

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 6, 1963

The State Soil Conservation Board met in regular session in the Sun Valley Motel at 7:00 p.m., March 6, 1963, at Harlingen, Texas.

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

Others present were: H. D. Davis, J. M. Norton and L. F. Stewart of the State Board staff and Clyde Graham and R. H. Hovel representing the Soil Conservation Service and A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts.

Minutes of the January 16, 1963 meeting were read and approved.

A motion was made by E. W. Wehman and seconded by J. C. Porter to disapprove the Upper Navasota River watershed application pending a preliminary survey to determine feasibility. The motion carried.

R. H. Hovel reviewed plans developed by local people for tours and hearings in the Valley watersheds to be held by the State Board on March 7 and 8.

Clyde Graham reviewed the status of the watershed planning parties and stated that the State financed party would be ready to start planning Donahue Creek about July 1, 1963. He also explained a Red River Basin Survey to be undertaken by the Soil Conservation Service and Corps of Engineers with additional federal funds and additional personnel. He also stated that field data could be secured on a Public Law 566 watershed in the Red River Basin Study and with a small amount of additional work and funds, a work plan could be developed. He also stated that Chicota Creek was being considered as the Public Law 566 watershed to be planned and also that Ash Slough might could be worked in.

Harvey Davis presented a letter from Mr. Fred Gilliam, Chairman, of the Chicota Creek WCID stating that a WCID had been formed February 11, 1963 through their Commissioners Court and that arrangements were being made for a bond election. Mr. Gilliam stated that the bond issue would include funds for planning, construction and maintenance and requested the State Board to grant a priority on Chicota Creek.

A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by Frank Gray to grant a priority on Chicota Creek provided:

1. That the planning could be accomplished with personnel other than regular PUBLIC Law 566 planning parties and
2. That the sponsors of the Chicota Creek watershed furnish whatever finances and legal authority that are necessary for the development of the work plan.

The motion carried.

A letter was presented from the sponsors of Williamson Creek offering to pay two-thirds of the cost of a work plan. The Board had no available funds, so the offer was not considered at this time.

A telegram was reviewed from the sponsors of the Running Water Draw watershed requesting the Board to tour and hold hearings in the watershed as soon as possible. The Board directed Harvey Davis to make arrangements for the tour and hearing the latter part of April.

L. F. Stewart presented a request from the Nueces-Frio-Sabinal Soil Conser-District for approximately \$1,500 to help keep their Seed Cleaning Plant in operation. The Board determined that they had no available funds with which to honor such a request.

Since the State Financed Planning Party will begin planning Donahue Creek about July 1, 1963, a motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by E. W. Wehman

to obligate the \$15,500 in the Board's reserve fund for planning in this watershed and also to authorize the Chairman to sign a Project Agreement on Donahue Creek. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Frank Gray and seconded by J. C. Porter to set October 9, 10, and 11, 1963 as the date for the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors to be held in McAllen. The motion carried.

The Board agreed to ask Governor Connally to be the principal speaker at the Annual Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors.

A motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by E. W. Wehman for A. F. Leesch or the Chairman and J. M. Norton to attend the National Watershed Congress to be held in May, 1963, in Philadelphia. The motion carried.

Chairman Leesch reviewed the House Appropriation and Senate Finance Committee Hearings on the State Board's Budget Request during February.

Harvey Davis reported that a Supplement to the Project Agreement on the Upper Bosque Watershed had been executed to extend the time to June 30, 1963. No additional funds were involved but more time was needed to complete the survey.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m. after final plans were made for the Board to tour and hold hearings in eight watersheds covering over a million acres in Cameron, Willacy and Hidalgo Counties on March 7 and 8, 1963.

*A. F. Leesch*  
Chairman

4/24/63  
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated March 6, 1963.

**RECEIVED**

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

MAY 1 - 1963

TEXAS STATE  
SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD  
TEMPLE, TEXAS

Sincerely,  
*John Connally*