

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 12, 1975

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met at 10:15 a.m. on March 12, 1975 in Room 515 of the Stephen F. Austin State Office Building, Austin, Texas.

Board members present were: E. W. Wehman, Chairman; Henry Turney, Vice Chairman; Joe Antilley, Albert Roach, and Frank Gray.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director; John Millican, Assistant Executive Director; Sonny Kretzschmar, Engineer; Josephine Chupik, Office Manager; David Powell, Don Brandenberger, and Mel Davis, Field Representatives of the State Board Staff; Dr. Bill Harris, Land and Water Use Specialist, Extension Service; Ed Thomas, State Conservationist; Logan Crews, Assistant State Conservationist, Watersheds of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the February 25, 1975 meeting were approved as read.

Mr. Thomas reported the Service will be able to do more traveling on this year's budget allocation. Per diem rate will be raised. Forty per cent more per diem money has been allocated.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the sponsors of the Maverick Watershed project requesting the Board to review the project and grant a planning priority at an early date. The sponsors have raised \$20,000.00 as a trust fund for planning. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board requested the Soil Conservation Service to update the cost-benefit ratio on this project before taking any further action.

Logan Crews reported on the status of watershed planning.

Sonny Kretzschmar reported that several watersheds would be ready for public hearings and tours in the near future.

Dr. Bill Harris reported the Extension Service was preparing a report on land use. Questionnaires for informational purposes are being composed with a neutral approach to land use.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved the appointment of Jerry L. Clark as a district director of the Jasper-Newton Soil and Water Conservation District # 441.

Don Brandenberger reviewed proposed zone changes requested by the McLennan Soil and Water Conservation District # 512. The zones originally had been set up on commissioners' precincts, but due to a shift of commissioners' precincts as a result of population equalization, the McLennan district board felt the zones should be more clearly defined by identifiable boundaries. On motion of Henry Turney, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the zone boundary changes.

The Board discussed matching funds for this fiscal year ending August 31, 1975. Eighty-five districts have not claimed any matching funds as of March 10, 1975. The 1975 appropriation is \$403,769.00 of which \$151,446.25 has been expended. Since the provision in the appropriation bill states that 2/3 of this amount has to be expended within the first three quarters of the fiscal year, and since several districts have not claimed, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved releasing funds on a supplement claim to districts who have not claimed the limit of \$3,000 and have money available for supplemental allocation out of the unexpended 2/3 amount. The deadline for claiming supplements out of the 2/3 allocated amount is May 15, 1975. Districts will be allocated 1/3 of their original allocation or less if they have already claimed more than 2/3 of their original amount in the last quarter of the fiscal year ending August 31, 1975.

Mr. Davis reported that Senate Bill #377, sponsored by Senator John

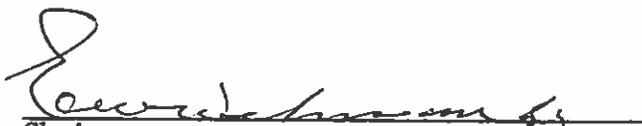
Traeger, increasing the per diem of Board Members to \$30.00 passed the Senate on March 4, 1975 and its counterpart House Bill #1155 sponsored by Representative Jon Newton was referred to the Natural Resources Committee.

The Annual Statewide meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be held on September 23-25, 1975 at the Sheraton-Fort Worth Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas.

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on Friday, May 2, 1975 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sheraton-Fort Worth Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. The State Conservation Awards Program will be held at 7:00 p.m.

The Board discussed a trip to Washington, D.C. in April to make personal contacts with the Texas Congressional delegation on problems effecting Soil and Water Conservation Districts. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Frank Gray, all board members, Harvey Davis and his designees are authorized to make the trip.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. so that the Board could appear at its hearing before the House Appropriations Committee at 2:30 p.m. in Room 300 of the Capitol.

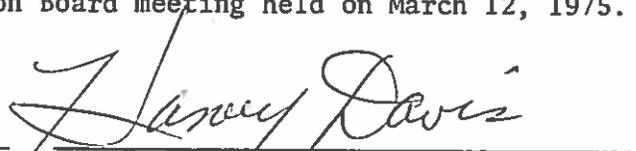

Chairman


Secretary

May 2, 1975
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on March 12, 1975.

May 2, 1975
Date


Executive Director