

OFFICIAL MINUTES
State Soil Conservation Board
March 5, 1964

The State Soil Conservation Board met in regular session in its office in the First National Building at 8:00 a.m., March 5, 1964, at Temple, Texas.

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

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director and J. M. Norton, Engineer, State Board staff, and C. W. Graham, Assistant State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the January 16, 1964 meeting were read and approved.

An application for assistance under Public Law 566 on the Salado Creek watershed sponsored by the Little River-San Gabriel Soil Conservation District was reviewed and disapproved pending a field examination to determine feasibility on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by E. W. Wehman.

The status of the Arroyo Colorado, Los Fresnos Resaca, Rancho Viejo watersheds in Cameron County was discussed. A letter was read from Judge Dancy, County Judge of Cameron County, stating that the Housing and Home Finance Agency has approved a loan in the amount of \$125,800 to Cameron County to be used in planning these watersheds and that the County would provide an additional \$40,000 for completion of the work plans. Mr. Graham advised the Board that the Soil Conservation Service had approved the Engineering Firm of Lockwood, Andrews, and Newnam to help prepare these work plans in accordance with criteria and work outlines developed by the Service. After much discussion, on motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by J. C. Porter, the Board granted planning priorities on the three Cameron County watersheds with the following conditions: (1) that Cameron County provide funds for watershed planning and work plan development and (2) that prior to finalizing the work plans, the local

sponsors must assure adequate funds for developing and installing the project improvements. The Board also concurred in the Soil Conservation Service's approval of the Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam Engineering Firm to assist with planning.

An amendment to the South Concho River watershed was discussed by Norton. It was the desire of the sponsoring organization to include additional benefited lands in the watershed. It was learned through contact and correspondence that local people are endeavoring to create a Water Control and Improvement District to provide legal and financial means to carry out the project development. It was agreed that the amendment be returned and be resubmitted if necessary after the Water Control and Improvement District has been created and the boundaries can be determined and made to coincide.

Mr. Graham discussed the status of watershed planning. Pine Creek and Upper Bosque River watersheds have been approved and authorized for construction. Planning authorizations have been granted on Duck Creek, Chocolate and Lynns Bayou, and Chicota watersheds. Donahue Creek is about 90% complete on planning. Planning has been initiated on Duck Creek and Castleman Creek watersheds. Attoyac River watershed is well along in planning, but the Soil Conservation Service expects to deplete their planning funds on this watershed prior to completion. Rather than leave it and complete the plan after July 1, on motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board approved the use of \$6,700 of unobligated State funds in watershed planning for completing the Attoyac River watershed work plan. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board also approved the signing of a project agreement on Attoyac River watershed for planning by Chairman J. Frank Gray.

The 1966-67 budget request was discussed by Davis. Due to the increased activity and clerical load, it is necessary that the part time position be requested for full time under the proper classified position. Further it is thought that Supervisors Mileage and Per Diem should be increased to 8¢ per mile and \$10.00 per day. This would require special legislation and the increased amount would not be included

in the State Board's Budget Request. The merits of this were discussed in the light of more participation by supervisors toward promoting an overall conservation program as well as more adequate compensation for their time and efforts. The decrease of Federal Watershed Planning Funds points up the need for more participation by the State in planning small watershed projects. The amount of funds necessary to maintain present facilities will have to be determined for inclusion in the Budget.

Mr. Davis reviewed a petition from Sherman County relative to the creation of a Soil Conservation District and the apparent interest of the local people. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board approved Frank Gray and Harvey Davis to hold a hearing as soon as a suitable date could be arranged.

The financial report of the State Board was reviewed as being in good shape and a favorable report was received from the State Auditors.

Mr. Leesch reported on the meeting of the House Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources. Problems discussed by the Committee were reviewed. The Committee plans to hold public hearings beginning in April. Harvey Davis and Arthur Bading of the Association of Soil Conservation Districts are to review House Bill 444 and other items for possible testimony to Committee.

It was agreed that Harvey Davis and J. M. Norton of the staff would attend the National Watershed Congress at Little Rock, Arkansas, April 26-29, 1964 and any Board Members that could attend. Several watersheds along with Judge J. E. Sturrock are to be submitted for entrees in the Awards Program.

The continuation of Supervisors Training Schools was discussed and dates were set for:

Lufkin - March 7, 1964

Falfurrias - April 22, 1964

Cotulla - April 23, 1964

Mr. Porter reported on a group from Sherman visiting him and discussing Committee work and preparation for the Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District

Supervisors to be held in October. Mr. Davis and Mr. Bading are to contact the people at Sherman on working out plans and arrangements in the near future.

Requests for hearings on Sweetwater Creek and Farmers Creek watersheds were reviewed. May 21 and 22 were tentative dates scheduled for Mr. Davis to affirm with local sponsors.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for May 2, 1964 in Fort Worth at which time the Board will attend the Fort Worth Press Awards Program.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. so that the Board could meet with the Board of Directors of the Association of Soil Conservation Districts and Mr. H. N. Smith.

J. Frank Gray
Chairman

J. M. Norton
Secretary

May 2, 1964
Date

RECEIVED

MAY 19 1964

Dear Sir:

TEXAS STATE
SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated March 5, 1964.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Jim Connally