

Minutes
TEXAS SOIL AND CONVERSATION BOARD
September 20, 2001

The Texas State Soil and Water Conversation Board met on September 20, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. in the TECD Conference Room, Blackland Research and Extension Center, 720 East Blackland Road, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Edward G. Albrecht, Chairman
T. Wayne Register, Vice-Chairman
Dayton Elam, Member
Donald Swann, Member
W.T. (Dub) Crumley, Member

Staff Members present were:

Robert G. (Bob) Buckley, Executive Director
James M. Moore, Director of Conservation Programs
Bobbie Stephens, Director of Administration
Mel Davis, Director of District Operations
John Millican, Program Administrator
Kevin Wagner, Natural Resources Specialist
Johnny Oswald, Program Administrator
Sam Unberhagen, Program Specialist
Richard Egg, Engineer
Donna Long, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
John Foster, Program Specialist
Tonni Balas, Information Specialist

Others present were:

Jose' Dodier, Association of Texas SWCDs
Aubrey Russell, Association of Texas SWCDs
William Thomas, Association of Texas SWCDs
Marty Graham, Association of Texas SWCDs
Barry Mahler, Association of Texas SWCDs
Memo Benavides, Association of Texas SWCDs
George Noelke, Attorney General's Office
Tamara Daniel, Consultant to Assn. Of Texas SWCDs

Russell Gregorczyk, Jansen & Gregorczyk CPA
Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Water Resources Institute
Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service
John Burt, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Chariman Albrecht called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

Minutes from the July 26, 2001 board meeting were considered. On motion of Wayne Register seconded by Dayton Elam, the minutes were approved as mailed.

Mel Davis presented nine district director appointments and said all appeared to be in order. On motion of Donald Swann seconded by Wayne Register, the following district director appointments were approved:

Steve Furlow, Terry Soil and Water Conservation District # 151
Melvin Smith, King Soil and Water Conservation District # 168
Royce Herbort, Gillespie Co. Soil and Water Conservation District # 220
J.C. Stroman, Jr., Nolan Co. Soil and Water Conservation District #245
Dan Allen Beyer, San Patricio Soil and Water Conservation District # 324
Raul Guerra, Jr., Zapata Soil and Water Conservation District # 335
Wright B. Baker, Polk-San Jacinto Soil & Water Conservation Dist. # 436
Toni R. Kaska, McLennan Co. Soil and Water Conservation District #512
Larry Ezell, Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District #554

Mel Davis presented a request from the Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos Soil and Water Conservation District #551 for subdivision boundary changes involving subdivisions 1 & 2 to better distribute eligible voters. After discussion and on motion of Dayton Elam, seconded by Wayne Register the changes were approved as requested.

Russell Gregorezyk discussed the final draft report of the Texas State Soil and Water Conversation Board Internal Audit of the Grant and Contract

Management System. After discussion and on motion of Dayton Elam seconded by Dub Crumley the Board adopted the report as presented.

Bobbie Stephens advised the Internal Audit Annual Report for FY2001 was not ready for presentation and will be submitted at the November Board meeting.

Bobbie Stephens discussed the need to adopt a revised Internal Audit Plan for FY2002. After discussion and on motion of Wayne Register seconded by Donald Swann, the Board voted to include audits for FY2002 on Human Resources, Brush Control and 503 and to do an audit for information resources at a later date.

Ms. Stephens then discussed the results of an audit on Performance Measures performed by the State Auditor's office in August 2001.

The Board was advised staff is working to revise performance measures and include additional measures for Brush Control and possibly TMDL. Additional information will be reported to the Board in November.

The Board was advised of the status of activities pertaining to development of criteria for allocation of Technical Assistance funds. Ms. Stephens provided a list of the participants and said the group would meet beginning at 1:00 p.m. on September 25 and continue at 8:00 a.m. on September 26.

Bobbie Stephens provided and discussed the Budget Versus Expenditure Report through the 12th month of FY2001.

Ms. Stephens provided a summary report on supplemental conservation assistance fund payments for FY01. She indicated a total of \$86,127.55 had been paid out in supplements to districts requesting.

A summary of agency travel for FY01 by strategy was provided for the Board's review. Final report will be presented at the November Board meeting.

Bob Buckley advised the State Board would have a joint meeting with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission on November 9th in Austin.

Sam Unberhagen provided the Water Quality Program Status Report and discussed activities since the last Board meeting.

Sam Unberhagen discussed FY02 Water Quality Cost Share Allocations and said a complaint driven request from San Saba Soil and Water Conservation District had been received and recommended that it be approved. On motion of Wayne Register, seconded by Dayton Elam the Board approved the funding of the complaint driven request for San Saba SWCD and deferred action on all other requests until a later Board meeting.

Richard Egg discussed proposed changes to the Approved Water Quality Cost Share Practice List. He referred to a request from the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District requesting a waiver. Mr. Don Burgess, Chairman of the Yoakum SWCD had appeared at the July 26, 2001 Board meeting and presented arguments for the waiver. Mr. Egg reported that he and NRCS personnel met with Mr. Burgess on August 16, 2001 in Lubbock. After review it appears that the systems (LEPA sprinkler conversions on slopes up to 3%) that Mr. Burgess wants to cost share as LEPA systems could be cost shared as LPIC without any changes in policy. NRCS is reviewing its irrigation policy which should be completed by January 1, 2002. The information has been sent to Mr. Burgess.

James Moore discussed a request by the Rio Blanco Soil and Water Conservation District for a second water quality cost share payment on a water quality management plan relative to what the district considered as a failed practice. Mr. Moore informed the Board that staff had told the district that under current rules as long as the district determined that the practice failed, they could provide funding to replace it.

Donna Long discussed the TMDL status report which included comments from EPA on the North Bosque. She said the North Bosque Implementation Plan will be out for public review after TNRCC rules are published. EPA has provided comments on the Aquilla TMDL which are being addressed. The Aquilla Implementation plan is currently out for public review.

James Moore discussed the Implementation Plan for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Atrazine in Aquilla Reservoir and requested approval of the draft plan for the purpose of making it available for public comment. On motion of Donald Swann, seconded by Wayne Register the Board approved the draft plan and authorized staff to make it available for public comment.

Kevin Wagner gave a status report on the 319 Program and provided the Board with information on FY02 319(H) grant proposals. The Brush control program Status Report was then discussed. Kevin Wagner discussed the feasibility study update. James Moore discussed the North Concho Brush Control monitoring and SWCD contracts. Johnny Oswald discussed the North Concho Brush Control cost share assistance. The Board was advised the

maintenance/management study was contracted to the Upper Colorado River Authority.

Kevin Wagner discussed revision to the State Brush Control Plan by adding the Upper Guadalupe River above Canyon Lake and the Leon River above Lake Belton. On motion of Wayne Register, seconded by Donald Swann the Board approved staff recommendations.

John Burt provided the NRCS report and said all SWCD offices will receive computers through NRCS and the districts would be responsible for modems and internet connections. He also advised NRCS had sufficient dollars in their budget and there would be no furloughs.

Mel Davis discussed a proposed Cooperative Agreement between the State Board and Food, Land and People. After discussion and on motion of Wayne Register, seconded by Dayton Elam the Executive Director was authorized to sign the agreement.

Mel Davis provided the Public Information Education Report and discussed the video library usage.

Mel Davis provided information on the 2002 NACD national meeting to be held on February 3-7, 2002 in Sparks, NV at John Ascuaga's Nuggett.

Mr. Davis discussed future state meeting sites. He had been directed by the Board to look at possible sites for 2004 in Arlington, Beaumont and Laredo. After discussion and on motion of Wayne Register, seconded by Dayton Elam the Board instructed Mr. Davis to obtain more information on Laredo with assistance from Memo Benavides.

Mel Davis provided updated information to the Board on the 2001 Annual State Meeting to be held in San Antonio on October 15-17 in the Municipal Auditorium. On motion of Donald Swann, seconded by Dayton Elam the Board voted to hire Clem Mikeska Catering for the "Get Acquainted" reception on Monday night.

Mel Davis discussed a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the USDA Forest Service/Districts/State Board. He advised the draft had been sent to districts that interface with USDA Forest Service and asked for their review and comment. After discussion and on motion of Dayton Elam, seconded by Dub Crumley the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding and sending it to districts for their use should they want to sign it.

Mr. Davis reported on the NRCS Resource Team Survey and provided the Board with preliminary results.

Bob Buckley discussed Federal Farm Policy Legislation.

James Moore discussed Safety and Liability Issues relative to PL566 Flood Control Structures and provided a draft letter to be sent to all districts with PL566 responsibilities. Staff had been in contact with the Attorney General's office and proposed to send the letter to districts describing their potential liability and responsibilities and how to approach other sponsors to help ensure proper maintenance is being done. On motion of Donald Swann, seconded by Dayton Elam the Board authorized staff to send the letter to affected districts.

Dawn Heitman provided the Human Resources Report and advised there had been one resignation, one hire, one retire and one promotion since the last

Board meeting. She advised recruiting is still underway for an Assistant Executive Director for External Customer Relations in the Temple office and an Engineer for the Harlingen Regional office. An employee training update was also provided.

Ms. Heitman discussed a need to adopt the Human Resources Policy and Procedures Manual Certified by the Texas Commission on Human Rights. She said the manual has been amended to reflect the legislative changes effective 9-1-2001. On motion of Wayne Register, seconded by Donald Swann the manual was adopted as amended.

Bob Buckley discussed the recruiting and staffing report. He said a number of applications have been received for the External Customer Relations position and that staff reorganization is still being assessed and that a report will be provided in November.

Mr. Buckley then discussed NASCA dues. On motion of Donald Swann, seconded by Wayne Register, the Board voted to pay the dues.

Bobbie Stephens provided the Board members their travel report and asked the Board to turn in any travel through August 2001 if they had not already done so.

The next regular State Board meeting is set for November 15, 2001.


Edward G. Albrecht
Chairman

Kevin Wagner
Secretary

11-15-01
Date

I certify that the above is true and correct and copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on September 20, 2001.

11-15-01
Date


Executive Director