

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 20, 2010

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 20, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. at 1749 Scott Blvd, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman
Barry Mahler, Vice-Chairman
Aubrey Russell, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member
Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Andy Garza, Regional Office Coordinator
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Steve Jones, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
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
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
John Foster, Programs Officer
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager
David Reeves, Database Administrator
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Meredith Whitley, Information Specialist
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Anita Mungia, Accountant
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present were:

Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Sarah Kirkle, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
Leah Campbell, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
Cody York, Pecan Bayou Soil and Water Conservation District

Melissa Grote, Pedernales Soil & Water Conservation District
Adalberto Gonzalez, Agua Poquita Soil and Water Conservation District

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

Date

Date

I 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 20, 2010.

Date

Executive Director

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
January 21, 2010

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on January 21, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. at 1749 Scott Blvd, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

José Dodier, Jr., Chairman
Barry Mahler, Vice-Chairman
Aubrey Russell, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member
Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Andy Garza, Regional Office Coordinator
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Steve Jones, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
John Foster, Programs Officer
Lee Munz, NPS SWCD Liaison
T.J. Helton, NPS Program Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator
Loren Henley, NPS Project Manager
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager
David Reeves, Database Administrator
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Meredith Whitley, Information Specialist
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, HR Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present were:

Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Darren Harmel, United States Department of Agriculture-ARS
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Monica Harris, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Steve Bednarz, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Sarah Kirkle, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
Hector Morales, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission
Cody York, Pecan Bayou Soil and Water Conservation District
Melissa Grote, Pedernales Soil and Water Conservation District
Adalberto Gonzalez, Agua Poquita Soil and Water Conservation District

Chairman Dodier called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

AGENDA ITEM 2: Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the board and commented on Ag Water Conservation Grants and Field Day.

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, spoke about the coordination between our two agencies. Mr. Bohmfalk introduced Ms. Monica Harris as the new liaison that will be replacing him. Mr. Bohmfalk spoke of the Clean Water Act, storm water run-off, the revision of nutrient criteria, and watershed approach.

Monica Harris, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, said that she has been with TCEQ for 11 years, and that she looks forward to our agencies continued relationship.

Mr. Dodier acknowledged Darren Harmel, USDA-ARS, and Sarah Kirkle and Hector Morales, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission.

Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service, thanked Mr. Dodier and Mr. Isom for attending and speaking at the NRCS Employee Meeting. Mr. Gohmert spoke of the Section 1619 Confidentiality, and that more stimulus funds have been requested. Mr. Gohmert stated that the Wetlands Reserve Program has a 50,000 acre goal, and that the National Grazing Lands met in December in Reno, Nevada. Mr. Gohmert thanked our agency for its presence at the State Technical Advisory Committee meetings. Mr. Gohmert reviewed the NRCS January 2010 Activity Report, and reviewed the NRCS calendar of upcoming events.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

AGENDA ITEM 4: Minutes from the November 18-19, 2009 Board Meeting

Chairman Dodier called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18-19, 2009 Board Meeting. Mr. Mahler moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications with the following exceptions: Mr. Allen's being faxed copies and Mr. Wells' Personal Data Sheet is missing. Mr. Jacobs moved the following appointments be approved contingent upon all original paperwork being received in the Temple office. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

James W Guthrie, Smith County SWCD #426, Zone 2, Replace Bill Price
C A Breshears, Upper Nueces Frio SWCD #238, Zone 2, Replace Shasta Tom

Tony DeLuna, Big Bend SWCD #227, Zone 1, Replace Charlie Troxel
David Allen, Hays County SWCD #351, Zone 1, Replace Susie Carter (FAX)
Roger Wells, Sherman County SWCD #159, Zone 2, Replace Tommy Sangster (Missing personal data sheet)

AGENDA ITEM 6: Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the 5% budget reduction request as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahler asked Mr. Zajicek if we should be expecting any further budget reduction requests, and if we know when this reduction would transpire? Mr. Zajicek stated that he was not sure when it would be enacted.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

AGENDA ITEM 7: Consider Approval of Requests for Waiver per 31 TAC §523.6(E)(2)(B),(E)

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Russell moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt, Mr. Conine, and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Currently waiting 30 day comment period. Mr. Jacobs inquired as to whether this \$2.4 million is subject to the 5% reduction. Mr. Foster stated that it is.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols asked Mr. Bednarz, Natural Resources Conservation Service, about their engineering requirements on litter storage. Mr. Bednarz stated that he will check and report back on those requirements.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Wood reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Wood introduced Mr. York, Ms. Grote, and Mr. Gonzalez, who are Soil and Water Conservation District employees that are involved in the program.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Consider Cost Share Practices and Rates for Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer Watershed Enhancement Project

Mr. Wood reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved to accept the practices and rates as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Adopt State Brush Control Plan

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Russell moved to approve the plan as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008; Section 1619 Compliance

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler requested to reiterate to all district directors this confidentiality information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Review Plans for 2010 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Davis stated that the dates are set for October 25-27, 2010 in Lubbock, Texas.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Future Annual State Meetings

Mr. Davis stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Semiannual Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information and stated that this report is available online.

AGENDA ITEM 21: National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 22: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis stated that there is nothing to report at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier commended TSSWCB employees for a great last year of service.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Set a Date for the Next State Board Meeting

Board set the next Board Meeting date as March 17-18, 2010. Location to be determined.

Mr. Nichols moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary

Date

Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on November 19, 2009.

Date

Executive Director