

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD
FEBRUARY 19, 1965

The State Soil Conservation Board met at 8:30 a.m. in the First National Bank Building jointly with the Executive Committee of the Texas Association of Soil Conservation Districts and representatives of the Soil Conservation Service to discuss the proposed cut in appropriation to the Soil Conservation Service and the effect of this action on District programs of soil and water conservation. No further action being taken, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

The State Soil Conservation Board reconvened in their office in the First National Building, Temple, Texas, at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a regular Board meeting.

Board Members present: E. W. Wehman, Chairman, J. C. Porter, J. Frank Gray, J. S. Sharp, and A. F. Leesch.

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, S. E. Jones, Assistant Executive Director and J. M. Norton, Engineer, of the State Board Staff.

The minutes of the December 11, 1964, Board meeting were read and approved.

A new application for assistance under Public Law 566, as amended, on the Kickapoo Creek watershed in the Hood-Parker, Bosque, and Palo Pinto Soil Conservation Districts was reviewed by Norton. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board disapproved the application pending a field examination to determine the feasibility of the proposed project.

A favorable field examination report was given by Norton on the Three Mile and Sulfur Draw watershed at Van Horn in the High Point Soil Conservation District. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. C. Porter, the Board approved the watershed as being economically feasible for project development.

A request from the Rio Grande-Pecos River SCD to change zone boundaries was then

considered by the Board. After hearing a favorable report expressing the need for making such a change together with the projected advantages and benefits, the Board, on motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by A. F. Leesch, approved the change in zone boundaries.

Mr. Davis reviewed a letter from the Soil Conservation Service in which they reported the lack of federal funds to participate in a cost-share program with Texas and Oklahoma to develop Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Work Plans on the Sweetwater Creek Watersheds over and above the regular appropriation for watershed planning. This released \$30,000 in State Funds which had been set aside for planning of the Sweetwater Creek watersheds during 1964 for consideration in planning other watersheds.

Mr. Davis reviewed the action taken by the Board on December 11, 1964, in selecting three watersheds from which only one was to be considered for a planning priority dependent on their financing the work plan development. In this regard, Farmers Creek at Nocona, Montague County, in the Upper Elm-Red Soil Conservation District, raised their funds for planning and Mr. Davis granted a planning priority to this watershed contingent upon their financing the project planning.

Letters were reviewed for the Board from the Bennett Creek watershed and the Aquilla-Hackberry Creek watershed sponsors expressing their interest and encouraging the Board to favorably consider them for a planning priority when the next priorities are set up.

Mr. Davis reviewed the budget recommendation of the Legislative Budget Board for the State Board as being very favorable and granting nearly all amounts requested. Having previously discussed this with the Chairman, it was decided that letters would be submitted to the Chairman of the Senate and House Finance Committees in which the Board expressed that in the interest of saving the time of the Committees

and with the knowledge of their interest and continued support of the State Soil Conservation Board and Soil Conservation Districts over the State, the Board would not appear for its hearing unless requested to do so. The difference between the Governor's Budget recommendations and those of the Legislative Budget Board were discussed.

Water permits issued by the Texas Water Commission on floodwater retarding structures over the State and applications pending were reviewed for the Board by J. M. Norton for their information. Applications for permits from these structures is definitely on the increase as landowners, municipalities and others realize the beneficial uses that can be made of these structures.

Mr. Davis reviewed the recent publication of a "Guide to the Teaching of Conservation in Science and Social Studies for Elementary and Secondary Schools of Texas" by the Texas Education Agency. He discussed the preparation and development of the "Guide" as a teaching outline for use by teachers in preparing their outlines and informational data available on the subjects. A meeting of the Board Staff with Mr. Calvin Hibler was discussed in which groundwork was laid for assisting with workshops for teachers to be held this summer by the individual school systems over the State. The local Soil Conservation Districts will be requested to assist teachers in orientation of programs of soil and water and other natural resource conservation. It is to be emphasized that supervisors encourage the recognition of local problems together with the corresponding treatment and correction. Meetings are presently scheduled over most of the State with Soil Conservation Districts and School officials with representatives of the State Board and Mr. Hibler to review and explain the workshops and the use of the teaching outline and guides and preparatory material for the various phases of natural resource conservation.

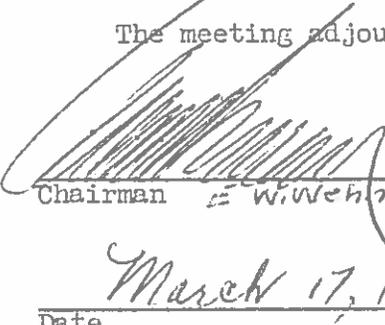
A request for an Outdoor Recreation Inventory on public and private lands

by the NACD was reviewed by Davis for the Board. This information is requested by May 15, 1965. In view of the fact that a tremendous amount of information is called for and since the time of the Board Staff is well scheduled with some of the going programs, it was determined that it would be virtually impossible to assemble the information by the deadline, and a letter would be written to the NACD informing them of this action. Mr. Davis further suggested that the Board contact David Stewart of the NACD office and the Parks and Wildlife Department as well as the Soil Conservation Service in order to coordinate this survey.

The Board was informed that a State Board Member election is scheduled for Zone III on May 4, 1965, at Kenedy, Texas. A program and tour have been planned for the occasion.

The next State Board meeting was discussed and called for March 17 and 18, 1965, at Temple, Texas. One of the items on the agenda will be to review, evaluate, and establish planning priorities on a few watersheds for future work plan development.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.


Chairman *W. W. H. H. H.*


Secretary

March 17, 1965
Date