

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Temple, Texas
August 5, 1996

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on August 5, 1996 at 1:00 p.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director
Bill Neiser, Assistant Executive Director
Cheremie Viator, Director of Programs
Edna Etheredge, Administrative Tech
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director
Lupe Pinto, Hydrologist
Beade Northcut, Engineer

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, State Conservationist, NRCS

Chairman Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

The first item of business on the agenda was District Director Appointments. Mel Davis reported that no appointments had been received since the last board meeting.

Bill Neiser discussed the 1997 FISCAL YEAR OPERATING BUDGET and informed the Board that some minor adjustments were made between cost classifications, but no change to total dollars budgeted. Mr. Neiser indicated that no further action needed to be taken by the Board.

Mr. Neiser provided the Board with the REQUESTS FOR LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS for Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999 which were to be submitted to the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning and the Legislative Budget Office. Mr. Neiser reported on the major items of concern in the budget request.

Mr. Neiser then distributed a letter addressed to Albert Hawkins, Director, Governor's Office of Budget and Planning and John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board from Chairman Schendel which included an attachment (Attachment A) with additional items proposed for inclusion in the 1998-99 Biennium Legislative Appropriations Request. Mr. Neiser stated he would be happy to furnish more detail on the additional items if needed and answer any further questions that the Board might have. Gene Sollock moved to adopt the Requests for Legislative Appropriations and Attachment A as presented, giving the State Board Staff flexibility to make text and performance measure corrections as necessary. Paul Robertson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the motion carried.

Mel Davis distributed sample copies of the MUTUAL AGREEMENT between the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, the STATE OF TEXAS and a SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT. Mr. Davis indicated the Board needed to decide if the Chairman or the Executive Director should sign the Mutual Agreement with each district. Harvey Davis made the motion that Chairman Schendel sign each Mutual Agreement. Buddy Clark seconded the motion; no discussion; motion carried.

Mr. Davis distributed draft copies of the COOPERATIVE WORKING AGREEMENT between the NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE and the TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD and a SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Following review, Buddy Clark inquired about changing the wording relating to

Program Delivery in Paragraph F, to be more specific as to its intent. After discussion the Board agreed by consensus to change the wording to read:

“ The collection and use of resource inventory data shall be with the full knowledge, consultation and consent of the parties. Data shall be for the use of the parties, those individuals developing natural resource plans and satisfying legal mandates involving any partner.”

Mr. Buckley then discussed the problems that might arise if the Mutual Agreement and the Cooperative Working Agreement were mailed to districts together, indicating that one needs to be signed and returned to the State Office and the other reviewed and studied by districts and amended as needed by the district and then returned. He suggested they be mailed separately to eliminate confusion.

Chairman Schendel addressed the agency smoking policy indicating that the Board had received copies of letters from several employees expressing their complaints and desire to make the State Office a non-smoking establishment. The Board was advised that the smoking issue had been addressed by designating two offices as smoking areas and the remainder of the building designated as non-smoking

The Board was advised that the current policy is in compliance with State law. Further discussion followed. The Board Members expressed concern about the need to adopt a policy that all agency staff and visitors to the building could adhere to.

Harvey Davis pointed out such decisions are the responsibility of the Executive Director. Harvey Davis made a motion for Bob Buckley to restudy the issue concerning the smoking problem and to report any changes made in the smoking policy at their next meeting; Paul Robertson seconded the motion; no further discussion; no opposition; motion carried.

In the absence of Beade Northcut, Mr. Buckley discussed the 1996 Fiscal Year Cost Share Allocations for S. B. 503. Lupe Pinto further discussed and addressed the concerns

and questions of the Board and indicated that we needed to set a method to follow for reallocation for those districts requesting 100% of additional funding. She also indicated the status on reallocation, how much is left and that we would go down the list approved by the Board on the previous Board Meeting.

Mr. Northcut arrived during the discussion and added his comments on issues of concern. He emphasized the need for a method of determining the order of allocation to districts requesting 100% of funds for one additional cost-share application.

After discussion the Board agreed by consensus that State Board Staff are to continue reallocation of released funds following the method previously approved and that the priority for those districts asking for 100% funding be based on the plan certification date.

Wes Oneth reported he is working on 1997 EQIP allocations. Mr. Oneth stated that districts need to conduct local workshops to determine their high priority areas. These priority areas will be meshed together with statewide areas involving FSA high priority areas and Water Quality areas of interest such as Edwards Aquifer; Ogalla Aquifer, some 319 areas and some SB 503 areas. These priority areas are for FY 98 funds. Mr. Oneth reported that the State Technical Committee that he chairs would be meeting in Temple on September 5, 1996. He stated that Mr. Schendel and Mr. Buckley were named to be on the Committee.

Harvey Davis expressed his and the Board's sympathy to Bob Buckley in the recent tragedy in his family. Mr. Buckley responded by expressing his appreciation for the many kind expressions of support he and his family have received from the Board and Office Staff.

Mel Davis informed the Board of the problems he has faced in securing a speaker for the Annual State Meeting. Mr. Davis asked for a directive from the Board. After

discussion, the Board Members elected to leave this matter for State Board Staff to work out with the Board Chairman.

Before concluding the meeting, copies of the Resolutions as adopted by the Association's Resolutions Committee at their committee meeting, August 5, 1996 at 8:30 a.m. were distributed to Board Members. Copies of the Association's Draft Strategic Plan were also distributed to the Board.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Clarence F. Schandel
CHAIRMAN

Edna Bettridge
RECORDING SECRETARY

9-11-96
DATE

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 5, 1996.

9-11-96
DATE

Robert L. Buckley
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR