

Minutes
Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
March 17, 1993

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 17, 1993, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs
James M. Moore, Engineer
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Stephen Deiss, Planner
Ramesh Chamala, Research Specialist
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agriculture Research Service
Atlan Pfluger, Texas Water Development Board
Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
John Earl Smith, Association of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the minutes of the January 20, 1993 board meeting were approved as mailed.

John Millican presented district director appointments for consideration. He advised the Board all appointments appeared in order

and recommended they be approved. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Buddy Clark, the following appointments were approved:

Ted Crenwelge, Upper Colorado SWCD #115
Sara Wieck, Palo Duro SWCD #147
K. D. McNabb, Lower Pease River SWCD #162
Larry Skloss, Hidalgo SWCD #350
Marshall M. Wilbanks, Sulphur-Cypress SWCD #419

Bill Neiser advised the Board on the status of district audits. He said 30 audits were still in the process of being cleared up. Mr. Neiser complimented the State Board field staff for their hard work in getting these audits cleared up and into the state office.

Bill Neiser also reviewed the Fiscal Year 1993 Expenditure Report ending February 28, 1993, that was provided each Board member.

Mr. Neiser advised the Board of the results of the technical assistance survey concerning the fiscal year 1993 technical assistance allocations. There was \$245.12 returned for reallocation and this will be used for supplemental funds at the end of the fiscal year. A letter from Hopkins-Rains Soil and Water Conservation District requesting additional funds was discussed but funds are not available.

Mr. Neiser informed the Board that beginning September 1, 1993, all state agencies will be required to begin using the Uniform Statewide Accounting System. The State Board has served as a pilot agency for this system. Mr. Neiser told the Board this should be a sizeable time saver in getting people paid, but he expects many "bugs" initially.

Bob Buckley reported on the status of the Legislative Appropriation Request. The Senate Finance Committee's appropriation bill has passed the Senate and the House is in mark-up on their bill. Mr. Neiser discussed a Legislative Budget Board rider which would require 80%

payments to districts of their technical assistance and matching fund allocations at the beginning of the fiscal year. He asked the Board for suggestions for rules that will need to be written. He advised the Board that rules would need to be in draft form by the May board meeting so they would be ready by September 1st. Chairman Schendel suggested the staff make recommendations and requested Board members to review rules that are currently in place.

Mr. Buckley discussed Senate Bills 502 and 503 concerning State Board programs. He advised the Board that no opposition is expected on these bills. Mel Davis provided tracking sheets of bills in the Legislature and discussed various bills of interest to soil and water conservation districts and the State Board.

Bob Buckley discussed the Public Information/Education report since Clyde Gottschalk, the State Board Information Specialist, was conducting a Boy Scout workshop. Mr. Buckley advised the Board there would be a Farmer-Stockman Agriculture Exposition to be held in Lubbock, October 12-14, 1993, that would have demonstration plots, farm equipment, conservation practices and agricultural booths. Mr. Gottschalk has been coordinating efforts for the State Board and districts to possibly rent two spaces along with the Soil Conservation Service and was requesting guidance from the State Board. It was the consensus of the Board to support this project.

Wes Oneth reported on the USDA reorganization and discussed the possibility of sending proposed legislation by Congressman Glenn English to districts. He said this bill would modernize the Soil Conservation Service. It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter co-signed

by the State Board and SCS to each district chairman concerning this proposed legislation. Mr. Oneth also advised the Board the Texas Association of RC&D Conference would be held in April at the YO Ranch in Kerrville.

Dr. Allan Jones said the Texas Agricultural Extension Service was working closely with ARS and SCS on a national project to model water resources of the United States and invited the State Board to work closely and utilize this project in any way. He said there was much interest from the national and state level from river authorities.

Atlan Pfluger told the Board that the Texas Water Development Board would meet April 15th and consider grants to soil and water conservation districts and others.

Dr. Clarence Richardson from the Agriculture Research Service also discussed the model water resources project as Dr. Jones.

Mel Davis discussed the Conservation Awards Program. He provided the Board a letter from the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District which suggested a new category to be added in the future for "Limited Resource Conservationist." The Board took this under advisement.

Board member elections were discussed by John Millican. Elections for State District I, III, and V will be held May 4, 1993 in the following locations:

Area I - Plainview, Wayland Baptist University
Area III - Port Lavaca, Bauer Community Center
Area V - Stephenville, Stephenville High School

James Moore brought the Board up to date on the nonpoint source program. The closing out of on-going projects is coming due in August.

The revision and printing of the NPS Management Program will move along quickly. He also said the rice BMP demonstration projects in Matagorda, Colorado and Wharton Counties are on schedule. A revised workplan on the upcoming project on Arroyo Colorado in the Lower Rio Grande Valley to be submitted to EPA soon was also discussed by Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore discussed the list of proposed projects submitted to EPA by the Texas Water Commission for fiscal year 1993 319 funding. Only one project submitted by the State Board went forward. Mr. Moore advised the Board there were four late proposals ready if the process opened up for other projects. Region 6 EPA will meet on April 16 to discuss use of 1993 funding.

James Moore provided the Board with a summary sheet of requirements of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendment of 1990 relating to agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution and discussed it in detail. He said the State Board is on the Coastal Management State Agency Task Force. Mr. Moore discussed the General Land Office's CMP boundary alternatives and said GLO will soon have the final decision made on what the coastal zone boundary proposal will be.

Mr. Moore advised the Board of a meeting the State Board, Soil Conservation Service and Texas Agricultural Extension Service had with the Texas Farm Bureau concerning an environmental questionnaire the Farm Bureau had mailed to their directors. Not many responses had been received to the questionnaire in some locations and Mr. Moore felt the Farm Bureau would ask for help in getting these questionnaires completed and returned.

James Moore told the Board there would be a lot of Senate Bill 818

activities this year involving agriculture. He said the Lower Colorado River Authority wants the State Board to participate in one project as lead agency for agricultural nonpoint source management and wants a letter from the State Board supporting their project. It was the consensus of the Board to cooperate on the project.

Mr. Moore discussed a meeting relative to a proposed cooperative effort on wetlands with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He said a meeting has been set for March 23 with Fish and Wildlife personnel to discuss a possible Memorandum of Understanding to work with districts on a cost-share program for establishing wetlands on private property for wildlife purposes.

A brief update was given on a wetland demonstration project on Snake Creek Watershed in Fort Bend County. The project is going well and is on schedule. Mr. Moore advised the Board that this is a project to promote voluntary conservation of wetlands.

Dick Schendel reported that Tom Manison would be attending the Galveston Bay National Estuary meeting which is scheduled for March 19 and 20.

Beade Northcut provided the Board with an updated report on activities in the PL 83-566 watershed program.

Chairman Schendel was granted approval to travel to Washington, D.C. on March 27-30 for the National Association of Conservation Districts' Spring Board meeting. Bill Neiser discussed a memorandum from the General Services Commission concerning the use of state credit cards and provided each Board member a travel expense report. The Board was also provided information on a conference of the Ethics Committee

for Board members and agency heads set for April 6, 1993.

Location and date of the next regular Board meeting will be May 19, 1993 at 1:00 p.m. in the Kenedy City Hall Auditorium in Kenedy, Texas. The Board will attend the dam dedication on May 20, 1993 on Site 9A of Ecleto Creek Watershed near Kenedy.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Clarence J. Schendel
Chairman

Louis J. Cain
Secretary

5-19-93
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 17, 1993.

5-19-93
Date

Robert H. Buckley
Executive Director