

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
March 18, 1987

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, March 18, 1987 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North 5th, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director  
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
James Moore, Engineer  
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs  
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor  
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Jay Kuykendall, Planner  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist  
Bill Reece, Soil Conservationist  
Bob Gruner, Soil Conservationist  
Moe Seidensticker, Soil Conservationist  
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist  
Joe McKay, Soil Conservationist  
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist  
Dub Crumley, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Waldo Smith, President, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation  
Dr. B. L. Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service /Districts  
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board  
John C. O'Toole, Blackland Research Center  
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service  
Pat Henson, Soil Conservation Service

Chairman Roach called the meeting to order.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes of the January 21, 1987 board meeting were approved as mailed out to each Board Member.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

Oliver Hahn - Mason County SWCD # 223  
William Keith 'Mo' Morrow - Big Bend SWCD # 227  
Earl W. Acton - Crockett SWCD # 235  
F. A. Kubosh - Matagorda County SWCD # 316  
Jim Tom Roddy - Dalworth SWCD # 519

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the appointment of Joe Weddle, Jr. to the Hopkins-Rains Soil and Water Conservation District # 445 contingent upon receipt of form TSSCB-49 "Approval Request" and form TSSCB-50 "Personal Data".

Bob Buckley presented a request from the Lavaca SWCD # 334 for an additional allocation of \$2,000.00 in Conservation Assistance funds for FY 1987. Due to the Board's position not to make special allocations of conservation assistance funds until August unless a special need exists, and the financial condition of this district not indicating such a need, on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board agreed that a special need did not exist at this time and declined to grant an additional allocation to the Lavaca SWCD. Supplemental allocations will be considered in August.

Bob Buckley also presented a request for conservation assistance funds and technical assistance funds in any amount that might be available to the Chaparral SWCD # 240. This district has never requested an allocation of funds but is interested in initiating several activities at this time. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board allocated \$1,500.00 in conservation assistance to the Chaparral SWCD # 240 for fiscal year ending August 31, 1987. Due to the limited availability of Technical Assistance funds and pressing needs of districts currently participating in the program, the Board declined allocation of Technical Assistance funds to the Chaparral District. The Chaparral SWCD will be considered at a later date for Technical Assistance funds should funds become available.

James Moore briefed the Board on the status of a proposed amendment to Section 519.9 of the Board Rules governing the Technical Assistance program approved at the January 21, 1987 Board meeting and published in the February 6, 1987 issue of the Texas Register. Mr. Moore explained that the public comment period ended on March 9, 1987 and since no comments had been received, recommended that the Board adopt the rule. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the rule was adopted as part of the agency's permanent rules.

Bob Buckley informed the Board that Soil & Water Conservation Districts were surveyed since the January 21 meeting to determine re-allocation of technical assistance funds for FY 1987. Since the Lavaca SWCD # 334 did not respond to the survey, had terminated employment of the district technician and had indicated to representatives of the State Board they did not intend to use the balance of their technical assistance allocation, on motion of Dick Schendel seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board rescinded the balance of Lavaca Districts' allocation of technical assistance funds in the amount of \$3,660.00. These funds will be re-allocated to other districts.

Results of the survey indicate technical assistance funds available for re-allocation to districts amount to \$25,328.00 for FY 1987. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board agreed to apportion \$5,065.60 to each of the 5 areas in the State for re-allocation to districts later in this meeting.

The staff presented a review of technical assistance needs by districts with projected water supply shortages, major irrigated areas and sediment contributions potentially affecting water supplies. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved the districts affected by one or more of the water conservation related concerns as approved areas under Section 521.5 of the rules governing technical assistance under Subchapter H of the Agriculture Code.

After consideration of the information presented by the staff, on motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board agreed to apportion funding available under Subchapter H, Agriculture Code, according to the following table for allocation to individual soil and water conservation districts later in the meeting:

Area I	29.4%	\$15,393.21	
Area II	17.6%	9,214.98	
Area III	24.5%	12,827.68	
Area IV	9.4%	4,921.64	
Area V	19.1%	10,000.35	
	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$52,357.86</u>	total

Bob Buckley explained discrepancies in soil and water conservation district audits for the biennium ending 8-31-86. In compliance with Senate Bill 1, Article V, Section 31, Acts of the 69th Legislature, documentation of action dealing with exceptions noted in audits of SWCDs must be provided to the State Auditor, Legislative Audit Committee, Legislative Budget Board, and the Governor's Office. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved the report on twenty-three districts with exceptions. (copy attached)

Harvey Davis briefed the Board on the 1988-89 budget request. Testimony has been presented before the Senate Finance Committee and the House Agriculture Budget & Oversight Committee recently. Mr. Davis explained the Governor's proposal for the 1988-89 biennium budget. The proposal cuts \$720,000 in funds based on the 1987 FY appropriation.

Dale Fischgrabe reported that Coy Garrett was attending a meeting of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association at Corpus Christi and would be going to the South Texas Plant Materials Center next. Mr. Fischgrabe reported that the recision affecting R C & D, Great Plains Conservation Program and Watershed Construction had ended March 15, gave a brief report on watershed activities, reported that the Nacona and Bowie field offices will be combined as soon as possible and indicated that the Fredericksburg Area Office will be

closed April 12. Mr. Fischgrabe then updated the Board on activities relative to the 1985 Food Security Act.

Pat Henson told the Board that another CRP sign-up will be held during the last two weeks of July and updated the Board on the level of participation in the program in Texas. Mr. Henson then reported on efforts to develop alternative technical guides in special problem areas where obtaining erosion rates at or below the T value would not be economically feasible, and requested a meeting with the State Board or staff during April 1, 2 or 3 to review the alternatives. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate for SCS to meet with the staff. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to take care of the meeting.

Harvey Davis reviewed a paper presented by Galen S. Bridge, Deputy Chief for Programs, SCS, Washington, D. C. dated February 1, 1987, at Reno, Nevada, which states that SCS nondiscrimination policy directs state conservationists to take appropriate action to promote equal representation by women and minorities on local program boards, councils, and committees in at least, approximately, equal proportion to the degree such persons participate in, or are impacted by, the purpose of the boards, councils, or committees. Mr. Davis expressed objection to any attempt by a federal agency to influence the election of local district directors. The Board concurred with Mr. Davis's objections. Mr. Davis informed the Board that Dave Stewart had resigned from NACD effective August 31.

Bill Harris briefed the Board on recent Extension Service activities relative to the 1985 Food Security Act and reported that new demonstration projects were being initiated to demonstrate the practices required to meet the cross compliance provisions of the Act in the southern high plains area. Dr. Harris indicated that the revisions to the Memorandum of Understanding between Texas A & M University and the State Board and Districts were undergoing review.

Comer Tuck explained the changes to the Grants for Equipment Purchases and Pilot Loan programs contained in S.B. 410 and indicated that the bill was currently being considered by the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Tuck then explained a Water Development Board request for funding from the Oil Overcharge Committee for the purchase equipment and hiring of appropriate people to evaluate irrigation efficiency.

Jay Kuykendall informed the Board that revisions had been made to the Brush Control plan pursuant to SB 1083 subsequent to the public hearing and Board meeting on January 21. No other comments have been received. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board adopted the plan.

James Moore briefed the Board on activities relative to the agency's responsibilities for agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint pollution, and explained the provisions of the Water Quality Act of 1987 that affect the agency including possible funding for nonpoint activities. By consensus, the Board agreed that the staff should pursue the programs authorized by the Act that may help fulfill the State Board's responsibilities relative to agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint source pollution.

The Board was provided with information pertaining to the creation of underground water conservation districts.

John Millican briefed the Board on the Area Conservation Awards Programs. The Ochiltree Soil and Water Conservation District # 142 suggested that judging of entries be done outside of the area eliminating biasness, slides be shown of winner only and not the runner up and that area awards be presented at local programs for better news media coverage. No official action taken on the suggestions.

The Area Conservation Awards Programs are scheduled as follows:

Area I	May 5, 1987	- Texas Tech University - Lubbock
Area II	May 7, 1987	- Angelo State University - San Angelo
Area III	May 5, 1987	- Yoakum Community Center - Yoakum
Area IV	May 5, 1987	- Stephen F. Austin University - Nacogdoches
Area V	May 5, 1987	- Stephenville High School - Stephenville

Harvey Davis discussed upcoming legislation affecting the Board and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Legislation has been introduced on surface mining and sales tax exemption on certain items used by Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Dick Schendel briefed the Board on a recent meeting with Congressman Kika de la Garza over concerns about the continuous expansion of programs for protection of wetlands held in McAllen on February 20.

Hermon Petty gave a report on his trip to Washington, D. C. with Buddy Clark of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts during which several members of the Texas Congressional delegation and others were contacted relative to concerns about the apparent expansion of wetland protection programs.

Chairman Roach discussed State Board travel policy. No recommendations for change were made.

Per telephone call during the meeting from the Red River County Soil and Water Conservation District # 423, an appointment of Charles VanDeaver as director was considered. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved the appointment contingent upon receipt of form TSSCB-49 "Approval Request" and TSSCB-50 "Personal Data".

The following meetings were announced:

April 6-8, 1987	-	NACD Board meeting - Washington, D. C.
April 22 & 23, 1987	-	Southern Soil Conservation Administrators and State Conservationists - Nashville, Tennessee
July 1 & 2, 1987	-	Conservation Tillage Conference "Today and Tomorrow" College Station, Texas

The Board discussed the distribution of technical assistance funds and Subchapter H funds for FY 1987. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board allocated these funds to districts as per attached.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday,

May 20, 1987.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Albert Roach  
Chairman

Josephine Chupik  
Secretary

May 14, 1987  
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 18, 1987.

May 14, 1987  
Date

Lawrence Davis  
Executive Director