

Minutes
Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board
January 19, 1994

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 19, 1994, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Albert Evans, Chairman
Paul Robertson, Vice Chairman
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Member
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Harvey Davis, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Bo Spoons, Director of Programs
Sam Umberhagen, Soil Conservationist
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information/Education Director
Steve Jones, Dublin Regional Manager
Lois Cain, Administrative Technician III

Others present were:

Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agricultural Research Service
Atlan Pfluger, Texas Water Development Board
Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Tom Curran, Lower Colorado River Authority
Dr. Allen Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Harvey Davis and seconded by Dick Schendel the minutes of the November 17, 1993 Board meeting and December 15-16, 1993 workshop meeting were approved as mailed. Motion carried.

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration. He advised the Board the appointments appeared in order. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Buddy Clark the following district director appointments were approved:

Larry G. Morrow, Yoakum SWCD #150
Wilbert Seipp, Llano County SWCD #233
William Thomas Meador, Upper Elm-Red SWCD #524

Bill Neiser discussed Fiscal Year 1994 Subchapter H Technical Assistance allocations. He reminded the Board this is normally done in November, but was postponed because funds were not available at that time. Mr. Neiser presented the Board a proposed allocation worksheet prepared from field staff recommendations. He informed the Board that the proposal included special allocations for Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District No. 525 and Cross Timbers Soil and Water Conservation District No. 556 because of their special program needs. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board approved the allocation of funds as proposed including the two special allocations. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser provided the Board an expenditure report ending December 31, 1993 and reviewed each strategy item. He noted the Dublin Regional Office is in operation and that by April 1st the regional offices in Hale Center and Mount Pleasant should be in operation. He reviewed the appropriation reductions that would affect the State Board's current operating budget and said the agency will have enough lapsed salaries from delayed hirings to cover the reductions mandated by the appropriation bill riders.

Mr. Neiser provided the Board a checklist of district financial statements that have been received and district financial statements that have been approved. He said the financial statements are in much better condition than they were last year.

Bill Neiser discussed the district budget request survey letter that has been used in the past to survey district funding needs. He asked the Board if they wished to continue this survey for the 1996-1997 biennium. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board voted to continue this survey as in the past for the 1996-1997 biennium. Motion carried.

The division and reorganization of Little Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District No. 532 was then presented to the Board by Bill Neiser. He informed the Board that all papers appeared to be in order. Mr. Neiser informed the Board that the district approved expenditure transactions during their January board meeting that were not reflected in their expenditures as presented and if the State Board approved the division it would need to be done subject to those expenditures. Mr. Neiser then discussed the appointments of the following directors for each of the new districts: Archer County Soil and Water Conservation District No. 559 - Glenn Thorman, Zone 2 and John Wolf, Zone 4; Little Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District No. 560 - Joe Ben Whitaker, Zone 2 and Jess Spivey, Zone 4. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board approved the division and reorganization as being practicable and feasible pending the updating of transfer of assets and liabilities papers. Motion

carried.

Clyde Gottschalk updated the Board on the Central Texas Ag Tour planned for May 19, 1994 to be held in conjunction with the Central Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts meeting. The tour will have four stops to include the Smith Ranch to show wildlife management, Dr. Raleigh White Ranch to show wetlands restoration, Solana Ranch to show range management and Capitol Land and Cattle Company to show cropland and cattle management. More than 150 letters of invitation to state and local dignitaries have been mailed.

Mr. Gottschalk discussed a District Director Training Conference to be held in Temple at the State Board Conference Room on February 8-9, 1994. Twenty-six participants have registered as of the Board meeting date and more are expected.

Clyde reported on spring and summer seminars for teacher workshops and Boy Scouts workshops. He said the programs are growing and the summer pretty well filled.

Wes Oneth reported on Soil Conservation Service activities. He thanked the Board for their support at the Congressional Field Hearing on USDA Reorganization conducted by Congressman Charles Stenholm in Waco on January 18th. He informed the Board there would be twenty RC&D projects approved and that Texas will probably get three approved. He also reported there would be twelve floodwater retarding structures on the Trinity River scheduled for repair in 1994.

There was a discussion on SHPO and a meeting to be held by the Far West Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Marfa on January 25th to discuss this situation. It was also noted that this will be a topic of discussion in Phoenix, Arizona at the national NACD meeting, January 30 - February 3, 1994.

Dr. Allen Jones from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station said he was pleased with the relationship between the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Research Service, State Soil and Water Conservation Board and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. He said it was a real opportunity for agencies to work together and strengthen their programs. Dr. Clarence Richardson from the ARS also agreed with Dr. Jones' remarks.

Atlan Pfluger from the Texas Water Development Board said their Board would be considering \$7 million in ag-related loans to be used by farmers and soil and water conservation districts at their January board meeting.

Tom Curran from the Lower Colorado River Authority reported that on February 9 in Austin the LCRA would be holding an Ag Forum in which Secretary Espy will be the keynote speaker.

Randy Jones brought the Board up to date on staffing of the State Board. He said he has screened 325 applications in filling 14 positions.

Bob Buckley reported briefly on the Congressional Field Hearing on USDA reorganization conducted by Congressman Charles Stenholm in Waco on January 18th.

Beade Northcut discussed a PL 83-566 watershed project for Nolan River in Johnson County. He reported the application is complete and recommended it be approved. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the application was approved. Motion carried.

James Moore updated the Board on S. B. 503 implementation. He said rules have been published as final rules and are in effect and that the Memorandum of Agreement with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission has been signed, published and are in effect. He reported the regional office in Dublin is open and all positions have been filled. The building for the regional office in Hale Center is in the process of getting under construction. In Mount Pleasant the building that received the low bid was not desirable and totally unacceptable. Mr. Moore said a complaint has been referred to the State Board from the TNRCC on confinement of 50 pigs on Salado Creek between Florence and Jarrell. The complaint was made by a citizens monitoring group. Mr. Moore introduced Sam Umberhagen and said he would be the person on staff to coordinate and investigate complaints.

James Moore updated the Board on the nonpoint source program. He provided the Board a handout on the projected funding coming through the State Board through 1997. He said the Statewide Management Plan is still at the EPA and we should know by February where it stands.

James Moore discussed the Coastal Zone Management Program and said staff members have been attending as many meetings as possible

with the General Land Office. Mr. Moore advised the Board a meeting has been arranged for State Board staff to meet with districts along the coast to compile comments for the GLO.

Future state meeting sites were discussed with Corpus Christi and Galveston showing the most promise. Clyde Gottschalk reported the El Paso-Hudspeth Soil and Water Conservation District was planning to send a letter of invitation to hold a future state meeting in El Paso. It was reported that hotel accommodations have been greatly improved in El Paso.

The upcoming Board member elections to be held on May 3, 1994 for State Zones II and IV were discussed. The location for State Zone II is in San Angelo at the Houston Harte University Center at Angelo State University. The location for State Zone IV is at Angelina College Student Center in Lufkin. Buddy Clark advised the Board that Senator Bill Sims has been invited to emcee the program in San Angelo for the State Zone II Conservation Awards Program to be held after the Board member election.

Mel Davis advised the Board of dates for conservation award banquets for each state area. They are as follows:

Area I	- no date or location set
Area II	- May 3, 1994 - Angelo State University, San Angelo
Area III	- May 12, 1994 - County Community Center, Refugio
Area IV	- May 3, 1994 - Angelina College, Lufkin
Area V	- May 5, 1994 - Stephenville

Bob Buckley discussed the 1994 NACD national convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, January 30-February 3, 1994. He provided a copy of a questionnaire that has been mailed to each district by

NACD. He also provided the final report "Revising the NACD Council Resolution Procedure", "Recommended Changes to the NACD Policy Book" and 1994 Resolution Pad for NACD for the Board's information.

Bill Neiser passed out the Board member travel report for the four-month period ending December 31, 1993.

Bob Buckley discussed the Partners in Policy Forum sponsored by the Lower Colorado River Authority set for February 8-9, 1994 and said he would be serving as a panel member.

The Board adjourned regular session to go into Executive Session at 2:20 p.m. At 2:50 p.m. the Executive Session ended and the meeting reconvened in regular session.

By consensus of the Board the date of February 23, 1994, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room in Temple was set as the next board meeting.

Albert Evans
Chairman

Louis J. Cain
Secretary

2-23-94
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on January 19, 1994.

2-23-94
Date

Robert H. Buckley
Executive Director