

Minutes  
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
March 20, 1991

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, March 20, 1991, in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Joe Antilley, Chairman  
Harvey Davis, Vice Chairman  
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member  
Fred Squyres, Member  
Albert Evans, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director  
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs  
James Moore, Engineer  
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist  
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Janet Gonser, Planner  
Stephen Deiss, Planner  
Ramesh Chamala, Research Specialist  
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board  
Tom Milligan, Texas Water Development Board  
Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station  
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agricultural Research Service  
Ray Abbott, City of Temple

Chairman Antilley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Harvey Davis, the minutes of the January 16, 1991, Board meeting were approved as mailed.

John Millican presented a verbal request from the High Point

Soil and Water Conservation District #230 to consider subdivision changes in order to select directors to fill vacancies. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Evans, the motion was approved pending receipt of formal letter of request.

Mr. Millican then presented a request from Comal-Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District #306 to consider subdivision changes in order to divide the district into more even zones. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Fred Squyres, the motion to approve the new changes was approved.

The appointment of new district directors were then presented by Mr. Millican. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the following district directors were approved:

Milledge H. Taylor, Floyd Co. SWCD #104  
Mike Beauchamp, Parmer Co. SWCD #140  
Edward Dewbre, Cochran SWCD #149  
Clinton Dietert, Comal-Guadalupe SWCD #306  
Keith L. Burns, Southmost SWCD #319  
Richard A. Lee, Live Oak SWCD #323  
Jose Oscar Dodier, Jr., Zapata SWCD #335

Clyde L. Daughhettee was approved for Upper Pecos SWCD #213 pending receipt of a copy of a resignation letter for J. D. Wade. Beau White was approved pending formal request of subdivision changes for High Point SWCD #230.

The appointment of a planning committee for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors meeting to be held in Corpus Christi on October 21-23, 1991 was discussed. The planning committee will consist of: Chairman of the State Board, Board member from Area III, Association President, Director of the Association from Area III, Bob Buckley and any staff members he appoints. The Auxiliary President will also be invited.

Bill Neiser gave a district audit status report. He advised the Board that 163 audits are in and approved, 10 audits are still out and 37 audits need some kind of correction or clarification.

Mr. Neiser reported on the Technical Assistance survey of districts' funding needs to August 31, 1991. Ninety percent of the surveys have been returned with a total of \$2,859.40 available for reallocation or for other uses as the Board deems necessary. Any available funding will be allocated at the May Board meeting.

Mr. Neiser reported on the progress of the Uniform Statewide Accounting System. He said the implementation date has been changed to September 1, 1992. Mr. Buckley advised the Board that we were the first pilot agency to close September books and would soon close October.

Bob Buckley discussed Senate Bill 111 funding reductions and performance audits and advised the Board that the audit report is due out on July 1, 1991 on all state agencies. Mr. Buckley discussed the appropriation reduction provisions of this bill and presented a list of potential reductions for the Board's review. Conservation Assistance supplemental allocations could be cut by \$10,000 and any Technical Assistance or Matching Funds that are returned could be used to reduce the Watershed Planning reduction as presented. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board adopted the reductions as recommended.

Bill Neiser gave a report on the fiscal year 1991 budget and advised the Board that the budget was on target but was being watched very closely.

Bob Buckley gave a status report on the 1992-1993 Legislative

Appropriations Request. He said the House Appropriations Committee has started a program review hearing and that a date of hearing for the State Board had not yet been set. Tim Strawderman, a Legislative Budget Board analysis assigned to our agency, will make the State Board presentation.

District Director appointment for Alton R. Sager from Maverick Soil and Water Conservation District #228 was considered. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the appointment was approved.

Letters requesting additional fiscal year 1991 Technical Assistance funding were then discussed. Since there are no funds available to be allocated the letters will be considered at a later date if funds become available.

Bill Neiser discussed fiscal year 1991 Subchapter H Technical Assistance allocations. He reported that the State Board should receive additional funds in time for the May Board meeting.

Bill Neiser discussed a request from the Starr County Soil and Water Conservation District for a waiver under the technical assistance program rules to enter into an agreement with the University of Texas-Pan American for the purpose of hiring a district employee under their work study program. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Harvey Davis, the request for waiver was approved.

Ray Abbott reported that on April 25, 1991, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry, would be in Temple at 6:00 p.m. at the Inn of Scott and White and invited people interested to attend. He also said that Congressman "Kika" de la Garza had been invited to

come to Temple on June 14 and they hoped to expose him to all the agriculture facilities in Temple.

Wes Oneth reported that construction was completed on the last of five sites in the Upper San Marcos Watershed Project. He also discussed repair work and upgrading of some of the dams and said that sites needing emergency repair work were being put on a list and designs being made ready in case a jobs bill is passed.

Mr. Oneth discussed the Knox City Plant Material Center. He said Dyess Air Force Base has offered Soil Conservation Service a portable building to be moved from the base and will be set up as a training center at the Knox City Plant Material Center.

He then discussed Environmental Evaluations being done by the Soil Conservation Service. He said evaluations have been done on farms and ranches since 1972. He reported that his staff had received a form to be used nationwide to document the environmental evaluation and believes it will protect and enhance the producer. A discussion of the form and its use followed.

Mr. Oneth informed the Board that Dale Mengers had been brought into the State SCS office in the Water Resources Department and Benny Billington had replaced him as Area Conservationist in the Temple area office. Freddie Williams, the Area Conservationist from Big Spring, will become the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Georgia.

Mr. Oneth discussed the National Grazing Land Conference to be held in Bozeman, Montana on June 3-6, 1991.

Dr. Allan Jones said the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station is assuming more responsibilities and plan to work closely with the

Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service and State Board on hydrologic unit and water quality demonstration projects primarily involving the assessment of impacts on water quality. He was pleased to see the Watershed Study in print and pleased to be involved with the State Board.

Dr. Bill Harris advised the Board that training of County Extension Agents on water quality was in the process and the first round of training should be completed within a week for all County Extension Agents. He advised the Board that meetings were well attended on the Seymour Aquifer and Lake Fork Creek Hydrologic Units. He said he serves on the Great Plains Agriculture Council and would be willing to take any concerns of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Great Plains Committee to a meeting he would be attending in early April.

Dr. Clarence Richardson told the Board that water quality was becoming a higher priority in the Agricultural Research Service saying they have received new funds for work relating to water quality in the USDA water quality initiative.

Comer Tuck reported that the Texas Water Development Board has a new Chairman of the Board, Chuck Jeness, who was recently appointed by the Governor to replace Mr. Walter Cardwell who had resigned. He also informed the Board that the Texas Water Development Board proposed to eliminate the TNRIIS to meet part of the Legislative Budget Board's mandated cut under Senate Bill 111. He advised that since the last Board meeting they had received eleven matching grant applications with six of those grant requests being from soil and water conservation districts for flow meters.

Buddy Clark informed the Board that so far it had been a pleasure and rewarding experience to work with Bob Buckley and John Millican and with Wes Oneth from the Soil Conservation Service. He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Bill Harris for attending the Association's Board meeting on the Farm Bill and indicated that he had been most helpful.

James Moore reported on the status of nonpoint source management programs. He said all work plans were in place and work was progressing. He updated the Board that on the status of the Erath County groundwater study by indicating that the well previously retested to confirm the presence of chemicals would have to be redone because of problems with the Laboratory doing the work and further explained that the next samples would be taken to the Texas Department of Health.

James Moore asked the Board if there were any comments on the draft brochure given to the Board at the last Board meeting. There being no comments he indicated the brochure would be printed as provided earlier.

James Moore advised the Board that Joe Moore has been hired to fill the position of Soil Conservationist in Erath County as part of the North Bosque Nonpoint Source Management Program.

James Moore reported that the Quality Assurance Quality Control plan for the North Bosque River project covering the work to be done by Tarleton State University had been approved by EPA.

Mr. Moore reported on the status of the development of a proposal for Fiscal Year 1991 Section 319 funding and indicated that it had been submitted to EPA. He further informed the Board

that the proposal consisted of projects involving the North Bosque River, silviculture, Arroyo Colorado, Seymour Aquifer, Leon River and Lake Fork Creek.

James Moore presented the Board with an Update to the Management Program for Agricultural and Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Water Pollution in Texas to be published in the Texas Register for public review and comment. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the update was approved pending satisfactory review and comment.

Dick Schendel reported on the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program. He said the committee decided to apply for a grant of \$100,000 for an action plan demonstration project.

James Moore reported on the Gulf of Mexico program and advised the Board that a training session has been scheduled in El Campo for District Technicians and SCS employees in Matagorda, Wharton and Colorado Counties for March 22 to instruct them in the use of chlorophyll meters for nutrient management in rice production. He stated that Mel Davis would conduct the training which will help provide producers in the area with assistance on fertilizer management.

Mr. Moore reported on the status of the Gunsolus Creek Watershed application and indicated that a feasibility report should be available by the May Board meeting.

James Moore reported that the Statewide Watershed Study had been completed and distributed copies to the Board members. He then reported that distribution had been made to members of the Texas Legislature.



Clyde Gottschalk reported on the workshop for new District Directors recently held in the State Board Conference Room in Temple. Thirty-four people participated in the workshop and he has enough interested directors on file to have two additional workshops. He also advised the Board that textbook covers will be offered to districts again this year. These textbook covers, which carry the message of the SWCD program, will be provided to school districts by local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Mr. Gottschalk will also be conducting three Boy Scout Workshops during the month of April.

Mel Davis discussed the Conservation Awards Program and upcoming area awards banquets. Dates and locations for the banquets are:

Area I	- May 7	- Plainview, Texas
Area II	- May 2	- San Angelo, Texas
Area III	- May 7	- Yoakum, Texas
Area IV	- May 2	- Lufkin, Texas
Area V	- May 7	- Stephenville, Texas

Bob Buckley discussed the upcoming Board member elections to be held in State Districts I, III, and V on May 7th before the conservation award banquets. Fred Squyres from State District I chose not to seek re-election.

Board member travel was discussed. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, any Board member who could attend the National Watershed Congress on May 19-22 in Kansas City, Missouri, was authorized to attend. Motion carried.

Albert Evans provided each Board member a copy of "Woodland Clinic" a book published by the Forestry Committee and Temple Industries.

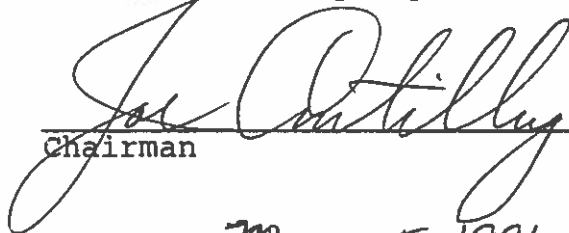
An update on legislative issues was provided for the Board members. Mr. Buckley discussed a list of bills that would impact agency programs.

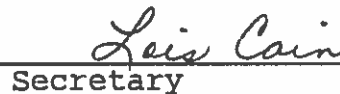
The date for the May Board meeting was discussed. Joe Antilley and the Hill Country Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts had invited the Board to attend their Association meeting and tour of the sediment reduction project on the Llano River and to hold the Board meeting in Llano. The Board appreciated the invitation, but after some discussion it was the consensus of the Board to hold the next Board meeting as scheduled on May 15th in Temple.

Fred Squyres told the Board he had enjoyed serving as member of the State Board and as an employee. He had many fond memories of his association with the State Board.

The Board discussed the National Grazing Conference to be held in Bozeman, Montana on June 3-6, 1991. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, travel was approved for all Board members to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary

Date May 15, 1991

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 20, 1991.

May 15, 1991  
Date

  
Executive Director