

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
July 21, 1983

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 21, 1983 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  
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  
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service  
C. Budd Fountain, Soil Conservation Service  
James Abbott, Soil Conservation Service  
Dr. Kent Adair, Stephen F. Austin University, Nacogdoches  
Dr. Bill Harris, Agricultural Extension Service

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the minutes of the May 19, 1983 meeting were approved as mailed out.

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

Gerald Carter - Dallam SWCD # 131  
Clois L. Wall - Lower Pease River SWCD # 162  
Jack Bratton - Cottle County SWCD # 163  
Paul Douglas Holloway - Middle Clear Fork SWCD # 206  
Mrs. Jerline Frysak - North Concho River SWCD # 208  
Calvin Blaschke - Live Oak SWCD # 323  
Carl Robert Ferrell - Sulphur-Cypress SWCD # 419

C. Budd Fountain expressed his appreciation to the Board for the working relationship during his tenure as Deputy State Conservationist of Soil Conservation Service in Texas. Mr. Fountain is assuming the position of Deputy State Conservationist on August 7, 1983 in Huron,

South Dakota.

Dr. Kent Adair discussed a proposal to implement a Teacher Conference on Conservation at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, districts will be surveyed to determine interest and participation of teachers in a Statewide program. June 1, 1984 is the deadline for determining if there is sufficient interest for the conference.

John Millican presented requests from the following districts to change subdivision boundaries:

- (1) Hansford SWCD # 148 requested the boundary lines be simplified so eligible voters could easily identify zones to cast votes in elections.
- (2) Coastal SWCD # 432 requested adding agricultural land from zone 5 to zone 4. Zone 4 has experienced a tremendous urban growth eliminating much agricultural land.
- (3) Upper Sabine SWCD # 530 requested that zones 1 and 4 be changed to include Wolfe City in zone 4 giving each zone at least two cities with facilities for meetings.

On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty changes in subdivision boundaries were approved for each district as requested.

The Board agreed to hold a special meeting on Monday, August 8, 1983 at 8:00 a.m.

Criteria for 1983 fiscal year supplemental matching fund allocations will be decided in the board meeting on August 8, 1983.

Harvey Davis discussed the matching fund request from Floyd County SWCD # 104 received after the May 15, 1983 deadline. A letter from the Floyd County district explaining the circumstances surrounding the delayed filing of the claim and a copy of the minutes of the April 22, 1983 meeting verifying approval of the claim were presented to the Board. On motion of Joe Antilley,

seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Board approved the matching fund request in the amount of \$1,783.00.

Bob Buckley presented the 1984 fiscal year operating budget. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized the staff to investigate the need for and cost of installing a computer system. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Board approved the 1984 operating budget in the amount of \$3,476,055.00. (Copy attached.)

Conservation Assistance (matching funds) for the 1984 fiscal year total \$624,641.00. This represents a 2% reduction from 1983 levels. To provide for the contingency of special allocation needs in fiscal year 1984, on motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board set 1984 matching fund allocations to districts at 5% below the 1983 levels, excluding four districts, Cap Rock # 126, Oldham # 153, Devil's River # 224 and Eldorado-Divide # 247 who voluntarily reduced their request.

Harvey Davis presented a request from the Upper Elm-Red SWCD # 524 for an additional allocation of matching funds up to the \$7,500 legal maximum for fiscal year 1984. Maintaining 41 flood prevention dams in territory recently added to the district has increased expenses. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Joe Antilley, the board allocated an additional \$300 to the Upper Elm-Red district making the total allocation \$3,800.00 for fiscal year 1984 which is the maximum regular allocation for districts.

Soil Survey Development appropriations for 1984 were discussed. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to sign contracts with the agencies as follows:

Soil Conservation Service	\$119,560
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station	22,295
Texas Agricultural Extension Service	<u>5,145</u>
	\$147,000

Harvey Davis briefed the Board on travel regulations for fiscal year 1984-85. Senate Bill 179, Article 5, Section 4, Acts of the 68th

Legislature, provides that per diem of board members shall consists of actual expenses for meals and lodging not to exceed maximum daily amount established by the Internal Revenue Service as of the first of January of that year for federal income tax purposes. The staff informed the board members that the Comptroller's Office intends to interpret this section to mean that board members' reimbursement for meals and lodging will be limited to \$75.00 per day effective September 1, 1983.

Harvey Davis advised the Board that the appropriation bill required a travel policy to be adopted by the Board. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Board unanimously approved a travel policy for the agency as follows:

1. All staff travel, both in-state and out-of-state, must be authorized by the Executive Director.
2. Travel by Board members within their district does not require advance approval.
3. Blanket approval is given to all Board members for out-of-state travel while attending the national meetings and south-central area meetings of the National Association of Conservation Districts.
4. Other out-of-state travel by Board members must be authorized either by the Chairman or the Board.

James Moore reported on the response to the salinity questionnaire mailed to districts. To date 152 replies have been received of which 101 have problems and 51 do not have problems.

James Moore reported on PL 83-566 watershed projects being planned or in review process.

Harvey Davis reviewed a letter proposing financial participation for a Mobile Field Water Lab from Wayne Wyatt, Manager of the High Plains Under-ground Water Conservation District. The proposal suggested that financing for the lab be split among the Water Conservation District, the State Board

and the Texas Department of Water Resources. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Albert Roach, the item was tabled until contact can be made with the Texas Department of Water Resources to determine their interest in this program.

Billy Griffin reported on activities of the Soil Conservation Service. A report of the use of State funds for Soil Surveys was provided each board member. C. Dale Fischgrabe of Huron, South Dakota, will assume duties of Deputy State Conservationist on August 7, 1983. Gene Barkemeyer will assume duties as Assistant State Conservationist, Water Resources.

James Abbott discussed a pre-proposal for a pilot project involving conservation performance bonuses for the southern portion of Lubbock County. No action was taken by the Board.

John Millican reported on the meeting of the Planning Committee for the 1983 Annual Meeting. Speakers have been chosen and invited. The same format will be used for the meeting with the exception of the "Special Committee of 100" breakfast. A legislative breakfast will be held instead with open attendance by purchase of ticket. The Federal Land Bank will again assist financially with the reception. Certificates for Directors with 20 years or more service will be presented in the Area Discussion Sessions.

Harvey Davis briefed the Board on proposed amendments to the re-authorization of the Clean Water Act. Joe Antilley reported on testimony he presented before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in Washington, D.C. on July 19, 1983 pertaining to agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution. Bob Buckley and James Moore reported on other testimony presented before the committee.

Bill Harris reported that the Extension Service is in the process of reaccessing, revitalizing and improving existing programs in an effort to make them more responsive to public needs.

S 663 by Congressman Armstrong known as the Sodbuster bill was reviewed. The Board expressed no opposition to the bill as presently written. The bill prohibits the payment of certain agriculture incentives to persons who produce certain agricultural commodities on highly erodible land.

Calhoun Soil and Water Conservation District and Matagorda Soil and Water Conservation District have invited the Board to hold a meeting in their area. The Board will decide in its next meeting on August 8.

In accordance with Section 2 (g) of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board convened into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Allen V. Sheppard, field representative in Area III headquartered in Yoakum, will retire effective August 31, 1983.

The Board considered this vacancy and confirmed Harvey Davis's employment of Roy Freeman as Soil Conservationist beginning date of employment September 6, 1983.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

*J. Frank Gray*  
Chairman

*Josephine Chupik*  
Secretary

*August 8, 1983*  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on July 21, 1983.

*August 8, 1983*  
Date

*Harvey Davis*  
Executive Director