

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 15, 2004

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 15, 2004, at 8:00 a.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Aubrey Russell, Vice-Chairman
Edward G. Albrecht, Member
Guillermo (Memo) Benavides, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
W. T. (Dub) Crumley, Chairman

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Interim Executive Director
Dawn Heitman, Program Specialist
Richard Egg, Engineer
John Foster, Natural Resources Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Tim Sims, Program Specialist
Kevin Wagner, NPS Team Leader
Jay Bragg, 319 Grant Coordinator
Lee Munz, 319 Project Manager
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
David Powell, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Andy Garza, Program Administrator
Eduardo Mendez-Gonzalez, Natural Resource Specialist
Mel Davis, Program Specialist
Marianna McKown, Administrative Technician
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Dr. Larry Butler, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Kraig Gallimore, Texas Water Development Board
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Russell Gregorczyk, Jansen & Gregorczyk, CPA
John Swinton, State Auditor's Office
Bob Woodward, State Auditor's Office
Jeff Grymkoski, State Auditor's Office
Don Smart, Cross Timbers Soil & Water Conservation District
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Crumley called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m., welcomed those present and asked any visitors to sign in.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Minutes from the November 20, 2003 Board Meeting

Mr. Crumley called for a motion to approve minutes of the November 20, 2003 Board Meeting as mailed.

Mr. Nichols moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2. District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they met all qualifications and were in order with the exception of Mr. Windham's and Mr. Whatley's being faxed copies and Mr. Whatley's lacking a resignation letter.

Mr. Albrecht moved the appointments be approved contingent upon all original paperwork being received. Mr. Benavides seconded and the following appointments were unanimously approved:

Donald R. Windham, Jr., Garza #158, Zone 4, Replace Richard Hart - **FAX**
M. E. "Dusty" Bruns, Kendall #216, Zone 1, Replace Edward Albrecht
James E. (Bud) Wade, Caldwell-Travis #304, Zone 2, Replace Andy Alexander
Jon Whatley, San Patricio #324, Zone 3, Replace Robert Barlow – **FAX, Resig. Letter**
Robert Fulbright, Monte Mucho #331, Zone 3, Replace William C. Holbein
Ruperto B. Escobar, Starr County #332, Zone 1, Replace G. Carlos Garza
Manuel G. Davila, Karnes County #343, Zone 2, Replace E. M. Ridley, III
Brenda G. Weiser, Harris County #442, Zone 4, Replace Monroe Morton

AGENDA ITEM 3. Reports from Agencies and Guests

Kraig Gallimore, Texas Water Development Board discussed: agriculture loan process going through channels, rules published in the Texas Register, RFP proposals in March, 2005 RFP in August.

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality discussed: working on CAFO rules, stated there will be changes to the proposed rules for the Bosque and took questions from the Board.

Dr. Larry Butler, Natural Resources Conservation Service discussed: NRCS operating on a continuing resolution but there might be an increase in EQIP funds, James Tillman transferred to California as Deputy State Conservationist, TSP Program, State Technical Committee report, local workgroups, Conservation Security Program, NACD meeting, National Hispanic Farmer & Rancher Meeting and took questions from the Board.

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts discussed: Spring Legislative Conference, National Meeting in Hawaii, meeting of new officers and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Internal Audit of Accounting System and Accounting Internal Controls

Mr. Gregorczyk reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Set Election Date for Burleson County SWCD #358 and Lee County SWCD #359

Ms. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Albrecht moved that the Burleson County SWCD #358 election be set for February 25, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the Burleson County SWCD Office in Caldwell and the Lee County SWCD #359 election date be set for February 25, 2004 at 11:00 a.m. at the USDA Service Center in Giddings. Mr. Nichols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Resolutions Adopted by the Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Mr. Davis stated that Resolution #1 would require a change in agency rules and deferred to Mr. Don Smart. Mr. Smart presented a handout and suggested a section be added to the Manual of Fiscal Operations concerning district elections and replacement of directors. Mr. Davis took questions from the board with input from Mr. Noelke.

Mr. Russell moved that staff present a recommendation concerning Resolution #1 at the May Board Meeting. Mr. Albrecht seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information for Resolution #2.

Mr. Benavides moved that staff prepare a letter expressing the desire of the State Board to have the intent of resolution #2 carried out. Staff should have the letter approved by the Board and sent to the Railroad Commission prior to the Commission's annual meeting in February. Mr. Nichols seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7. FLP – Educating Texas Youth Cooperative Agreement

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information with input from Ms. Daniel.

Board directed staff to contact Marcus Hill concerning the matter.

AGENDA ITEM 8. NACD Spring Legislative Conference

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Benavides reported on the NACD Executive Board Meeting stating that Krysta Harden was selected as NACD's new CEO. Mr. Russell voiced his interest in attending the Spring Legislative Conference in Washington. Board suggested that Mr. Isom discuss agency out of state travel with various legislators to get their input.

Mr. Nichols moved that Mr. Russell be allowed to attend the conference in Washington. Mr. Albrecht seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9. NACD Annual Meeting, Hawaii

Chairman Crumley reviewed the agenda information and stated his interest in attending the meeting. Mr. Benavides will be attending as a member of the NACD Executive Board.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Semi-Annual Report Required by Chapter 201, Texas Agriculture Code

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information with input from Mr. Isom and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Annual Brush Report Required by Chapter 203, Texas Agriculture Code

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12. 2004 State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13. Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14. Public Information/Education Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15. Coastal Coordination Council

Mr. Benavides deferred to Mr. Egg who reviewed the agenda information with input from Mr. Benavides.

AGENDA ITEM 16. Brush Control Program Status Report

Mr. Sims reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board with input from Mr. Salinas. Mr. Sims stated that reallocation of salt cedar funds will be discussed at the next State Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 17. North Bosque River Watershed Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 18. Water Conservation Initiative

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19. Allocation of Fiscal Year 2004 Water Quality Cost Share Funds

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

Mr. Albrecht moved that the Board approve the request from Runnels SWCD #232. Mr. Benavides seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 20. Senate Bill 503 Program Status Report

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information for 20A – Status Report.

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information for 20B – Request for Cost-Share Payment on Perimeter Fence and took questions from the Board.

Mr. Nichols moved the Board accept Hopkins Rains SWCD's request for an exception and approve payment to Mr. Kerry Taylor. Mr. Russell seconded.

The vote resulted in a tie which Chairman Crumley decided by voting to pass the resolution and allow the payment.

AGENDA ITEM 21. Clean Water Act 319(h) Status Report

Mr. Bragg reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22. TMDL Program Status Report

Mr. Wagner reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 23. Allocation of FY 04 Poultry Funds

Mr. Wagner reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved the Board approve the recommendations as presented:

Hopkins-Rains SWCD \$108,646
Nacogdoches SWCD \$110,182
Poultry Program Specialist \$ 31,172

Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 24. Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Crumley thanked Mr. Zajicek for what he has accomplished with the situation handed to him.

AGENDA ITEM 25. Duties/Employment/Appointment of Executive Director

Mr. Russell moved that the board go into executive session on agenda item #25. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Upon reconvening the open session Mr. Russell moved that the Board offer the Executive Director position to Mr. Rex Isom at a salary of \$60,000 per year with an effective date of January 15, 2004. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Isom accepted the position.

AGENDA ITEM 26. Set Date of Next Board Meeting

Mr. Benavides moved that the date of the next Board meeting be set as February 19, 2004, Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Crumley called the meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

W. J. "Dub" Crumley
Chairman

Justin K. Davis
Secretary

2/19/04
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 January 15, 2004.

2/19/04
Date

[Signature]
Executive Director