

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 16, 1988

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, March 16, 1988 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North 5th, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Joe Antilley, Chairman
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Vice Chairman
Fred Squyres, Member
Albert Roach, Member
Hermon Petty, Member

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Jay Kuykendall, Planner

Others present were:

Clyde Hale, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Larry McCasland, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board
Dr. Clarence Richardson, USDA, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. Charles Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Stations

Chairman Antilley called the meeting to order.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Hermon Petty, the minutes of the January 20, 1988 meeting were approved as mailed out to each Board member.

John Millican reviewed information on appointees for district directors for consideration of approval by the Board. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

Neal G. Jernigan, Jr. - Upper Nueces-Frio SWCD # 238
Sanford Meyerson - Fayette SWCD # 341
Bob Jumper - Upper Neches SWCD # 438

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved appointment of Bobby McGough to the Stonewall Soil and Water Conservation

District # 167 contingent upon receipt of a resignation letter from William Gholson.

John Millican reported on the public hearings held in San Saba and Brady on February 16, 1988 relative to the division of the San Saba-Brady Soil and Water Conservation District # 214 and creating the McCulloch SWCD and the San Saba SWCD. Farmers and ranchers made favorable comments.

John Millican presented a petition received February 18, 1988 from the Brazos-Robertson SWCD # 431 to divide, reorganize and create the Brazos County SWCD # 450 and the Robertson County SWCD # 451. Each of the proposed new districts consist of one county. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board accepted the petition and authorized the staff to proceed setting dates for the public hearings.

John Millican reported on future State meeting sites to be considered by the Board for the 1989 and 1990 Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors. Mr. Millican reported on meeting room facilities, lodging availability, and cost involved in rental of convention centers in the cities designated as meeting site preferences at the Board meeting on January 20, 1988. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board designated McAllen as the 1989 Annual meeting site. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board designated Austin as the 1990 Annual meeting site. Preferable dates to be the latter part of October each year.

James Moore presented an application for assistance under P.L. 83-566 on the Seco Creek watershed in Medina, Uvalde and Bandera counties submitted by the Medina Valley, Bandera and Nueces-Frio-Sabinal Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Mr. Moore reviewed the results of a feasibility study on the proposed project which indicated that a feasible project could be developed and recommended that the application be approved. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the application was approved as practicable and feasible for planning.

The Board then instructed the staff to plan a tour and meeting with the local sponsors on the project when the Soil Conservation Service was ready for a planning priority.

James Moore updated the Board on activities relative to the nonpoint source assessment and management program for groundwater and surface water. Mr. Moore informed the Board that upon completion of an in house evaluation, any potential nonpoint source problem areas needing further evaluation would be investigated in the field by the State Board field representative and local soil and water conservation district directors with assistance from SCS District Conservationists.

Harvey Davis and James Moore then discussed a budget estimate requested for the Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf Initiative prepared jointly by SCS and the State Board which had been previously concurred in by Chairman Joe Antilley. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board concurred in the submittal of the estimated budget to EPA.

Harvey Davis then discussed the need for the addition of an Engineer III to the staff to perform work relative to agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution activities. The Board, by consensus, agreed with the need for the position, authorized the staff to include the position in the FY 1990 and 1991 biennium budget request.

James Moore presented a staff report on a Farmland Protection Policy Act referral from the Department of Energy involving the proposed Superconducting Super Collider Research Facility in Ellis County. The report identified 9,289 acres of the site as farmland of statewide importance. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the report was approved.

Joe Antilley turned the meeting over to Harvey Davis, who welcomed the guests and asked if anyone had comments to make.

Comer Tuck reported on Texas Water Development Board participation in the soil and water conservation boy scout workshops and expressed a desire to cooperate with the State Board on the Seco Creek Watershed Project. Mr. Tuck

also indicated that the Water Development Board would be represented at the Lt. Governor's meeting on the status of water programs in Texas scheduled for March 17.

Dr. Allan Jones reported on the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station's capabilities in conservation research and computer modeling and expressed hope for continued cooperation with the State Board and other conservation agencies.

Wes Oneth briefed the Board on the recent meetings between the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Service and soil and water conservation districts regarding implementation of the 1985 Food Security Act. Mr. Oneth told the Board that the special conservation treatment areas set up for Food Security Act implementation would no longer exist since soil and water conservation districts and district conservationists can design any special treatments they feel are needed on highly erodible land and submit them to the Area Conservationist for inclusion in the Field Office Technical Guide. Mr. Oneth then briefed the Board on the expansion of two R C & D areas, withdrawal of five R C & D applications and on a study to be conducted in a 26 county area of the Texas High Plains to evaluate wildlife habitat effects of the Conservation Reserve Program. Mr. Oneth then updated the Board on the current CRP sign-up, and discussed the recent accidental deaths stemming from a controlled burn near Breckenridge.

Clyde Hale reported on recently held area association meetings, the soil and water stewardship week proclamation, the upcoming NACD board meeting, and expressed concern over Food Security Act impacts on funding for traditional conservation programs.

Bob Buckley reported to the Board that Technical Assistance funds for FY 1988 in the amount of \$8,025.00 had been released by SWCDs to be re-allocated to other districts requesting additional Technical Assistance funds.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the board re-allocated

funds to the same State District Area in which funds were released and authorized the Board member in each area to re-allocate any additional technical assistance funds which may be released for FY 1988.

The following district received re-allocated Technical Assistance funds for FY 1988:

Upper Llanos SWCD # 225	\$2,000.00
Runnels SWCD # 232	2,000.00
Middle Concho SWCD # 234	1,000.00
Howard SWCD # 243	2,000.00
Nolan SWCD # 245	525.00
Wood SWCD # 444	500.00
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	\$8,025.00

Harvey Davis informed the Board that it is time to discuss items for consideration in the 1990-1991 biennium budget request.

The Board agreed on the following changes to be considered in preparation of the 1990-1991 biennium budget request:

- (1) Administration - Item 1 - Transfer position of Director of Programs - Group 20 - Class 1557 from Item 4 - Watershed Planning, Sedimentation & Erosion Control & Water Quality Planning.
 - Increase the number of days per board member from 60 to 75 in per diem.
 - Request funding for position of Administrative Technician II.
 - Increase contingent funds due to postal rate increase.
- (2) Field Services - leave district director per diem at \$20.00.
 - Increase contingent funds due to postal rate increase.
- (3) Conservation Assistance - submit amount requested by Soil & Water Conservation districts.
- (4) Watershed Planning, Sedimentation & Erosion Control & Water Quality Planning - transfer position of Director of Programs to Item 1 - Administration.
 - Add Group 19 position of Engineer III.
 - Increase contingent funds due to postal rate increase.

- (5) Technical Assistance - submit amount requested by Soil & Water Conservation Districts.
- (6) Request a 5% salary increase for all staff members and the Executive Director.
- (7) Include a recommendation in the general statement that per diem of board members be increased from \$30.00 to \$50.00 and actual expense limitation of \$75.00 per day to \$125.00 per day.

- Wording is to be changed for clarification in riders 4 and 8 in the present appropriation bill for the 1990-1991 fiscal years.

The 1990-1991 budget request will be considered for final approval in the May Board meeting. Final date of submission is June, 1988.

Harvey Davis reported on meetings held relative to House Concurrent Resolution 36, passed by the 70th Legislature, 1987 relative to the reorganization of State government. A meeting was held by the subcommittee on February 25 and the full committee met on March 10 which was attended by Chairman Antilley and Vice Chairman Schendel. No proposal for change affecting the Board has been made up to this date.

Clyde Gottschalk updated the Board on information and education activities. Mr. Gottschalk reported on the status of a proposal for a documentary on shoreline erosion that the state shoreline erosion committee had requested. Mr. Gottschalk briefed the Board on cooperative efforts with the Texas Education Agency relative to a conservation education project regarding the food production chain being developed in conjunction with Project Learning Tree and Project Wild. Mr. Gottschalk then gave a status report on the Forestry Management Video, the upcoming Conservation Tillage Video, development of new radio public service announcements, and planned Boy Scout Conservation Education Workshops.

Mel Davis reported on the Area Conservation Awards Programs and Board Member elections that are scheduled as follows:

- Area I May 6, 1988 - West Texas University, Canyon
- Area II May 3, 1988 - Angelo State University, San Angelo
(Board Member Election at 6:00 p.m.)

Area III May 10, 1988 - Bee County Coliseum, Beeville

Area IV May 3, 1988 - Stephen F. Austin University, Nacogdoches
(Board Member Election at 5:00 p.m.)

Area V May 2, 1988 - Holiday Hills Country Club, Mineral Wells

A discussion was held on any changes in this program relative to entries, categories, etc. The Board agreed to postpone action until field personnel had an opportunity to present any changes after reviewing rules and guidelines. These changes will be considered by the Board in its May Board meeting.

Harvey Davis informed the Board that he and Clyde Hale would be attending the spring board meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts in Washington, D. C. on April 10-13, 1988. While in Washington contacts will be made with several congressional members in regards to conservation programs.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held in the Nacogdoches area as per invitation of Dr. Kent Adair, Dean, School of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin University. The tentative date is set for Wednesday, May 25, 1988.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Joe O'Reilly
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

May 25, 1988
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 16, 1988.

May 25, 1988
Date

Harvey Davis
Executive Director