I and Texas Tech relative to soil and water conservation.

Mr. Gottschalk also informed the Board that another series of radio public service programs relative to range, cropland and timberland information is ready for release. A range management instructional video is near completion and expected to be distributed in late August. In addition the first in a series of instructional videos with respect to conservation tillage and forestry management are also being concurrently developed. Mr. Gottschalk reported some districts concern about the scout soil and water conservation workshop being cancelled this year in the Longhorn Council.

Mel Davis reported on current legislation during this special session affecting soil and water conservation districts and the State Board.

Chairman Antilley welcomed the guests and asked if any had comments to make to the Board.

Bill Harris reported on a No-Till Conference held at College Station on July 1 and 2, activities by Texas A & M University to fill their Deputy Chancellor position, progress of the cooperative wind erosion demonstration projects, Food Security Act activities of the Extension Service and the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program.

Comer Tuck updated the Board on the development of rules to implement SB 410 passed during the last regular legislative session and on the possibility of funding water conservation programs with Exxon Oil Overcharge Funds.

Coy Garrett reported on recent SCS personnel actions and indicated that Texas should receive \$825,000 of the supplemental appropriation to SCS.

Dale Fischgrabe briefed the Board on the status of the study on the effectiveness of USDA in getting information on the Food Security Act to small resource and minority farmers. Mr. Fischgrabe then presented a report on the second Resource Conservation Act Appraisal and indicated that comments would be due by September 11, 1987. Harvey Davis indicated that State Board staff

would compile comments of Board members and prepare a comment letter for the agency.

O'Gene Barkemeyer briefed the Board on an upcoming study required by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-662) of the feasibility, desirability and public interest in requiring public access be provided to water impoundments built under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

Coy Garrett announced that he had applied for an Assistant Chief position within SCS and that the State Conservationist position in Texas was being upgraded under the Senior Executive Service for which he has also applied. Mr. Garrett then reported on a proposal by SCS to contract with selected soil and water conservation districts for planning to meet Food Security Act requirements and presented the cooperative agreement to be signed by participating districts.

Mr. Garrett discussed a proposed rule published in the June 29, 1987, Federal Register, which would amend the interim rule on highly erodible land and wetland conservation, and would base conservation plan and conservation system acceptability under the 1985 Food Security Act on SCS field office technical guides instead of basing acceptability solely on the "T" value of the soil. James Moore read a letter prepared by the State Board staff supporting the amendment. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Fred Squyres, the letter was approved. A general discussion of Food Security Act activities and cooperative agreements followed.

Waldo Smith reported on a recent meeting of the NACD Water Resources and Programs Committee held in Delaware.

Larry McCasland informed the Board that his district had inspected several surface mine reclamation projects and written the Railroad Commission of Texas regarding their apparent success.

Harvey Davis reported that the Program Planning Committee for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in

Galveston on October 12, 13, and 14, 1987 had met and discussed the program. The same format will be used with a "Get-acquainted" barbecue on the first evening, followed by a general session with speakers the next morning with area discussion sessions and workshops in the afternoon with a banquet in the evening. The last morning will consist of a general session and business session.

Bob Buckley reported on FY 1987 technical assistance funds that Soil and Water Conservation Districts released and were re-allocated to SWCDs requesting additional funds.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board instructed the staff to redistribute technical assistance funds not claimed by the filing deadline to districts that had incurred costs over and above their original allocations.

Bob Buckley presented requests for FY 1987 Conservation Assistance funds received from Waters Davis SWCD # 318 and the Dos Rios SWCD# 322. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board granted \$1,300.00 to the Waters Davis SWCD # 318 and \$2,269.96 to the Dos Rios SWCD # 322 in Conservation Assistance funds.

A request from the Lavaca SWCD # 334 for \$4,286.75 to purchase a grass seeder was discussed. The Board considered the request and agreed that no funds to purchase equipment were available.

Several districts have submitted supplemental claims for FY 1987 Conservation Assistance funds. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board agreed that supplemental funds would be allocated as in previous years with each district allocated the maximum amount possible from the balance of funds remaining.

Bob Buckley presented a preliminary estimated operating budget for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1988. After review, on motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board adopted the attached "Preliminary

Operating Budget Estimates" contingent upon the passage of the 1988-89 appropriation bill.

In the Board meeting on May 14, 1987 the Board agreed to survey districts' fund balances to determine the financial status of SWCDs before consideration of allocation of any funds for FY 1988-89 and in this survey gave districts an opportunity to suggest changes in the rules and guidelines for technical assistance funds. Of 201 surveys received from districts only 18 commented on any changes. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board agreed to continue use of the current rules and guidelines.

Due to this being the last regular meeting in this fiscal year, the Board discussed the allocation of Technical Assistance funds for FY 1988. After reviewing the status of district funds compiled from the current survey of districts, on motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board determined not to make an allocation to districts with \$50,000.00 or more unless a special need could be shown. This action is in compliance with Rider # 10 in the State Board's budget appropriation effective 9-1-87. A discussion arose on adjustments of funds in the five areas of the State. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board agreed to use the same amount per area as the 1987 allocation. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board allocated technical assistance funds for FY 1988 per district as per attached contingent upon passage of the 1988-89 appropriation bill and should the amount differ to adjust each figure on a percentage basis accordingly.

The Board considered allocation of Conservation Assistance funds to SWCDs for FY 1988. Using the same criteria that was established for allocation of Technical Assistance funds, on motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board allocated Conservation Assistance funds to each SWCD for FY 1988 as per attached. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board allocated these funds contingent upon passage of the 1988-89 appropriation bill

and should the amount differ to adjust each figure on a percentage basis accordingly.

The Soil Conservation Society will sponsor a meeting "American Agriculture at the Crossroads: A Conservation Assessment of the 1985 Food Security Act" on November 1-3, 1987 in Kansas City, Mo. at the Hyatt-Regency Hotel. No Board member travel was authorized for this meeting.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized Hermon Petty to attend the meeting of the Resource Policy Planning and Development Committee of the NACD to be held in Denver, Colorado on August 19 and 20 at the Denver Marriott Hotel Southeast.

Roy Freeman reported on the meeting that he and Director Smiley Jennings of the Calhoun SWCD # 345 attended in Grand Island, La. on June 24 and 25 relative to shoreline erosion.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 16, 1987.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Joe Antilly
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

September 16, 1987
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on July 15, 1987.

September 16, 1987
Date

Laney Davis
Executive Director