

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
JANUARY 19, 1967

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the Conference Room, 10th Floor, First National Building, Temple, Texas, at 9:00 a.m. on January 19, 1967.

Board Members present were: J. S. Sharp, Chairman, A. F. Leesch, Vice Chairman, E. W. Wehman, J. Frank Gray and H. W. Turney.

Others present were: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, G. E. Jones, Assistant Executive Director, and L. H. Barnes, Water Planning Engineer, of the Board staff; H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, of the Soil Conservation Service; and Gilbert Kretzschmar, President, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the Board Meeting of November 17, 1966 were read and approved.

Harvey Davis discussed who is qualified to be selected as a State Board Member at elections. It was stated by Mr. Davis that the person seated at the convention was qualified for nomination as a State Board Member, and that the present State Board Member is qualified for renomination as a State Board Member regardless of his attendance at the election convention.

New watershed applications were reviewed with the Board by L. H. Barnes. Upper North Wichita River (near Paducah), Lower Pedernales River (near Fredericksburg), Upper Pedernales River (near Fredericksburg), Geronimo Irrigation Project (near Seguin), and Deer Creek (near Chilton).

The Upper North Wichita River application is a re-application as the old application was disapproved by the State Board on May 3, 1959. The Lower Pedernales River application is a re-application as the old application was disapproved by the State Board on August 8, 1959. The Upper Pedernales River is also a re-

application as it was disapproved by the State Board on August 22, 1961. The Deer Creek and Geronimo Irrigation Project applications are new applications.

Re-examination of the previously disapproved applications will need to be made to determine the feasibility of the projects as the criteria has been changed since they were disapproved.

Mr. Smith stated that the Geronimo Irrigation Project was in the realm of Public Law 566.

Mr. Barnes stated that all of the watershed applications were in order, with the exception of the Geronimo Irrigation Project, which did not include the non-discrimination provision. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board disapproved the Geronimo Irrigation Project application pending the completion of the application to include the non-discrimination provision, and a field examination to determine the economic feasibility of the project. Motion carried.

On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board disapproved the Upper North Wichita River, the Lower Pedernales River, the Upper Pedernales River, and the Deer Creek applications pending a field examination to determine the economic feasibility of the projects. Motion carried.

A favorable field examination was reviewed with the Board on the Comanche Creek watershed application by L. H. Barnes. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board approved the application as being economically feasible for project development.

Harvey Davis read a letter from the Bosque Soil and Water Conservation District requesting that the Berry Creek watershed application be withdrawn and returned to the sponsors. The Berry Creek watershed is included in the Paluxy River watershed application which has been approved as being economically feasible. On motion by H. W. Turney, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board approved the withdrawal of the Berry Creek watershed application. Motion carried.

Leland Barnes reviewed the recently developed work plans on Rush Creek, Farmers Creek, Bennett Creek and Choctaw Creek. There was no Board action necessary on the report.

A report by L. H. Barnes on storm damages in the Richland Creek and Chambers Creek watersheds showed a marked decrease in flood damages caused by rainfalls amounting to 12.46 and 11.56 inches respectively in the watersheds from April 20-May 2, 1966. With 74 of the 152 planned floodwater retarding structures completed in the Richland Creek project the benefits amounted to \$310,000 whereas without the partial completion of the project the damages would have amounted to \$656,000. With the completion of 89 of the 131 planned floodwater retarding structures in the Chambers Creek project the benefits amounted to \$233,000, whereas without the partial completion of the project the damages would have amounted to \$674,000.

Harvey Davis reported on the navigable stream problems in Texas in regard to the watershed protection program. It was suggested by the Board that Mr. Davis work with Joe Carter and other members of the Texas Water Rights Commission to resolve the problems.

Leland Barnes reported to the Board on a meeting with the Directors of the Edwards Underground Water District. Those attending the meeting included Fred Mason, Grady Mahaffey, M. A. Rombie, Lawrence Rothe, Bradley Bailey, and Maurice DeCook of the Underground Water District; Joe McIntire and Clifford Mayben of the Soil Conservation Service; L. F. Stewart and L. H. Barnes, State Board staff members. The group reviewed recharge estimates on Leona River and Seco Creek, and the sponsors responsibilities in the project. Mr. Mahaffey advised the group that the Directors of the Edwards Underground Water District had passed a resolution to finance part of the cost of planning in the District and cost-share in the projects.

Leland Barnes reviewed with the Board a field level review held at Brownsville,

Texas, December 15, 1966, on the Rancho-Viejo watershed plan. There was no Board action necessary.

Mr. H. N. Smith reported on the status of watershed planning as follows:

Rancho Viejo - final work plan presently being reproduced and field level review held on December 15, 1966; Farmers Creek - copies of work plan sent to Washington office, December 21, 1966 for approval by the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry of the Senate, and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; Bennett Creek - final work plan copies sent to Washington office, December 9, 1966 for review; Los Fresnos Resaca - received Washington office comments on tentative draft, December 9, 1966. Final work plan should be completed and ready to mail to Washington office by March 1, 1967; Lower Running Water Draw - plan completed and field level review scheduled for February 1, 1967; Mill Creek - final work plan completed and forwarded to Washington office, January 16, 1967 for formal approval; Pecan Creek - Washington office sent final work plan to the Bureau of Budget, December 16, 1966; North Cuero - review draft complete and field level review scheduled for February 7, 1967; Ruckers Creek - tentative draft sent to Washington office, December 19, 1966. This work plan will be approved by State Conservationist; Running Water Draw - tentative draft of the work plan presently being prepared; Arroyo-Colorado - preliminary draft of work plan sent to E & WP Unit, December 20, 1966 for review and comments; McClellan Creek - work plan 92% complete; Aquilla-Hackberry Creek - 95% complete; Darrs Creek - 75% complete; Upper Cibolo Creek - 55% complete; Lakeview - 60% complete; Pond Creek - pre-planning activities started; Comal River Basin - work plan development to be initiated, February 6, 1967; Ecleto Creek - planning authorization has not been received; Hog Creek - work plan development to be initiated by February 1, 1967; Sanderson Canyon watershed - planning authorization has not been received.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 noon for lunch and re-convened at 1:30 p.m.

in the Conference Room, 10th Floor, First National Building, Temple, Texas with the same people present.

Correspondence concerning the Sweetwater Creek, Lipan Creek, and Dell Valley watershed applications were read and discussed by Harvey Davis. It was recommended that Mr. Davis continue efforts to work out details for planning Sweetwater Creek with the Oklahoma State Soil Conservation Board. There was no Board action necessary on the correspondence.

Harvey Davis reported on the public hearing held at Bushland, Texas on December 19, 1966, on the proposition to transfer territory from the Palo Duro Soil and Water Conservation District to the Canadian River Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Davis reported that it was a favorable hearing and that the transfer of territory be made. Based on the hearing report, Frank Gray made the motion, seconded by A. F. Leesch, that a determination of need be made and authorize the transfer. Motion carried.

Harvey Davis reported on the election held at San Diego, Texas, on December 12, 1966, on the proposition to transfer territory from the San Diego-Agua-Dulce Soil and Water Conservation District to the Agua-Poquita Soil and Water Conservation District. Based on the election returns showing 22 votes for and none against, E. W. Wehman made the motion, seconded by Frank Gray, that the election results be approved and a determination of practicability and feasibility be made and authorize the transfer. Motion carried.

The financial statement of the annual State Meeting account was reviewed with the Board by Harvey Davis. Cash on hand, January 19, 1967, is \$612.35. No Board action was necessary.

The Legislative and Governor's Budget proposals were reviewed with the Board by Harvey Davis.

Membership in the Texas Forestry Planning Committee was discussed with the Board by Harvey Davis. This committee is composed of representatives of those State and Federal agencies and private organizations which have responsibility for leadership and assistance in the management and use of private forests and the utilization of the products of the forests in the State of Texas. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board authorized Chairman J. S. Sharp to sign the committee agreement. Motion carried.

Harvey Davis reviewed with the Board the results of four meetings held over the State in regard to the legislative proposals. In three of the meetings all proposals were approved, and in one meeting the proposal to give the power of eminent domain to Soil and Water Conservation Districts was wanted only if it could be on a local option basis. Also, in three of the meetings, it was suggested that the State Soil and Water Conservation Board give prior approval to the projects before a local Board could exercise the power of eminent domain. No Board action was necessary.

Mr. Davis also reviewed the proposition of the State Board securing the power of eminent domain. He pointed out that after discussing this proposition with other state officials, he felt that it would be a mistake for the Board to pursue these powers further. After discussion by the Board Members and on motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board rescinded the portions of the November 17, 1966 official minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board pertaining to the power of eminent domain for the State Board on Page 4, Paragraph 1 and 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Davis reported on proposed meeting places for the 1968 Annual Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors. There was no definite place decided upon and further investigations will be made by Mr. Davis and be

presented at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Davis reviewed with the Board a meeting of the Committee for the 1968 NACD meeting to be held in Dallas. He pointed out that Committees had been selected and a great amount of work will be involved by the Committees in order to have a good meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

*[Signature]*  
Chairman

*Josephine Chupik*  
Secretary

*February 15, 1967*  
Date

I hereby 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 19, 1967.

*2-15-67*  
Date

*Forney Davis*  
Executive Director

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated January 18, 1968 and February 6, 1968

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*John Connally*