

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 18, 2006

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 18, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Aubrey Russell, Chairman
Jerry Nichols, Vice Chairman
W. T. (Dub) Crumley, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member
Joe Ward, Member
Reed Stewart, Member
José Dodier, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
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
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
John Foster, NPS Team Leader
Lee Munz, NPS SWCD Liaison
T.J. Helton, NPS Grant Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, NPS Watershed Coordinator
Chris Higgins, NPS Project Manager
Richard Egg, Engineer
Mel Davis, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Program Specialist
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present were:

Hall DeBusk, Hamilton Coryell Soil & Water Conservation District
Sonny Foote, Hamilton Coryell Soil & Water Conservation District
Fred Snyder, Ft. Hood
Steve Burrow, Ft. Hood
James Simmons, DCG, Ft. Hood

Sam Gregory, SJA, Ft. Hood
Ron Perry, Chief of Staff – General Simmons
Rod Chisholm, DPW, Ft. Hood
Col. Bruzese, Garrison Commander, Ft. Hood

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m., welcomed those present and turned the meeting over to Rex Isom.

Mr. Isom recognized General Simmons who gave a power point presentation on the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB), Item 12 on the January 19 agenda. He explained that a proposal for the project was being looked over by their legal staff and presentations had been made to landowners at several local meetings. General Simmons took questions from the board with the assistance from his staff.

A work session was conducted which covered all agenda items in detail. Questions were taken and answered.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 19, 2006

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 19, 2006, at 8:00 a.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Aubrey Russell, Chairman
Jerry Nichols, Vice Chairman
W. T. (Dub) Crumley, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member
Joe Ward, Member
Reed Stewart, Member
José Dodier, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Andy Garza, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
John O'Connor, Program Supervisor
Steve Jones, Program Supervisor
Carter Miska, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
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
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T.J. Helton, NPS Grant Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, NPS Watershed Coordinator
Chris Higgins, NPS Project Manager
Richard Egg, Engineer
Mel Davis, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Program Specialist
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Charles McGuire, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kraig Gallimore, Texas Water Development Board
Norman Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tom Garrett, Blackland Research Center
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Allan Jones, Texas Water Resources Institute
Bill Harris, Texas Water Resources Institute

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1. Reports from Agencies and Guests

Kraig Gallimore, TWDB announced that he would be retiring this year, emphasized understanding your soil as a management tool and the need to improve the level of education on this subject for landowners.

Clyde Bohmfalk, TCEQ introduced Charles McGuire who is new to their agency and stated they are waiting for input from EPA on their CAFO regulations.

Tom Garrett, Blackland Research Center introduced himself as the new interim director at Blackland.

Norman Bade, NRCS – a copy of the items Mr. Bade presented are included in written form with the minutes.

Allan Jones, Texas Water Resources Institute discussed: he appreciates the cooperation with our agency and its staff, understanding diverse sources of bacteria in streams and future projects with the Corps of Engineers.

Bill Harris, Texas Water Resources Institute stated that he had worked with our Board and agency since the early 1970's and has enjoyed the close working relationship.

Kevin Wager, Texas Water Resources Institute stated that the primary focus of his Ph.D. work will be the bacteria issue and alternate sources of improving bacteria levels.

AGENDA ITEM 2. Minutes from the November 16-17, 2005 Board Meeting

Chairman Russell called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16-17, 2005 meeting as emailed. Mr. Crumley moved that the minutes be approved. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3. District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications with the exception of Mr. Vaughn's paperwork being faxed copies. Mr. Dodier moved the appointments be approved contingent upon the receipt of all original paperwork. Mr. Crumley seconded and the following appointments were unanimously approved:

Dallas Bradley (Braa, Vaughn, Lynn County #119, Zone 4, replaces H. G. Franklin
Richard L. Rabb, Llano County #233, Zone 2, replaces Jim Myers

AGENDA ITEM 4. Wildfires Due to Drought Conditions

Mr. Oswald stated the State Board is taking a more active role in the drought condition issue. He and Mr. Stewart have contacted several other agencies concerning their activities and reported on their findings. Mr. Stewart made a motion that a letter to the governor be prepared stating: The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board requests an executive order allowing the Texas Department of Transportation to blade highway right-of-ways to create fireguard buffers. Mr. Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Approval of Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved that the State Board approve the Statewide Water Quality Management cost share requests as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Review State Board Fraud Policy

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Stewart moved the Board reaffirm the agency's present Fraud Policy. Mr. Crumley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Agency Rule Review Plan

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved that the State Board approve the rule review plan as presented and instructed staff to begin review of those rules indicated for review in January 2006. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Adoption of Rule TAC523.7 / Incentives for Composting Animal Manure

Mr. Helton reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Crumley moved the Board adopt the amendments as final. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9. Approval of Changes to CNMP Program Guidance and Technical Criteria

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved the Board adopt the revision to the CNMP Technical Criteria and Program Guidance document as presented. Mr. Crumly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10. Approve Waiver as per Section 523.6(e)(2)(E) of Cost-Share Rules

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Stewart moved the Board grant the waiver requested by Hopkins Rains SWCD #445 as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11. Approve Addition of an Agitator as a Component of Practice #634, Manure Transfer

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved the Board approve the addition of an agitation system as a component of practice #634, manure transfer. Mr. Dodier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12. Open Meetings, Open Records Training

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

AGENDA ITEM 13. Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB)

Mr. Isom stated that information on this agenda item was presented at the Work Session. Board members asked that Mr. Foster and Mr. Zajicek verify if accepting funds for work done to this point would be appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 14. Statewide Technical Service Provider (TSP) Program

Mr. Isom and Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15. Lake O' the Pines Total Maximum Daily Load

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16. NACD Report

Mr. Dodier discussed the NACD Annual Meeting and encouraged board members to attend Texas Night.

AGENDA ITEM 17. Coastal Coordination Council Report

Mr. Dodier attended a CCC meeting in December and reported on new funding generated by offshore drilling which will be channeled through the General Land Office.

AGENDA ITEM 18. Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19. Public Information/Education Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20. SB503 Program Update

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

AGENDA ITEM 21. Budget and Accounting Report

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

AGENDA ITEM 22. Brush Control Program Update

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information stating the board may need to consider raising the average costs to keep the program viable. He stated he will attend an Invasive Special Council meeting in February.

AGENDA ITEM 23. North Bosque Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) Program Update

Mr. Helton reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24. Dairy Manure Export Support (DMES) Program Update

Mr. Helton reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25. Clean Water Act, §319(h) NPS Grant Program Status Report

Mr. Helton reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26. State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28. Poultry Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran informed the Board that Sanderson Farms is building a plant in Waco which will double the capacity and number of poultry farms in Texas. This will, in turn, mean additional workload for the State Board Poultry Program.

AGENDA ITEM 29. Set Date of Next Board Meeting

The date of the next scheduled board meeting was set as March 22 and 23, 2006.

Mr. Nichols moved that the meeting adjourn, Mr. Ward seconded and the meeting was called adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

