

**Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**September 15, 1993**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on September 15, 1993 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  
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director  
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director  
Mel Davis, Director of Programs  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
Janet Gonser, Planner  
Lois Cain, Administrative Technician

Others present were:

Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board  
Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Bea White, Soil Conservation Service  
Don Swann, Association of Texas SWCDs  
Mike Holt, Association of Texas SWCDs  
John Earl Smith, Association of Texas SWCDs  
Mark Smith, Speaker of the House Pete Laney's Staff  
Rusty Ray, Lower Colorado River Authority  
Shane Woodard, Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Peter Samuels, General Land Office

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes of the August 23, 1993 board meeting were approved as mailed.

John Millican presented a District Director appointment for

consideration. He advised the Board the appointment appeared in order and recommended it be approved. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the following District Director appointment was approved.

Harry Lunt, Sherman County SWCD #159

John Millican discussed proposed subdivision boundary changes for Highland Soil and Water Conservation District #210 changing boundary lines for Zones 1, 3 and 5. Director appointments for zones 1 and 5 were presented as follows:

Ellery Aufdengarten - Zone 1  
Gene West - Zone 5

Mr. Millican said papers appeared in order and recommended they be approved. On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Dick Schendel the director appointments for zones 1 and 5 and subdivision changes were approved pending receipt of map showing new subdivision boundaries. Motion carried.

John Millican updated the Board on a trip he and Bob Buckley had made to Lubbock to meet with State Board member Paul Robertson and Soil Conservationist Rex Isom to finalize plans for the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors scheduled for October 18-20, 1993 to be held in the Lubbock Civic Center. Contacts were made with the Civic Center, hotels, and several caterers. The registration fee for the annual meeting was discussed. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Buddy Clark, the registration fee was raised to \$25.00 and the spouse registration fee will remain at \$5.00. Motion carried. Workshops for the annual meeting were discussed. A discussion on cultural

resources activities will be presented in the Public Information/Education Workshop. It was reported that State Representatives David Counts and Bob Rabuck had informed the state office they would be attending the Legislative Issues Workshop. Mr. Millican reported that Doris Weil, President of the Auxiliary of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts and her committee have planned a good program for the ladies. After some discussion a meeting of the State Board was scheduled to be held in Lubbock on Monday, October 18th at 11:00 a.m. Copies of the resolutions to be considered at the annual meeting and financial statements of the Association of Texas SWCDs were provided the Board.

John Millican gave the Public Information/Education report. He reported that Tricia Ann Davis has been hired effective October 11, 1993 as an Information Specialist to help Clyde Gottschalk. Mr. Millican informed the Board the agency had received two Skyline pop-up table top displays to be used at the Farmer-Stockman Farm Show during the week of October 11th. One exhibit will feature an overview of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation District program. The second exhibit will promote the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's water quality management plan certification program to abate nonpoint source pollution. The Board was advised the Central Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts would be sponsoring an Agriculture Tour on May 19, 1994 at four Central Texas ranches near Salado which feature wildlife and pasture management; range and cropland; exotic wildlife and created wetlands. The targeted audience will be

state, local and federal elected officials and interested landowners and operators. The Board was advised that the agency had entered into an internship agreement with Texas Tech University for services of four senior agricultural communication students, university laboratory facilities, photographic equipment and word processors to assist media relations in the operation of the state meeting press room. These students will also be assigned limited responsibilities under the direction of the Public Information/Education Department at the Lubbock Farmer-Stockman Show.

Bill Neiser provided the Board a copy of the 1993 Expenditure Report for the 12-month period ending August 31, 1993. He said all funds had been substantially expended and any remaining balances would be very low.

Mr. Neiser informed the Board that the staff had begun entering accounting transactions into the new Uniform Statewide Accounting System on September 3, 1993. He reported the turn around time for getting warrants issued appears to be substantially improved.

The Board was informed by Mr. Neiser their travel expenses for fiscal year 1993 were well within the Board's overall travel budget.

Randy Jones reported in detail on the Family Medical Leave Act and discussed recommended policy by the State Auditor's Office. This Act went into effect on August 5, 1993. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board voted to comply

with the law and Family Medical Leave Act information will be provided employees of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Guests representing other agencies were provided an opportunity to address the Board.

Comer Tuck from the Texas Water Development Board advised the Board his agency would be in attendance at the annual meeting of SWCD Directors in Lubbock and would have a booth at the Farmer-Stockman Show also to be held in Lubbock. He discussed a conference that will be held in February 1994 organized by Partners in Policy Coalition on which the State Board is represented by Beade Northcut. Secretary Espy has been extended an invitation to speak at this conference.

Wes Oneth updated the Board on the activities of the Soil Conservation Service. He said the Fort Hood sediment and erosion plan has been completed. He also discussed "Reinventing Government" and the reorganization of USDA. He told the Board SCS has been allocated 200 sites in the state for local SCS offices and co-location of office space between SCS, ASCS and Extension Service is an absolute must. He advised the Board of a "town hall" meeting Congressman Stenholm and Secretary Espy would have on September 18 in Stamford. Mr. Oneth asked for support for Secretary Espy's restructuring plan at this town hall meeting. Mr. Oneth then introduced Bea White from his staff who talked about Earth Team Volunteers, the volunteer arm of the Soil Conservation Service. She said the Earth Team in Texas has 28 volunteers over the age of 70 and 29 volunteers between the ages of 16 and 25 and these

volunteers had over 14,000 volunteer hours last year. Mrs. White also told the Board that districts are not liable if a volunteer is hurt while working for districts they have signed an Earth Team Agreement with, which makes the volunteer covered under the SCS.

Don Swann reported on the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors' meeting of September 14, 1993. He complimented the Board and staff on the proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. He advised the Board he would be attending the meeting in Stamford with Congressman Stenholm and Secretary Espy on September 18th and will support Secretary Espy's plan for USDA reorganization.

James Moore discussed the implementation of Senate Bill 503 and gave a brief sketch of where we are and where we need to go. He said the rules would be published in the Texas Register at the earliest possible date and would be sent to each soil and water conservation district in Texas for their review and comment. He discussed the development of the Memorandum of Agreement with Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. After this is completed identification of 503 areas across the state will be looked at. Mr. Moore advised the Board of a complaint that had been received relative to the Sandy Creek arm of Lake LBJ. He indicated the next step is to examine the area and see what or if there is a problem. Mike Holt, speaking as a district director, asked the Board what part districts would play in the process. Mr. Buckley advised Mr. Holt that districts would be involved from the beginning to help coordinate the process.

At the last Board meeting on August 23, 1993, the Board was provided draft rules for Senate Bill 503. Mr. Moore advised the Board the Advisory Committee had met on August 26, 1993 and made a change in the draft. Mr. Moore reviewed the change with the Board and then recommended the Board adopt the proposed rules and authorize them to be published for public comment. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Harvey Davis, the proposed rules were adopted and authorized to be published in the Texas Register. Motion carried.

James Moore updated the Board on the Memorandum of Agreement with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. He advised them a re-draft had been prepared with the assistance of an attorney for the Institute for Applied Sciences at Tarleton State University. The Board advised the staff to continue in the direction they have been pursuing.

Mr. Moore informed the Board of a need for the agency to identify priority watersheds for nonpoint source management and provided the Board with maps showing known problems, potential problems or areas of concern for agriculture nonpoint source problems. Mr. Moore then presented a map and list of all known problems and other selected watersheds with special needs and recommended they be adopted as priority watersheds. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the list of prioritized watersheds was approved. Motion carried.

Sites for three State Soil and Water Conservation Board regional offices were discussed. The Board was advised that the

Sulphur-Cypress Soil and Water Conservation District has space in their building in Mount Pleasant that would be available October 1, 1993; space would be available November 15th in Dublin in a building owned by the Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District; and in Hale Center where the Hale County Soil and Water Conservation District has offered to build a building to specifications required for a regional office. Mr. Buckley asked for authorization to enter into contract for office space at the three locations mentioned. Paul Robertson moved to authorize Mr. Buckley to enter into contract for these locations, seconded by Buddy Clark. Mr. Robertson withdrew his motion because his district was involved in one of the locations. Dick Schendel then made the motion to proceed with the regional offices and the proposed locations, seconded by Buddy Clark. Motion carried and Paul Robertson abstained from voting.

James Moore discussed implementation of Senate Bill 502 which requires River Authorities and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to coordinate their activities regarding assessment of agricultural or silvicultural nonpoint sources of pollution with the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The law became effective September 1, 1993. A preliminary meeting with the TNRCC has been set for September 17 to discuss ways to accomplish this goal. Mr. Moore further advised the Board that the agency had been asked by the Lower Colorado River Authority to serve on a coordinating committee and to attend their advisory committee meetings relative to a S.B. 818 pilot project. Beade

Northcut and Roy Freeman will represent the State Board. The Board was also provided a copy of the progress report on the Upper Trinity River Basin Cooperative Study in Tarrant County which is an ongoing S.B. 818 project.

James Moore updated the Board on the Nonpoint Source Program and said the agency is in the process of requesting proposals for fiscal year 1994 Section 319 funding. He discussed comments received from High Point Soil and Water Conservation District #230 on the draft Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program.

Mr. Moore discussed the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act and provided the Board a copy of a report entitled "Runoff Report." He discussed two bills that have been introduced in Congress, S. 1114 and H.R. 2543. Mr. Moore discussed a letter received from the TNRCC inviting the agency to participate in a roundtable meeting on September 24, 1993 which asked each agency involved to review S. 1114, the Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act of 1993 and develop a concise agency position statement. Mr. Moore listed four items he plans to pursue and requested the Board to provide any guidance or make any comments they wished relative to development of an agency position.

James Moore discussed the Texas Coastal Management Program document development schedule prepared by the GLO and provided copies to the Board.

Mel Davis discussed the 1995 National Watershed Conference. He said Charles Haenisch who serves on the committee from Texas

said San Antonio was being considered for the 1995 meeting and he was requesting support from the State Board. It was the consensus of the Board to support the San Antonio meeting site.

The Board was advised that this would be the last Board meeting for John Millican to attend since he would be retiring the end of September, 1993 with 23 years service to the State Board. Harvey Davis moved to express to John the Board's appreciation for his years of dedicated service. The motion was seconded by all other Board members. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be held in Lubbock, Texas, October 18, 1993 at 11:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Albert Evans  
Chairman

Louis J. Cain  
Secretary

11-17-93  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on September 15, 1993.

11-17-93  
Date

Robert L. Buckley  
Executive Director