

**Minutes**  
**Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board**  
**February 23, 1994**

The Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board met on February 23, 1994, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Albert Evans, Chairman  
Paul Robertson, Vice Chairman  
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Member  
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member  
Harvey Davis, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director  
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director  
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director  
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director  
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director  
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information/Education Director  
Beade Northcut, Engineer  
Bo Spoons, Director of Programs  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
Sam Unberhagen, Soil Conservationist  
Steve Jones, Dublin Regional Manager  
Maria Pinto, Hydrologist  
Tricia Davis, Information Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist  
Rex Isom, Soil Conservationist  
Bob Gruner, Soil Conservationist  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Andy Garza, Soil Conservationist  
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist  
Joel Clark, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist  
Lois Cain, Administrative Technician

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Atlan Pfluger, Texas Water Development Board  
Pat Merrill, Sierra Club  
Virgil Helms, Soil Conservation Service/Environmental Protection Agency

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes of the January 19, 1994 Board meeting were approved as mailed. Motion carried.

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration. He advised the Board the appointments appeared in order except the listed appointment of Larry B. Berry to Oldham County SWCD #153. Information for his appointment was not received prior to this board meeting and will be considered at the next board meeting if all information is received. On motion of Buddy Clark seconded by Dick Schendel the following district director appointments were approved:

Lawrence Madrid, El Paso-Hudspeth SWCD #205  
Jose L. Martinez, Agua-Poquita SWCD #321  
Charles C. Dodd, Polk-San Jacinto SWCD #436  
Mary Elizabeth Lavender, Hill County-Blackland SWCD #540  
W.G. Bishop Sr., Mills County SWCD #554

Beade Northcut discussed a letter from the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) requesting a planning priority for Nolan River PL-566 Watershed project. He provided an updated list giving status of PL-566 watershed applications awaiting priority. He included additional information on Nolan River. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson the Board granted a planning priority for the Nolan River PL-566 Watershed project.

James Moore presented a summary of projects approved by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 1994 Clean Water Act Section 319 funding. Bo Spoons discussed each project explaining its purpose, and provided information on location and performing entities. Mr. Spoons noted that funding will come directly to the State Board from EPA and the State Board will work directly with EPA on the projects, instead of contracting through Texas Natural

Resources Conservation Commission.

James Moore discussed proposed rules encompassing the Memorandum of Agreement between the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board and the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission. He reported that one comment letter had been received after the close of the comment period and reviewed the comments. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board approved adoption of the Memorandum of Agreement as a permanent rule and authorized its publication in the Texas Register. Motion carried.

Bob Buckley discussed the proposed location of a State Board Regional Office in Titus County. He reported on a re-evaluation of the potential workload for Northeast Texas that had been made and indicated that the staff may need to look at locations in Hopkins County as an alternative location for the regional office.

Beade Northcut provided the Board a summary of comments received on Cost-Share Rules as a result of internal review. Draft rules had been provided to the Board at the last meeting for their review. Mr. Northcut reviewed the rules and discussed comments received to date. He requested direction from the Board and permission to publish the rules in the Texas Register for public comment. Harvey Davis made the motion to publish in the Texas Register for public comment as proposed rules, Paul Robertson seconded and motion carried.

Wes Oneth reported that Texas is one of 20 states to participate in the Wetlands Reserve Program and that he wanted the Board to be aware of the program. He reported the SCS had displayed their information booth at the San Antonio and Houston Livestock Shows with very good results. He informed the Board that two new Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) projects have been approved and funded for Texas. The new projects are the Wes-Tex RC&D and Cen-Tex RC&D.

Mr. Oneth reported the Brooks County Soil Survey has just been released and discussed the Area Conservationist Conference recently held at SCS headquarters. Mr. Oneth expressed appreciation for the time spent attending the Conference by various State Board staff.

Dr. Bill Harris updated the Board on activities of the Extension Service. He reported the work on the Upper North Bosque Hydrologic Unit was being used as an example in Congress and nationally. Dr. Harris was appointed by the Governor to serve on an On-Site Waste Water Treatment Council and was elected chairman of the council. He said they would be looking at soils as a factor in determining where waste water treatment sites should be located.

Pat Merrill represented the Sierra Club and said she was concerned about the use of septic tanks in her community of Salado, Texas and was a member of a team that voluntarily monitors streams in her community.

Bob Buckley discussed an action alert notice from NACD on USDA Reorganization and provided copies to the Board for their information. He said the U.S. Senate was scheduled for mark-ups on March 3rd but at the time of the Board meeting no bill had been introduced in the Senate.

Mr. Buckley updated the Board on a recent meeting in Marfa with several districts concerning cultural resources attended by himself, Buddy Clark, Johnny Oswald, State Board Field Representative, Wes Oneth and Dr. Bruseth, State Preservation Officer. He said the issue is still far from being resolved but felt Dr. Bruseth has a better understanding of the concerns being expressed by landowners. The biggest concern expressed was SHPO personnel accompanying SCS on 5% spot checks.

James Moore brought the Board up to date on the status of the proposed

Coastal Zone Management Program and how it will effect programs the State Board has in place. He reported that the program is expected to be submitted to NOAA by June 15, 1994.

Bill Neiser discussed the budget versus expenditure report for the 5 month period ending January 31, 1994.

Randy Jones discussed the update on staffing activity report which showed position, location, new employee and date of hire. He introduced recent hires: Joel Clark who will serve as a Field Representative in the lower half of State District 4; Maria Pinto, Hydrologist for NPS in the state headquarters. Mr Jones informed the Board that Daniel Hayes had been hired to serve as Engineer in the Dublin Regional Office and that Mahendra Mohite has also been hired to serve as Research Specialist in the Temple headquarters and will report to work March 1, 1994. Mr. Jones also discussed what positions are still open and said interviews are currently being conducted for some of the positions.

Clyde Gottschalk briefed the Board on the Cen-Tex Ag Tour to be held May 19, 1994 at locations near Salado.

Mr. Gottschalk then discussed the recent District Directors Training Conference held in the State Board Conference Room on February 8-9, 1994. Mr. Gottschalk reported he had received many favorable comments on the program.

Mr. Buckley discussed Board members travel and said any out-of-state travel had to be approved by the Board. He then discussed the NACD spring board meeting in April in Washington, D.C. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Buddy Clark, travel to Washington, D.C. for the NACD spring board meeting was approved for who ever needs to go. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser provided the Board a travel report for Board members' travel.

The Board adjourned regular session at 1:35 p.m.

By consensus of the Board the date of March 16, 1994, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in Temple was set as the next board meeting.

Albert Evans  
Chairman

Luis J. Cain  
Secretary

3-16-94  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on February 23, 1994.

3-16-94  
Date

Robert L. Buckley  
Executive Director