

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2015

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 3, 2015, at 3:13 p.m. at 20 N IH 35, Austin, Texas.

Board Members present:

Marty H. Graham, Chairman
Scott Buckles, Vice-Chairman
José Dodier, Jr., Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Barry Mahler, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member
Joe Ward, Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project management Coordinator
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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

AGENDA ITEM 7: Facilities Update

Mr. Isom and Mr. Zajicek updated Board Members on leasing options of two additional suites next door to our headquarter suites.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Review Plans for 2015 Annual State Meeting

Planning Committee was discussed to consist of the TSSWCB Chairman, TSSWCB Member from hosting area, ATSWCD President, ATSWCD Member from hosting area, Auxiliary President, District Employee Association, TSSWCB Executive Director, and other staff as needed.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Historical Marker Open House/Ceremony

Mr. Ray handed out copies of Ag Mag with an article about us and our anniversary (pages 12-15).

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



Marty H. Graham, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

May 21, 2015
Date

May 21, 2015
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on March 3, 2015.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

May 21, 2015
Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2015

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 4, 2015, at 8:04 a.m. at 20 N IH 35, Austin, Texas.

Board Members present:

Marty H. Graham, Chairman
Scott Buckles, Vice-Chairman
José Dodier, Jr., Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Barry Mahler, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member
Joe Ward, Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Andrew Lutostanski, Office of Attorney General
Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Volney Hough, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environment Quality
Mindy Conyers, Texas Water Development Board
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Katherine Romans, Hill Country Alliance

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

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

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

Ms. Mindy Conyers, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Ms. Conyers commented on their funding and new Ombudsman.

Mr. Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas commented on proposals, national initiatives, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Initiative, receiving state allocation of \$10.7 million less than previous, 2014 Farm Bill changes, local workgroups at districts, Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Announcements For Proposals (AFP), new partnership concerns, being able to offer landowners a conservation plan for endangered species, 700 vacancies nationwide, new initiative for the Monarch butterfly, Soil Health Initiative, and the upcoming 6th National Conference on Grazing Lands on December 13-16, 2015.

Mr. Buckles presented Mr. Salvador Salinas, National Resource Conservation Service, with a commemorative coin from the State Board Members.

Mr. Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environment Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on the Nonpoint Source Program, the 2014 Annual Report submitted to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Water Quality Standards, and written comments for 2017 Water Quality Standards.

Chairman Graham acknowledged Mr. Andrew Lutostanski, Office of Attorney General.

Ms. Katherine Romans, Hill Country Alliance, addressed the Board. Ms. Romans commented on the Water Supply Enhancement Program meeting in January, and thanked the Board for the job that was done by the staff, and the information that was shared with them.

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

Mr. Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. James thanked the State Board for the help that was given to the Association at the previous day's Conservation District Day at the Capitol. Mr. James stated that approximately 65 directors attended the event, and commented on sponsorships.

Mr. Volney Hough, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. Hough commented on attendance at the National Association of Conservation Districts meeting in New Orleans, and stated that some Association Board Members would be going to Washington DC in a couple weeks.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Improvement Initiative

Mr. Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute, provided a PowerPoint presentation. A question and answer time followed concerning irrigation issues.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of Minutes from Previous State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Graham called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21-22, 2015 Board Meetings.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Marc Traweek, Yoakum #150, Subdivision 5, Replace Vennum Fitzgerald
James F. Ivey, El Paso/Hudspeth #205, Subdivision 2, Replace Mark Grijalva
Sue Whitworth, Kendall #216, Subdivision 2, Replace Burt Seidensticker
Ernest B. Collins, Walker County #453, Subdivision 1, Replace R. D. Hopper
Jason Lee Garlick, Mills County #554, Subdivision 1, Replace Larry Ezell

AGENDA ITEM 7: Facilities Update

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 8: External Funds

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Consider Approval of Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with 31 TAC §523.6(f)(2) Relating to Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Foster stated that there is no information to present at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Consider Approval of Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Foster stated that there is no information to present at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information, and presented a video presentation of a positive news story concerning poultry and named TSSWCB.

Mr. Mahler commented that we need to generate and cultivate relationships with local media.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider Reallocation of Fiscal Year 2015 Grant Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval to de-allocate funds as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Clark stated that there is no information to present at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Review Plans for 2015 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved to name the standard members of the Planning Committee to include the TSSWCB Chairman, TSSWCB Member from hosting area, ATSWCD President, ATSWCD Member from hosting area, Auxiliary President, District Employee Association, TSSWCB Executive Director, and other staff as needed. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Federal "Waters of the U.S." Interpretive Rule

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: State board / USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Lesser Prairie Chicken Initiative

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: National Association of Conservation Districts Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Texas Conservation Awards Program Recognition of Winners

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Historical Marker Open House/Ceremony

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Jacobs moved for the approval of the dates, times, and presentation as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Isom thanked Mr. Gottschalk for a job well done on the District Director/Employee Workshop.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Human Resources Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Graham presented service award plaques to the following staff:

Judy Albus – 15 years

Ms. Ray presented Mr. Isom with birthday cards from staff.

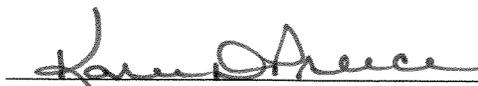
AGENDA ITEM 31: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

May 20-21, 2015 to be held in Temple.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.



Marty H. Graham, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

May 21, 2015

Date

May 21, 2015

Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on March 4, 2015.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

May 21, 2015

Date