

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
MARCH 16, 1967

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the Directors Room, Stephen F. Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas at 9:00 a.m. on March 16, 1967.

Board Members present were: A. F. Leesch, Vice Chairman, Frank Gray, H.W. Turney and E. W. Wehman. J. S. Sharp, Board Chairman was absent due to illness.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director, L. H. Barnes, Engineer, of the State Board staff; L. J. Lann, Assistant State Conservationist, of the Soil Conservation Service; Gilbert Kretzschmar, President, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Ted Crawford and George Czarny of the Continental Casualty Company and Bob Raiford of the Governor's Office.

The minutes of the February 15, 1967 Board meeting were read and approved.

Harvey Davis introduced Ted Crawford and George Czarny of the Continental Casualty Company and briefly reviewed past activities of Soil Conservation Districts wherein at least two districts had sponsored a franchise insurance program with this company, and stated that the State Soil and Water Conservation Board, by official action on November 17, 1966, officially recommended that Soil and Water Conservation Districts not enter this type of activity.

Mr. Crawford advised that they had discontinued activities with Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Texas following the State Board's recommendation. He also stated that they had been invited to Texas to work out an insurance program for district cooperators to be handled by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1965 by Arthur Bading who was then the Executive Director of the Association. This did not materialize and they were then led to believe by Mr. Bading that it would be satisfactory to work out programs with individual Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Harvey Davis advised Mr. Crawford and Mr. Czarny that the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts was not a state agency but that districts were official political subdivisions and when they started working with individual districts the State Board took action.

The Board reiterated that its position would remain firm. Mr. Crawford and Mr. Czarny expressed appreciation for the fairness shown their company by the Board and expressed hope of working with the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts some time in the future.

L.H. Barnes reported on three new watershed applications for assistance under P. L. 566 and presented summary report on North Cuero and Rancho Viejo watershed work plans.

A motion was made by E. W. Wehman and seconded by Frank Gray to disapprove Sabanna River, Delta County and Sandy Creek applications for assistance pending field examinations to determine feasibility. Motion carried.

L. J. Lann reviewed status of watershed planning on P. L. 566 projects and presented detailed summary to each Board Member.

Harvey Davis read a letter from Marvin Emerson, Executive Director, Oklahoma State Soil and Water Conservation Board which proposed a meeting of the Texas and Oklahoma State Soil and Water Conservation Boards, representatives of the Soil Conservation Service from each state and the sponsors of the Sweetwater Creek watershed, which is in both states, to work out an agreement for planning this watershed. A motion was made by E. W. Wehman and seconded by Frank Gray to authorize Harvey Davis to arrange a meeting on Sweetwater Creek with the Oklahoma people and Soil Conservation Service representatives in the later part of April or the first part of May if possible. Motion carried.

Correspondence on Red Deer Creek, Parker County watersheds, Wichita-Pond Creek and Rock Dry Creek was reviewed by Harvey Davis.

The Board discussed the need for additional watershed priorities with L. J. Lann and it was determined that additional priorities would be needed by June 30, 1967. It was agreed that dates for tours and hearings in watersheds that appear to be ready for priority consideration would be set at the next Board meeting.

Harvey Davis discussed problems on navigable streams and the 200 acre-foot limitation on water impounded in the sediment pools of floodwater retarding structures. There seems to be a difference in interpretation of present state requirements previously established during the 1950's pertaining to floodwater retarding structures. It was expressed that the State Board had every intention of operating within state law and Mr. Lann expressed the same intention for Soil Conservation Service; therefore, a motion was made by Frank Gray and seconded by E. W. Wehman for Harvey Davis to arrange a meeting with the Texas Water Rights Commission, Soil Conservation Service, and the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to clarify state laws and interpretations related to impoundment of water. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Henry Turney and seconded by Frank Gray to:

1. Approve new zones for the San Diego-Agua Dulce SWCD and change the name to Nueces-Jim Wells-Kleberg SWCD.
2. Approve new zones for the Canadian River SWCD.
3. Approve new zones for the Palo Duro SWCD.

These changes were necessary because of a transfer of territory involving each of these districts. The motion carried.

Mr. Davis reviewed proposed legislation of interest to the Board.

By mutual consent the 1968 annual meeting place was tables until the next meeting.

A letter from John Hutchison, Director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, was read which advised the Board that the Extension Service was calling a "Texas 4-H Conference on Natural Resources" to be held in July, 1967, and the

need for \$500 for travel expense of the youth. Mr. Hutchison asked if the State Board, State Association, or local districts would like to provide the \$500. Harvey Davis stated that he had written Mr. Hutchison that the State Board had no money that it could legally use for this purpose. The Board did suggest that individual districts might want to sponsor the travel of the youth.

The next State Board meeting was set for 9:00 a.m., April 13, 1967, at Temple, Texas.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

*[Signature]*  
Chairman

*[Signature]*  
Secretary

4-17-67  
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 16, 1967.

4-18-67  
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated March 16, 1967.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*[Signature]*