

Official Minutes
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 18, 1989

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, January 18, 1989, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

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

Staff Members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Jay Kuykendall, Planner
Janet Gonser, Planner
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Waldo Smith, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agricultural Research Service
Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Phil Evans, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

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

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Larry McCasland, the minutes of the November 16, 1988, meeting were approved as mailed out to each board member.

John Millican reviewed information on appointees for district directors for consideration. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved the following district directors:

(2)

Greg Arnold - Duck Creek SWCD #169
Mark Forehand - Live Oak SWCD #323
Ronald Peters - Jackson SWCD #336
Carolyn Lane - Freestone-Leon SWCD #424
Golden Hardy - Coastal SWCD #432
Ed Pickard - Delta SWCD #443
Mrs. Sid Horton - Shelby SWCD #449

The appointment of Larry R. Williams, Crockett SWCD #235 was approved pending receipt of appointment papers.

John Millican presented a petition for division and reorganization from the Dos Rios Soil and Water Conservation District #322 to divide and reorganize the district into two new districts to be created along county lines. The new districts will be known as the McCullen Soil and Water Conservation District #353 and the LaSalle Soil and Water Conservation District #354. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board accepted the petition and authorized the staff to proceed with the division and conduct public hearings to obtain the views of local people in both counties.

Bob Buckley presented letters to the Board from Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District #333 for additional matching funds and Howard Soil and Water Conservation District #243 for additional technical assistance funds. No extra monies are available at this time. The Board agreed to survey each soil and water conservation district as in the past to see if the districts would need additional funds or have funds to return to the Board to be allocated to other districts.

Mr. Buckley reported to the Board on the Legislative Budget Board's budget appropriation recommendations for the 1990-91 biennium for the State Soil and Water Conservation Board. He also advised the Board that budget hearings would be coming up soon before the Agriculture and Livestock Subcommittee on Budget and Oversight and before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation.

Mr. Buckley discussed with the Board the Annual Financial Report for the year ending August 31, 1988, and explained why some of the figures appeared as they did.

Mr. Buckley gave a report on the number of Soil and Water Conservation District audits that had been received for the 2-year period ending August 31, 1988. Harvey Davis reported to the Board that some legal questions had been raised by some of the audits and suggested that an opinion from the Attorney General be requested on a number of items. He reported that in a recent visit with Molly Shannon, an attorney for the General Litigation Division of the Attorney General's Office, the validity of an old opinion (V-1365) had been questioned. Because this opinion is used to advise soil and water conservation districts on various phases of district operations it was Ms. Shannon's suggestion that this opinion be submitted to their opinions committee for review in light of recent statutes and opinions. On motion by Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board requested the staff to submit Opinion V-1365 to the Attorney General's Opinion Committee for review and develop a list of questions to submit to the Attorney General for formal opinions.

Joe Antilley reported to the Board on the Texas Tech Advisory Committee meeting he had attended on December 14-15, 1988. At this meeting Charles Allen of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department presented information on Type II hunting systems in Texas. This system provides hunting on private lands leased to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

At the request of the State Board, Phil Evans of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department presented information to the Board on the Type II System and advised the Board that much of the land put into the CRP program could be ideally suited to this type program. Mr. Evans said they would provide someone to speak to any of the area associations if there was an interest in this program.

Comer Tuck advised the Board that Dr. Herb Grubb had resigned as Director, Water Data Collection, Studies and Planning for the Texas Water Development Board. Dr. Tommy Knowles has been appointed as interim director. He also advised the Board that the Governor had appointed Walter Cardwell, III as Chairman of the Board for the Texas Water Development Board. He told the Board that they would still provide personnel to help with the workshops being conducted for Boy Scouts across the state.

Wes Oneth reported that the next Conservation Reserve Program sign up period would be February 6-24, 1989. Oneth also asked the Board if they wanted to be part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Soil Conservation Service and the Lower Colorado River Authority in an experimental program to examine water quality of rice irrigation return flow in the Lower Colorado River Basin.

Waldo Smith, on behalf of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, thanked the Board for the invitation to attend the meeting.

James Moore presented an application from the Starr County Soil and Water Conservation District #332 to the Texas Water Development Board to become a lender under the Pilot Loan Program. Mr. Moore asked the Board if they wanted to be part of the review process for future applications and the Board agreed that the staff should continue reviewing the applications as they had done in the past.

Mr. Moore presented a proposed inter-local agreement between the Brazos County Soil and Water Conservation District #450 and the Burleson-Lee Soil and Water Conservation District #313 which would allow the Brazos County Soil and Water Conservation District to administer a pilot loan program in the Burleson-Lee Soil and Water Conservation District. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Larry McCasland, the Board approved

the agreement and authorized Chairman Schendel to sign it.

Harvey Davis presented a letter from Gale Martin, Executive Director of the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Committee regarding committees for the Gulf of Mexico Program and asking if the Board had someone who wanted to serve on the committee. After discussion Joe Antilley made the motion to get more information before a decision was made. The motion was withdrawn after it did not receive a second. Hermon Petty made the motion that a Board Member's name and an alternate's name be sent in with the understanding that if the Board needed a professional person someone from the staff could go whenever dates were received for the meeting. Fred Squyres seconded. Hermon Petty, Fred Squyres and Larry McCasland voted for the motion and Joe Antilley voted against.

James Moore reported that the State's revised Nonpoint Source Assessment had been submitted to EPA on January 10. A copy of the letter of transmittal was provided to the Board with the explanation that EPA had until February 4 to take action on the assessment. Mr. Moore provided copies of a letter from the Texas Water Commission requesting Harvey Davis to appoint a representative for the agency on a State Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee and indicated that he had been appointed to serve. Copies of a Texas Water Commission News Release and letter to EPA relative to their recently released report entitled "Pesticides in Groundwater Data Base, 1988 Interim Report" was given to the Board. Mr. Moore gave a brief status report on nonpoint source management activities dealing with dairy waste management in the Erath County area, the proposed nonpoint source monitoring program and the fiscal year 1989 grant for nonpoint source activities.

Harvey Davis updated the Board on actions taken by the Committee on State Government Organization and discussed a recommendation made by the committee that members of Boards and Commissions and Executive Directors be appointed by the Governor. Mr. Davis then told the Board that a final report of the Governor's Committee on Water Resources Management had not been received and that the Governor had taken no action on it. He then reported that no legislation had been filed that would directly affect the State's conservation programs.

John Millican reported to the Board the results of a survey that was sent to each soil and water conservation district inquiring of preference for the 1991 State Meeting and if the district directors wanted to have the banquet reinstated for future state meetings. Larry McCasland requested that State Board field representatives advise their local districts of the survey results. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board agreed to hold the 1991 Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors in Corpus Christi.

Mr. Millican advised the Board that elections for State Board Members would be held May 2, 1989, in State Districts I, III, and V. Information on upcoming mailings to district chairmen and secretaries in State Districts I, III, and V concerning these elections were passed out to Board Members for their information.

Clyde Gottschalk advised the Board of the work of the Information/Education Committee of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts of which he is the advisor. He reported on the shoreline erosion documentary; conservation/education seminars he is conducting across the state coordinated through Texas Education Service Centers; conservation tillage video; Boy Scout seminars held across the state and expressed his appreciation to Wes Oneth for the help of Soil Conser-

vation Service personnel in these seminars; and advised the Board that the textbook covers had been well accepted across the state and would be continued.

Harvey Davis advised the Board of the National Watershed Conference to be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on May 15-17, 1989. All board members agreed to attend. They were advised of the Low Input Agriculture Conference in Omaha, Nebraska on March 8-10, 1989 and the Non-Point Source Conference in St. Louis, Missouri on April 23-26, 1989. The Board authorized anyone to attend who felt the need to attend these meetings.

Bob Buckley advised the Board on the use of the newly issued state Diners Club cards and that all state travel should be coordinated through Sato Travel.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 15, 1989.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Cleaver J. O'Connell
Chairman

Lois Cain
Secretary

3-15-89
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 18, 1989.

3-15-89
Date

Robert L. Buckley
Executive Director