

**Meeting Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**March 12, 2009**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 12, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at 6000 Middle Fiskville Road, Austin, Texas.

Board Members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Andy Garza, Regional Office Coordinator  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor  
Steve Jones, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist  
Mark Cochran, Program Specialist  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist  
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist  
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer  
John Foster, Programs Officer  
Lee Munz, NPS SWCD Liaison  
T. J. Helton, NPS Program Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator  
Richard Egg, Engineer  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board  
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board  
Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Daren Harmel, USDA - ARS  
Bill Gray, McClellan Creek SWCD

Sabas Cortez, Coastal Plains SWCD

Chairman Nichols called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

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

Daron Harmel, USDA-ARS reported that there was a push to make all funding for agriculture research competitive and explained the problem competitive funding would cause ARS and in turn agriculture as a whole. Mr. Dodier stated his appreciation for ARS assistance with the fever tick program in South Texas.

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality stated TCEQ is working with State Board staff on several projects and issues.

Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board reported on: influx of applications due to the stimulus package, Ag Water Enhancement Program, and the AWEF Program.

Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service reported on: new administration, WRP Program, stimulus package and its impact on the watershed program, new hires and education programs with RC&D districts concerning pipelines crossing private property.

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

Mr. Nichols complimented the Association on their present and upcoming programs.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Minutes from the January 14-15, 2009 Board Meeting**

Chairman Nichols called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14-15, 2009 Board Meeting. Mr. Dodier moved that the minutes be accepted. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: District Director Appointments**

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications. Mr. Jacobs moved the following appointments be approved as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Stevenson, Donley County #127, Zone 4, Replace Donald Williams  
Bobby Fortson, Upshur-Gregg #417, Zone 4, Replace George Wilkins  
Marles Pace, Freestone County #424, Zone 4, Replace Jim Bosley  
Kenny Nerren, Upper Neches #438, Zone 2, Replace Jim Nerren  
Scott Born, Ellis-Prairie #504, Zone 1, Replace Marvin Borders

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Update on Legislative Budget Request**

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Consider Approval of Requests for Waiver per 31 TAC §523.6(e)(2)(E)**

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved the waiver for Bedias Creek SWCD be approved as presented. Mr. Graham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests**

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler moved the Board approve the first deferred request for funding and defer the remaining four requests until the May board meeting. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report**

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Water Supply Enhancement Project FY 2009 Cost Share Rates for the Edwards Aquifer**

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved the Board approve the proposed cost share rates for Edwards Aquifer as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Petition for Inclusion of Additional Territory in Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD #356**

Mr. Davis informed the Board this item will be covered at the May board meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: Consider Dissolution of Maverick SWCD #228 and Chaparal SWCD #240 and Reorganization Creating Maverick County SWCD #253**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved that the State Board determine the dissolution and reorganization to be practicable and feasible, approve the proposed subdivision boundaries of the new district, appoint directors in subdivision two and four of the new district, allocate assets and liabilities of the two districts to the new district, make an allocation of funds to the new district and transfer the cooperative agreements of the two districts to the new district. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: 2009 Annual State Meeting Planning**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Board members instructed Mr. Davis to consider a program for Wednesday morning instead of a tour. Mr. Davis stated he would continue looking into other options.

**AGENDA ITEM 14: State Board Member Elections and Texas Conservation Awards Program**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 15: Legislative Report**

Mr. Davis stated there was nothing to report at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 16: Interim Committee Studies**

Mr. Davis stated there was nothing to report at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 17: National Association of Conservation Districts Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 18: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 19: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Report**

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 20: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Report**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 21: Nonpoint Source Grants Program Report**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 22: Watershed Planning and Implementation Report**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 23: Human Resources Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24: Public Information/Education Report**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

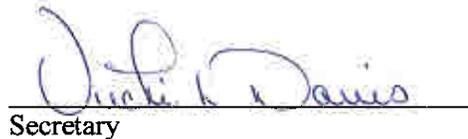
**AGENDA ITEM 25: Set a Date for the Next State Board Meeting**

Board set the next Board meeting date as May 20-21, 2009, in Temple, TX.

Chairman Nichols called the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I 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, 2009.

  
Date

5/21/09  
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Executive Director