

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
November 17, 1983

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on November 17, 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
Joe Antilley, 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
Jo Chupik, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Joey Longley, Sunset Commission
Ken Levine, Sunset Commission
Jim Webster, Texas Forestry Association
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Agricultural Extension Service
Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Gary Westmoreland, Soil Conservation Service
Kelly Cook, Soil Conservation Service
Joe Montgomery, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes of the October 13, 1983 meeting were approved as mailed to each board member.

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

Tommy Cokendolpher - Lower Pease River SWCD # 162
Charles Thomas Ramsey - El Paso-Hudspeth SWCD # 205
Wayne (Tex) Halfman - North Concho River SWCD # 208
Vernon Jesse - Winter Garden SWCD # 326

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the appointment of Leon Thompson to Zone 1 of the McLennan County SWCD # 512

contingent upon receipt of his letter of resignation from Zone 3. Mr. Thompson is no longer a landowner in Zone 3.

Jo Chupik reported on district director elections in Zone 5 held October 1 thru October 16. Of 201 districts, 200 districts have reported election results with 37 new directors elected and 163 directors re-elected for a five year term.

The Annual State meeting held in McAllen on October 24, 25 and 26 was discussed. Of the 1,070 people registered, 397 were directors representing 156 districts, 290 director's wives, 115 other ladies and 268 other men. A breakdown of directors in attendance by districts and the individual attendance percentages for each State district was handed out. Each board member received an itemized statement of finances on the meeting. Remarks were made concerning the Research Committee sessions of the meeting. Suggestions on changes will be considered.

Resolutions passed at the Annual State meeting were discussed. Resolution # 2 concerning cropland status for areas converted to grasslands was discussed. The board recommends to the State Association to proceed to get this resolution to the National Association of Conservation Districts to be considered in their meeting in February 1984. Resolution # 7 concerning the control of prairie dog populations was referred to the State Association by the Board for their disposition. Resolution # 8 pertaining to special assistance to address shoreline erosion was discussed. A motion was made by Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley to write a letter to the Soil Conservation Service requesting their support for a study to initiate a shoreline erosion control program. Resolutions # 9 and 10 address reclamation of lands damaged from oil and gas field activities and seeking a study of eminent domain, respectively. Both resolutions will be given further study before any action is taken.

Billy Griffin reported on personnel changes in the Soil Conservation Service. New Area Conservationists are Bob Arhelger at Big Spring and Joe C. Daniel at Nacogdoches.

Gary Westmoreland informed the Board that 144 responses were received during the comment period on the rule to implement the Farmland Protection Policy Act and that implementation of the rule is on hold at the present time.

Dr. Bill Harris commented on the good working relationship between agriculture agencies in Texas. He expressed his regrets on being out of State during the Annual State meeting.

Dr. Earl Burnett reported Dr. Wayne Jordan from the Research Center in Temple was transferring to College Station to become director of the Texas Water Resources Institute.

Jim Webster briefed the Board on activities in East Texas on forest land. Over 60,000 acres of forest land have been declared as wilderness.

James Moore briefed the board on the status of PL 83-566 watershed activities in Texas. An application on Dry Fork of the Little Wichita River received on November 10, 1983 sponsored by the Little Wichita SWCD, Clay Co. Commissioners Court and the City of Henrietta was reviewed. The benefit-cost ratio is 1.83. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the watershed as practicable and feasible for planning. The board decided to tour the watershed and participate in a public hearing with Soil Conservation Service on January 18, 1984 in order to consider the application for a planning priority.

James Moore reported on the preliminary results of a survey conducted through soil and water conservation districts identifying areas with salinity problems in the State. A draft interagency contract in the amount of \$100,000.00 with the Texas Department of Water Resources to conduct a Statewide Salinity Study was reviewed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty,

the board authorized Harvey Davis to sign the interagency contract when finalized.

Bob Buckley reported that 144 cooperative agreements have been signed by soil and water conservation districts for the technical assistance program.

The Brown-Mills SWCD # 523 declined the allocation of \$5,925.00 in technical assistance funds per letter received October 17, 1983 from the board.

The Board reviewed a letter from Joe L. Hargus, Chairman of the Marion-Cass Soil and Water Conservation District # 433 requesting \$6,060.00 in technical assistance funds. The Board had previously received a letter dated July 28, 1983 from Ted Elders, Secretary of the Marion-Cass district declining an allocation of funds. There being an apparent misunderstanding about the funds earlier by the Marion-Cass District, on motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board allocated the relinquished available funds of \$5,925.00 to the Marion-Cass Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Tom Green SWCD # 248 in a letter dated October 28, 1983 requested a transfer of their allocation of technical assistance funds in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Concho SWCD # 201 stating that the funds would be used in the Concho District's portion of Tom Green County. The board agreed to notify the districts that a letter was needed from the Tom Green SWCD relinquishing the allocation of its technical assistance funds in the amount of \$2,000.00 and a written request was needed from the Concho SWCD requesting their allocation of technical assistance funds be increased in the amount of \$2,000.00. These written requests will be considered by the board when re-allocation of technical assistance funds is made in April 1984.

A letter dated October 17, 1983 requesting an additional allocation of \$2,000.00 in technical assistance funds from the Sandhills SWCD # 241 was discussed. All funds at the present time are allocated. The board will consider re-allocations of technical assistance funds relinquished from soil and water conservation districts in April 1984 and will consider the

Sandhills SWCD request at that time.

The staff gave a report on the status of pending federal legislation involving amendments to the Clean Water Act dealing with nonpoint source pollution management programs and sections of the pending omnibus water bills dealing with public access to PL 83-566 projects, proposals for dam safety programs, and Ogallala Aquifer Research and Development.

Harvey Davis informed the board that our present office space does not meet the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code as per notification of the Attorney General's Office, which specified two means of egress for our office. Further checking will be done into this matter relative to liability if the safety provision is waived. The present office space lease contract expires August 31, 1984.

The Texas Sunset Act (Art. 5429K, VACS) created the Sunset Advisory Commission which reviews agencies and recommends to either abolish, continue or reorganize state agencies to the Legislature. The State Soil and Water Conservation Board is presently being reviewed by the Sunset Commission. Harvey Davis advised the Board that Senator Bill Sarpalius wanted to sponsor our sunset legislation and had suggested that we examine our program to determine any changes that would be needed to adequately carry out responsibilities during the next several years. Several ideas were discussed and the board agreed to give further consideration to this at the January 1984 meeting.

Future meeting sites for the Annual meeting were discussed. It is the policy of the Board to select sites for several years in advance. The 1984 site is Corpus Christi and the 1985 site is San Antonio. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the board chose Austin as the meeting site for the 1986 meeting contingent upon adequate facilities.

Lodging reservations were made for the board members to attend the

meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts in Denver, Colorado, February 5-9, 1984.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for January 19, 1984. The board decided to invite the entire board of directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts to meet with them.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

J. Frank Gray
Chairman

Josephine Chapik
Secretary

February 16, 1984
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the board meeting held on November 17, 1983.

February 16, 1984
Date

Samuel Davis
Executive Director