

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
January 17, 1990**

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, January 17, 1990, in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Fred Squyres, Chairman  
Larry McCasland, Vice Chairman  
Joe Antilley, Member  
Harvey Davis, Member  
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director  
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
James M. Moore, Engineer  
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist  
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Janet Gonser, Planner  
Jay Kuykendall, Planner  
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor  
Beade Northcut, Hydrologist  
Steven Deiss, Engineering Technician  
Ramesh Kumar Chamala, Research Specialist

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Dick Babcock, Soil Conservation Service  
Gary Westmoreland, Soil Conservation Service  
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station  
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agricultural Research Service  
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board  
Dr. Paul Dyke, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

Chairman Squyres called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On motion of Larry McCasland, seconded by Harvey Davis, the minutes of the November 15, 1989, meeting were approved as mailed to each Board member.

John Millican reviewed information on appointees for district directors for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

Edward Earwood, Edwards Plateau SWCD #222  
Charles King, High Point SWCD #230  
Kenneth Chandler, Bee SWCD #344  
Billy Carlton, Davy Crockett-Trinity SWCD #404  
Joe Pollan, Sulphur-Cypress SWCD #419  
Ernest G. Strack, Bedias Creek SWCD #428  
Rudolph Vincent Zimmerer, Upper Elm Red #524

Calvin Leifiste, Mason County SWCD #223 was approved contingent upon receipt of appointment papers.

John Millican reported to the Board on public hearings held on December 14, 1989 in Sterling City and Garden City to hear testimony on the petition from North Concho River SWCD #208 for division and reorganization. There was no opposition to the division. Joe Antilley moved to authorize the staff to proceed with the division, Larry McCasland seconded and motion carried.

John Millican advised the Board on a public hearing held on December 20, 1989 in Robstown to hear testimony on annexation of land into the Nueces-Jim Wells-Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD #311. All testimony was in favor of annexation of extra territory which is land belonging to the King Ranch. C. F. Schendel made the motion to approve the annexation of territory as being practicable and feasible and to proceed to the next step. Joe Antilley seconded and motion carried.

John Millican discussed future meeting sites for the Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. The annual meeting will be held in Austin in 1990 and in Corpus Christi

in 1991. It was the consensus of the Board to let staff members look at possible meeting sites and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

Bill Neiser discussed a proposed sick leave pool policy developed to comply with Senate Bill 357 enacted by the 71st Legislature. On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Larry McCasland, the Board adopted the policy as presented and appointed the Director of Programs as administrator.

Special items for possible consideration in the 1992-93 biennium budget request were presented by Mr. Buckley and Mr. Neiser. Items included: 1) cost share program; 2) operation and maintenance of flood control structures; 3) increase in technical assistance/matching funds; 4) brush control; 5) enhancement of information/education program. It was the consensus of the Board to pursue all five items.

On motion of Larry McCasland, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the staff was instructed to survey the districts as to their budgetary needs for matching funds and technical assistance funds for the next biennium.

Mr. Buckley introduced two new employees, Ramesh Chamala, Research Specialist and Steven Deiss Engineering Technician, employed to work on the statewide watershed study.

Wes Oneth reported to the Board on activities of the Soil Conservation Service. He advised the Board that Don Gohmert, Deputy State Conservationist for Texas had recently been assigned as State Conservationist for Arizona. Dick Babcock will be serving as Acting Deputy State Conservationist until the position can be

filled.

Gary Westmoreland presented a report on watersheds and water quality. He updated the Board on Seco Creek, a national demonstration project and the Upper North Bosque Hydrologic Unit.

Soil Conservation Service requested a representative from the State Board and staff to help review potential nonpoint source problem areas in Texas with several EPA division heads from Washington on tours in South Texas in the month of February.

Mr. Oneth advised the Board that the vacancy for the area conservationist position in Victoria would be filled shortly. He also told the Board that the district conservationists who have helped districts win the Goodyear Awards have been awarded Spot Awards.

Dr. Bill Harris reported that a soil survey and land resource workshops will be held on February 8 and 9, 1990 in College Station and will have water quality on the program among other things.

Dr. Clarence Richardson advised the Board the ARS in Temple will have a program review the latter part of February and early March and welcomed the Board's participation in the review.

Comer Tuck reported there was considerable interest in the matching grant program from the soil and water conservation districts in Texas and the Water Development Board had received 10 or 11 applications since the last Board meeting. He also advised the Board that the Water Development Board has agreed to participate in six or eight Boy Scout Workshops this year to help the Public Information/Education program for the State Board.

Dr. Allan Jones introduced Paul Dykes who has been working

with State Board staff on the watershed study.

Bill Neiser reviewed the 1988 Report on the Financial Related Audit of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. He advised the Board that the agency has complied with all requests of the State Auditor and that the auditor was praise-worthy of this agency.

Mr. Buckley and Mr. Neiser discussed the Annual Financial Report for the year ending August 31, 1989.

Special requests for additional allocations of technical assistance or Subchapter H technical assistance funds were presented to the Board. There are no funds available at this time for additional allocations. It was the consensus of the Board to survey the districts to see if any technical assistance funds would be turned back and to review district needs for additional funding.

The Board was advised that the lease on the agency's present office space was soon to be renewed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Executive Director was authorized to enter into negotiations to get any necessary changes to the present building and to exercise the option to extend the Board's lease for another five years.

Bill Neiser reported on the status of a request for clarification of appropriation rider #6, Senate Bill #222. He advised the Board that a letter outlining the State Board's position has been written to the Legislative Budget Board staff but a decision has not been forthcoming at this time.

James Moore provided the Board with two watershed applications. An application received December 4, 1989, West

Laterals of the Trinity Watershed Project, sponsored by the Freestone-Leon SWCD was discussed. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Larry McCasland, the project was disapproved pending clarification of cost-share rates. An application received December 11, 1989, Keechi Creek Water Well Project for the City of Centerville, sponsored by Bedias Creek SWCD was also discussed. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Harvey Davis, the project was disapproved pending a feasibility study.

Beade Northcut discussed the statewide watershed study progress report and reported on equipment purchases for the Geographic Information System. He also advised the Board of proposals for consideration from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. On motion of Larry McCasland, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Executive Director was authorized to enter into contract with the Extension Service and Experiment Station.

A status report on the Nonpoint Source Management Program was given by James Moore. He informed the Board that EPA has agreed to assist the Board in the development of a quality assurance and quality control program for water quality monitoring.

Mr. Moore briefed the Board on the status of the proposed monitoring project in Cameron and Starr Counties in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Mr. Moore discussed the Erath County groundwater study and advised the Board a contract is being written with the Texas Water Commission for sampling water wells in Erath County to check for any problem that might be caused by agriculture.

The Nonpoint Source Management Program update of December 15, 1989 was then discussed by Mr. Moore. He said everything the State Board had submitted to EPA had been approved.

James Moore explained staff input into the prioritization of Grant Proposals submitted to the Texas Water Commission for funding under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The Board was given copies of the prioritized list of proposals. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the Section 319 Grant Application.

James Moore briefed the Board on recent meetings of the Nonpoint Source Coordinating and Advisory Committees.

Moore discussed the Texas Water Commission's emergency livestock and poultry production operations rules recently published in the Texas Register. Copies of the rules as published were provided to the Board.

Moore advised the Board that staff work would begin in the near future on a work plan for Nonpoint Source grant funds to be used in fiscal year 1991.

Dick Schendel updated the Board on the activities of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Galveston Bay Study and showed the Board a quarterly publication called Galveston Bay "Bay Line".

Clyde Gottschalk reported on the activities of the Public Information/Education Committee. He said the shoreline erosion documentary was back on course and hoped to go into the field this spring. He also advised the Board that he was working with the Texas Forest Service on a nonpoint source forestry training video and the Conservation Tillage video will soon be ready for

distribution after some editing had been completed. He discussed the Boy Scout workshops and teachers training workshops scheduled for later this year.

Mel Davis discussed the Board member elections scheduled for May 1, 1990 in State Districts II and IV. The Area II election will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Angelo State University in San Angelo. The Area IV election will be held at 5:30 p.m. at Angelina College in Lufkin. He also advised the Board of the dates of the Area Conservation Awards Banquets. They are as follows:

- Area I - May 8, 1990 in Plainview, Texas
- Area II - May 1, 1990 in San Angelo, Texas
- Area III - May 10, 1990 in Beeville, Texas
- Area IV - May 1, 1990 in Lufkin, Texas
- Area V - May 3, 1990 in Stephenville, Texas

The need for a long range planning meeting was discussed. The date and location for the meeting is to be set by the chairman at a later date.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is March 21, 1990.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Fred Squires  
Chairman

Lois Cain  
Secretary

3-21-90  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 17, 1990.

3-21-90

Date

*Robert H. Buckley*

Executive Director