

**Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**March 16, 1994**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 16, 1994, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Albert Evans, Chairman  
Paul Robertson, Vice Chairman  
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Member  
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member  
Harvey Davis, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director  
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director  
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director  
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director  
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director  
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information/Education Director  
Steve Jones, Dublin Office Regional Manager  
Beade Northcut, Engineer  
Bo Spoons, Director of Programs  
Maria Pinto, Hydrologist  
Mahendra Mohite, Research Specialist  
Lois Cain, Administrative Technician

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Gary Westmoreland, Soil Conservation Service  
Virgil Helms, Soil Conservation Service

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes from the February 23, 1994 board meeting were approved as amended. Motion carried.

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration and advised the Board that the appointments appeared

to be in order. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Paul Robertson, the following district director appointments were approved:

Larry B. Berry, Oldham County SWCD #153  
Freddie Dreibrodt, Comal-Guadalupe SWCD #306  
Scott Brauchle, Winter Garden SWCD #326

Bill Neiser discussed the Fiscal Year 1994 Expenditure Report for the six-month period ending February 28, 1994. Paul Robertson raised the question if funds were available in the nonpoint source strategy could they possibly be made available to districts to promote nonpoint source. Mr. Buckley said the staff would check into this and see what could be done.

Mr. Neiser updated the Board on the status of District Financial Statements. There are a few corrections still coming in and field staff has been making contacts to get the remaining problems cleared up. He said one district has not turned in a financial statement and matching funds were being withheld until the financial statement is in and approved.

Bill Neiser discussed Fiscal Year 1994 proposed operating budget adjustments and explained the reductions required by the Riders in Article V, Section 153 and 160. Total suggested reduction under travel in Section 153 is \$26,954 and under retirement in Section 160 is \$28,714. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the operating budget was amended to reflect these reductions. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser passed out the current Strategic Plan for the State Board and discussed the need for it to be updated for the

next six-year period. He also provided a copy of a letter signed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House advising all agencies to hold the line on their 1996-1997 budget requests. He advised the Board the updated Strategic Plan is due in Austin on June 1, 1994 and asked the Board for their guidance on changes to be incorporated. The Board indicated it would like to see an increase in funding for districts and encourage districts to work harder on their responsibilities to educate farmers and ranchers on present programs.

Mr. Neiser reported on the Technical Assistance Program and provided a list of districts that have already received 100% of their technical assistance allocation. He said second quarter reports are due by March 31, 1994.

Clyde Gottschalk briefed the Board on the progress of the Cen-Tex Ag Tour to be held on May 19, 1994. He discussed a revised budget for the tour and said he hoped expenses would be covered by contributions from Central Texas financial institutions. There will be a noon meal served at Pace Park in Salado for those on the tour.

Mr. Gottschalk discussed a reference guide being compiled for each soil and water conservation district and SCS area offices to help explain the Senate Bill 503 process to landowners. Each guide will be a three-ring binder so it can be updated easily and will include the cost share rules as part of the reference guide when they are finalized. He told the Board the schedule of summer seminars has been completed for this summer and he hopes to

establish some future seminars for East Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The Public Information/Education Committee met recently and voted to purchase additional videos for the video library to be used by soil and water conservation districts. Mr. Gottschalk said the video library has really been an asset.

Randy Jones provided the Board an update of hiring activity since September 1, 1993. He introduced Mohendra Mohite, Research Specialist II who reported to work on March 1, 1994 and said interviews were being conducted for a Director of Programs for the Temple headquarters office and regional managers for Hale Center and Northeast Texas.

Gary Westmoreland from the Soil Conservation Service discussed their PL-566 planning procedure which is an ecosystem based approach to watershed planning. He said the term "natural resource plan" is a new term in the national watershed manual. He then discussed the steps in development of a PL-566 application process and the steps in development of a natural resource plan. Mr. Westmoreland proposed for SCS to provide the State Board copies of all natural resources plans for State Board review and comment after they have done a preliminary investigation. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board voted to support the proposal as presented and to let State Board staff work out plans for involvement to be presented to the Board. Motion carried.

Wes Oneth reported to the Board on SCS activities and advised the Board he would not be able to attend the Annual Statewide

Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in Austin on September 26-28, 1994. He discussed a meeting to be held on April 21st of people representing agencies and groups interested in forming a Crop Residue Management Alliance. The meeting is being chaired by Virgil Helms from the Soil Conservation Service and requested the assistance of the State Board to co-chair this alliance. The purpose of this alliance is to broaden the concept of crop residue management. Mr. Oneth then updated the Board on the watershed program saying designs have been completed for three dams on the Trinity River. He also said a new design, first in the nation, for using roller compacted concrete in a watershed dam is being used in Cook Slough in Uvalde. He also advised the Board the Texas meeting for R C & Ds is being held April 19-20 in Abilene. Mr. Oneth then provided the Board members documentation on voice mail and said the State Board and Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors had been added to the SCS voice mail system. He told the Board that Texas was the first state in the nation to install this system. The Board then considered again the request on co-chairing the Crop Residue Management Alliance. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board agreed to support the alliance and details are to be worked out by the Board Chairman with the Executive Director. Motion carried.

Mr. Oneth updated the Board on cultural resources in Texas and said he has arrived at a verbal agreement with SHPO where their representatives will not accompany SCS employees on 5% spot checks

in the field.

James Moore discussed the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) meeting that he, Buddy Clark and Mel Davis attended on January 20, 1994. The Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts agreed to serve as temporary chair while a coalition is formed. The purpose of the initiative is to enhance conservation of grazing lands. Mr. Buckley asked if the State Board should become a member of the GLCI coalition. He said it falls in line with the mission of the agency. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board decided to become active participants and join the GLCI coalition. Motion carried.

Bob Buckley updated the Board on the latest activities relative to the reorganization of USDA. Mr. Oneth reported on a recent meeting he had with Congressman Charles Stenholm. He also informed the Board the Temple mayor and other city officials had met with Mr. Stenholm concerning the omission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service from HR 3171. It was felt that Congressman Stenholm would include wording in the bill that will make sure the Natural Resources Conservation Service is not omitted.

James Moore discussed the Fiscal Year 1994 319 Grant Program and presented information on grants anticipated to be received from EPA. He reported that April 1st is the deadline to get final workplans back to EPA and that all proposals were on schedule.

Mr. Moore briefed the Board on the status of nonpoint source management plan revision. He indicated that EPA comments were

being addressed and that the tentative date of April 4th is scheduled for re-submittal to EPA for final approval.

James Moore updated the Board on the status of implementation of Senate Bill 503. He said several inquiries have been received from across the state concerning confined animal feeding operations. Mr. Buckley discussed a meeting he had with the staff of the Speaker's office, Lt. Governor's office and Governor's office concerning the status of Senate Bill 503 implementation. He said he had received a call from the Speaker's office indicating they are satisfied with the progress and level of effort thus far.

James Moore discussed the status of the draft Cost Share Rules. He said they were published in the March 15th edition of the Texas Register as proposed rules and are currently being reproduced to be mailed to each soil and water conservation district. The comment period will end on April 15th and then work on the final rules will begin.

Beade Northcut reviewed staff efforts to determine acceptable criteria for water quality management plans. He discussed the SCS Field Office Technical Guide and reported that the staff recommended it as the basic criteria for water quality management plans. He said each Tech Guide fits the area of the state it covers and is referred to as being acceptable by EPA and the Coastal Zone Management Program. He recommended to the Board that the Tech Guide be adopted as it currently exists in each field office as the technical criteria for the water quality management program recognizing that the agency had existing means for seeking

change if such became necessary. Paul Robertson moved to adopt staff recommendations. Dick Schendel seconded. Motion carried.

James Moore discussed identification of areas in the state for Senate Bill 503 implementation. He recommended the Board identify all watersheds in the state for concentrated animal feeding operations. He discussed areas of concern in Canadian River Watershed, Lake Meredith Watershed, Lake Fork Creek Watershed, Upper Leon River Watershed, North Bosque River Watershed, Nolan River Watershed, North Fork Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River Watershed, Buffalo Springs Lake Watershed and Lake Ransom Canyon Watershed. He also discussed 15 counties in the High Plains area which included Andrews, Briscoe, Dawson, Gaines, Garza, Hockley, Howard, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Potter, Swisher, Terry and Yoakum Counties. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson the Board identified and gave priority status to all watersheds statewide for confined animal feeding operations for the above listed 9 watersheds and for the 15 counties with groundwater quality concerns. Motion carried.

Bob Buckley discussed the status of the State Board regional office in Mt. Pleasant. The low bid approved by the General Services Commission has been rejected by the State Board. Mr. Buckley asked the Board for authority to look for possible sites in Titus or Hopkins Counties for regional office space if something couldn't be worked out with the General Services Commission on the Mt. Pleasant location. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Executive Director was given authority to

investigate possible locations in Titus and Hopkins Counties. Motion carried. Mr. Buckley and James Moore presented information on two additional regional office locations for Fiscal Year 1995. After some discussion and on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board voted to investigate possible sites in Matagorda, Wharton, Fort Bend, Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. Motion carried.

James Moore discussed the status of the Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). The Board was informed that proposed rules had been obtained and sent to the District Coastal Zone policy committee and each Board member. James Moore said the State Board is mentioned in the CZMP rules because of their authority relative to Senate Bill 503. Mr. Moore advised the Board the General Land Office has requested a letter from the State Board endorsing this plan. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board authorized the staff to send a letter endorsing only the portion that regards the State Board's agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source program that is incorporated into the CZMP. Motion carried.

Mr. Moore updated the Board on the Clean Water Act Reauthorization. He expects action to begin on the bill after the Easter recess of Congress.

Board member elections for State Districts Two and Four to be held on May 3, 1994 were discussed. In State District Two the election will be held at the Houston Harte University Center in Room 204, Angelo State University, San Angelo at 6:00 p.m. The

State District Four election will be held in Lufkin in Room 209 of the Science Building, Angelina College at 5:30 p.m. The Board members were provided a checklist of delegates received as of March 15, 1994.

Each Board member was provided a six-month travel report ending February 28, 1994.

After some discussion it was the consensus of the Board to schedule the next Board meeting on April 29, 1994 at 1:00 p.m. in Lubbock.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Albert Evans  
Chairman

Lois J. Cain  
Secretary

4-29-94  
Date

I certify that the above is true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 16, 1994.

5-2-94  
Date

Robert H. Buckley  
Executive Director