

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
June 23, 2004

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on June 23, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. in the Oak Room of the Austin North Hilton, 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, Texas.

Board members present were:

Aubrey Russell, Vice Chairman
Reed Stewart, Member
Guillermo (Memo) Benavides, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
W. T. (Dub) Crumley, Chairman

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
John Foster, Natural Resources Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator
Andy Garza, Program Administrator
Kevin Wagner, NPS Team Leader
Jay Bragg, 319 Grant Coordinator
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Denise Gentsch, BASF Corporation

Chairman Crumley called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

Mr. Benavides requested that attendees observe a moment of silence in honor of Jason Powell.

A work session was conducted which covered all agenda items in detail. Questions were taken and answered.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
June 24, 2004

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on June 24, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. in Room E1.028, State Capitol Extension Building, Austin, Texas.

Board members present were:

Aubrey Russell, Vice Chairman
Reed Stewart, Member
Guillermo (Memo) Benavides, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
W. T. (Dub) Crumley, Chairman

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Dawn Heitman, Program Specialist
Richard Egg, Engineer
John Foster, Natural Resources Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator
Jay Bragg, 319 Grant Coordinator
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
David Powell, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Mel Davis, Program Specialist
Amy Varner, Purchaser
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Scott Buckles, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Marty Graham, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
B. P. Bono, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Bill Thomas, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Norman Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kraig Gallimore, Texas Water Development Board
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Denise Gentsch, BASF Corporation
Glenn Hegar, State Representative
Matt Phillips, Senator Odgen's Office
Tom Lambert, Legislative Budget Board
Luis Gonzales, House Appropriations Committee
Joe Morris, Senator Wentworth's Office
Jason Anderson, Senator Madla's Office
Todd R. Kercheval, Representative Hilderbran's Office
Jason Skaggs, Senator Duncan's Office

Chairman Crumley called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., welcomed those present and expressed the Board's gratitude for being allowed to meet in the State Capitol. Mr. Crumley recognized Mr. Bill Thomas, Vice President of the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Mr. Thomas introduced the other Association Directors who were in attendance. He thanked the Board for the invitation to attend the meeting and voiced his desire for the two groups to work closely together in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Reports from Agencies and Guests

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality reported on: the commission's vote to approve the CAFO rule revision, upcoming approval of the general permit and appreciation of the Board's assistance in the process, and increase in interaction between the two agencies due to dry poultry. Mr. Benavides voiced his desire for legislators to note state agricultural agencies working together to save state funds and avoid duplication of work.

Kraig Gallimore, Texas Water Development Board reported on: approval of TSSWCB's grant application and the Teacher Workshop in Stonewall. Mr. Isom expressed the Board's appreciation for TWDB's willingness to work with our agency on Subchapter H funding.

Norman Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service reported on: Dr. Butler is back on the job, new hires in the Temple office, Farm Bill Act, EQIP Program, Wetland Reserve Program, Farm Bill Program, Conservation Security Program, TSP, and the Self Assessment Workbook.

Representative Hager from Harris County introduced himself, stating he was one of three members of the House who were engaged in farming operations. He thanked the Board for its programs and its efforts to get to know the legislators.

Chairman Crumley recognized the other visitors in attendance and gave them the opportunity to comment.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Minutes from the May 24 & 25, 2004 Board Meeting

Chairman Crumley called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24 & 25, 2004, meeting as mailed. Ms. Davis stated that corrections had been made since the copies were mailed. Mr. Russell moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3. District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications with the exception that three of the four applications were faxed copies. Mr. Benavides moved the appointments be approved contingent upon the receipt of original paperwork. Mr. Russell seconded and the following appointments were unanimously approved:

Norman Zetka, Bastrop County #340, Zone 3, replace Alton Patschke (fax)
Harvey L. Milton, Fannin #520, Zone 1, replace Roger Dawdy
Eddie Francis, Jack #549, Zone 4, replace Delton Francis (fax)
Thomas Ray Rutherford, Central Colorado #550, Zone 5, replace Joe Ed Wise (fax)

AGENDA ITEM 4. Subdivision Boundary Changes for Montgomery County SWCD #452

Mr. Clark reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the board.

Mr. Nichols moved that the board adopt the Montgomery County SWCD subdivision boundary changes as presented. Mr. Stewart seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5. State Meeting Planning Committee for 2004 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the procedure for setting up a State Meeting Planning Committee and its functions. Mr. Benavides mentioned that he would like to see some changes in the State Meeting format and requested the Field Representatives gather input concerning the suggested changes from their districts and present the findings at the next scheduled board meeting.

Mr. Russell moved the Planning Committee be comprised of the Chairman of the State Board, State Board Member from Area III, Association President, Association Director from Area III, Immediate Past President of the Association, President of the Auxiliary, Rex Isom and any staff he assigns and that the committee meet July 21, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in Temple. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Allocation of FY 04 Brush Control Funds

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Russell moved that the board approve the reallocation of \$100,000 in FY 04 GR funds from the Twin Buttes Brush Control Project to the North Concho Brush Control Project for aerial spray contracts. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Stewart abstained from voting.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Allocation of FY 05 Brush Control Funds

Mr. Oswald stated he had nothing to present at this time on FY 05 brush control funds.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Request for Waiver as per §523.6(e)(2)(C) Cost Share Rules – Chemigation Valves

Mr. Isom reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Stewart moved that producers in the Hale Center region who received cost-share assistance for sprinkler irrigation systems prior to FY 02 be allowed to apply a second time on the same WQMP strictly to receive cost-share assistance for the installation of chemigation check valves. Mr. Benavides seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Russell abstained from voting.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Allocation of FY 04 Statewide Water Quality Cost Share Funds

Mr. Munz stated he had nothing to present at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 10. 2005-09 Strategic Plan

Mr. Zajicek and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Benavides moved to adopt the proposed mission and philosophy and give authority to the Chairman to approve the 2005-09 Strategic Plan before submission to the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning, and Policy and the Legislative Budget Board. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Conservation Awards Program

Mr. Freeman discussed proposed changes to the Conservation Awards Program and took questions from the Board. The board instructed the Field Representatives to discuss the proposed changes with their local boards and prepare a packet of recommendations for the next Board meeting and Association meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Changes to the Poultry Program

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols commended Mr. Foster on his ability and performance in the Poultry Program.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Semi-Annual Report

Mr. Zajicek deferred to Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis stated that the Semi-Annual Report has not been finalized at this time but will be ready by the July 2nd due date. He distributed a draft copy to the board members for their review and comment.

AGENDA ITEM 14. Legislative Appropriations Request

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the board concerning the 5% budget reduction.

AGENDA ITEM 15. General Status Reports

Mr. Isom called for the following reports:

Human Resources Report – Dawn Heitman
Public Information/Education Report – Dawn Heitman
TMDL Program Status Report – John Foster
Clean Water Act 319(h) Status Report – Jay Bragg
Brush Control Program Status Report – Johnny Oswald
Fiscal Report – Kenny Zajicek
Santa Rosa Springs Well Plugging Project – Jay Bragg

Chairman Crumley announced the following service awards:

John O'Connor and Linda Mooney in the Mt. Pleasant Regional Office
Dick Westerfield and Shelby Norfleet in the Hale Center Regional Office

Chairman Crumley presented the following service awards:

Joel Clark – 10 years
David Powell – 30 years

AGENDA ITEM 16. Set Date of Next Board Meeting

Mr. Nichols moved that the date of the next board meeting be set as July 22 with a work session to be held July 21, 2004. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Benavides moved the meeting be adjourned, Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

W.L. Crumley
Chairman

Justin Davis
Secretary

6/22/04
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on June 23 & 24, 2004.

6/22/04
Date

[Signature]
Executive Director