

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 18, 1992

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, March 18, 1992 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Harvey Davis, Chairman
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Vice Chairman
Joe Antilley, Member
Paul Robertson, Member
Albert Evans, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs
James M. Moore, Engineer
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Stephen Deiss, Planner
Janet Gonser, Planner
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

James Abbott, Soil Conservation Service
Atlan Pfluger, Texas Water Development Board
Don Cook, General Land Office
Mike Holt, Association of Texas SWCDs

Harvey Davis called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Evans, the minutes of the February 26, 1992 Board meeting were approved as mailed.

John Millican presented District Director appointments for

consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley the following District Director appointments were approved:

Curtis Pantel, Victoria SWCD #346
Walter Banks, III, Ellis-Prairie SWCD #504
Larry D. Browning, Cross Timbers SWCD #556

The Board then considered the division and reorganization of the Hood-Parker Soil and Water Conservation District #529. Harvey Davis reported the hearings that were recently held in Weatherford and Granbury were favorable and recommended the division be approved. John Millican explained the steps that would need to be followed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Paul Robertson the Board approved the division as being practicable and feasible; approved the Transfer of Assets and Liabilities with Parker County SWCD No. 558 receiving \$15,330.54 and Brazos Valley SWCD No. 557 receiving \$8,979.79; easements for watersheds going to Parker County SWCD; approved the appointments of Johnnie Rollins to Zone 2 and C. H. Kincaid to Zone 4 of Brazos Valley SWCD and Doyle Hutcheson to Zone 2 and J. D. Duncan to Zone 4 for Parker County SWCD; approved the subdivision boundaries for both new districts. Motion carried.

Beade Northcut discussed the Status Report on PL 566 Watershed Planning. He said Upper North Bosque River Watershed was being reviewed and that Seco Creek and Gunsolus Creek Watersheds have approved applications but have not been given a priority.

Mr. Northcut then discussed a feasibility report for Gunsolus Creek Watershed that had been tabled at the February 26 Board

meeting. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel, it was approved to give this watershed a planning priority. Motion carried.

James Moore discussed with the Board a letter from the Texas Water Development Board on the State Revolving Fund on low interest loans for nonpoint source controls. Mr. Moore said a meeting had been set for April 9th to discuss this program and asked if the Board was still of the consensus to handle this type of loan funding program. Joe Antilley suggested that the staff check to see how an audit would be handled for districts if this program was set in place.

Mr. Moore reported that a grant proposal had been submitted to EPA on the wetland conservation program and was being looked on favorably. He said if the Board got the grant, the project would be in Fort Bend County.

James Moore discussed the Texas Water Commission's priority listing of FY 92 projects and activities submitted to EPA under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The nonpoint source prevention project in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed was listed as #6 in the ranking and Mr. Moore said funding should be received for listings 1 through 6, with the remainder competing within Region VI of EPA for funding.

Mr. Moore advised the Board of a letter from EPA announcing the availability of a grant to assist in the implementation of a farmstead water quality assessment program. This program, known as the Farmstead Assessment System, is intended to educate farm

operators about the water quality risks on their farmland. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board voted to participate in this program. Motion carried.

James Moore then discussed a letter from the Texas Water Commission concerning a draft State of Texas position paper on wetland issues for the Clean Water Act Reauthorization. Mr. Moore discussed this position paper in depth and there were several things the Board wanted clarified before they could support it. It was the consensus of the Board that if wording was not changed the Board would not concur with the paper as it was written.

Don Cook, Director of Rural Economic Development, from the General Land Office spoke to the Board and endorsed the letter from the Texas Water Development Board on use of the State Revolving Loan Fund to provide low interest loans for nonpoint source abatement measures. He discussed some methods that could be used to help abate this problem such as artificial wetlands. He also showed the Board a product marketed by Agkone, Inc. which would separate solids from wastewater in dairy operations and allow separated solids to be marketed as mulch.

Mr. Moore discussed a letter on NPS Environmental Excellence Awards program and told the Board they have an opportunity to submit nominations if they desired. It was the consensus of the Board to submit several districts as time permits.

Mr. Moore provided the Board with a paper from the NPS Subcommittee of the Texas Water Commission's Clean Water Council entitled "Analysis of State and Federal Law, Programs and Options

Relating to Control of NPS Pollution."

Dick Schendel reported that a meeting/workshop had been set for March 19-20 for all committees of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program and he was planning on attending. He also said he had contacted a district director to serve in his place when he could not attend the meeting and if it was okay with the Board he would pursue getting this district director to attend in his place. There were no objections.

James Abbott reported for the Soil Conservation Service. He advised the Board that SCS supports the process that Don Cook from the GLO had discussed. He said SCS was without a State Information Specialist at this time because Micki Yoder had been reassigned. He encouraged the Board and State Association to become more involved with RC&D projects. He said there were 12 projects at this time and that Piney Woods RC&D had just been approved and they expect to have 3 to 5 more approved by this time next year.

Atlan Pfluger reported that the Texas Water Development Board had approved conservation loans to two underground water districts since the State Board's last meeting.

Mike Holt reported for the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He had attended the NACD national meeting in Reno, Nev. in early February and was very impressed. He said the Texas Association was very well prepared on the resolutions that were discussed at the national meeting and complimented Mel Davis on the excellent job he had done in preparing the Association for the resolution process. Mr. Holt expressed his appreciation

to Joe Antilley, who is retiring from the State Board, for the excellent job he has done as a State Board Member.

Bill Neiser updated the Board on the Uniform Statewide Accounting System. He said he hopes the agency will be completely automated by the end of the year. He advised the Board that all state agencies are required by law to be automated by September 1, 1993 and that the State Soil and Water Conservation Board is the only pilot agency that is still active.

Mr. Neiser presented a letter to the Board from the Hood-Parker Soil and Water Conservation District #529 requesting the balance of their Technical Assistance allocation be split between the two new districts with Parker County SWCD #558 receiving \$2,596.12 and Brazos Valley SWCD #557 receiving \$2,596.77. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Joe Antilley, the allocation balance was transferred as requested. Motion carried.

Mr. Neiser discussed requests from Toyah-Limpia SWCD #209 and Crockett SWCD #235 for Technical Assistance funds. He advised the Board there were no funds available at this time other than the allocations turned back in Area IV as a result of the technical assistance survey.

The Technical Assistance survey results were discussed. Mr. Neiser informed the Board that Area IV had turned back Technical Assistance allocations in the amount of \$7,900.24. Mr. Neiser presented the Board a proposed allocation plan to reallocate the \$7,900.24 to Area IV districts that expressed additional need. Albert Evans advised the Board he had discussed these allocations

with the field representatives from Area IV and moved these allocations be approved as presented. Paul Robertson seconded and motion carried. (Copy attached).

Bill Neiser discussed the Fiscal Year 1992 Expenditure Report for the six-month period ending February 29, 1992. He said the expenditures were in line with the current operating budget.

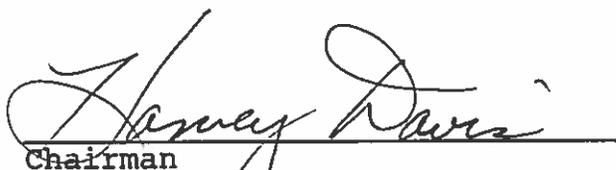
Bob Buckley discussed the draft Strategic Plan that had been prepared by the staff and mailed to the Board members for their review. This document is due to be mailed to the Governor's Office by April 1, 1992. Mr. Buckley explained how the document was prepared and that all staff members had input into this document. All Board members were very pleased and impressed with the content of the document and Joe Antilley said he would like a copy to go to all districts when it is final because all the information that districts need is condensed into this document. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Evans, this document was adopted with minor changes. Motion carried.

Bob Buckley discussed a letter from the Legislative Budget Board dated March 6, 1992, discussing financial planning for the 1994-1995 budget period. Mr. Buckley told the Board the agency would probably be getting instructions for budget preparation from the LBB by the end of May.

Bob Buckley discussed the Joint Interim Committee on the Environment. He said there will be four hearings possibly toward the end of April in the cities of Beaumont, El Paso, Lubbock and Austin. All hearings should be concluded by the end of September.

Harvey Davis advised everyone that this was the last regular meeting for Joe Antilley since he was not seeking re-election on May 5, 1992. Mr. Davis said Mr. Antilley's contributions to the soil and water conservation program have been unlimited during his 24 years as a State Board member. On behalf of the Board Mr. Davis expressed appreciation to Mr. Antilley for his work.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.


Chairman


Secretary

5-20-92
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held March 18, 1992.

5-20-92
Date


Executive Director

NUM	DIST NAME	AMOUNT#
401	NACOGDOCHES	350.00
408	BOWIE COUNTY	250.00
412	HARRISON COUNTY	0.00
415	LAMAR	250.00
417	UPSHUR-GREGG	400.12
419	SULPHUR-CYPRESS	250.00
423	RED RIVER COUNTY	350.00
424	FREESTONE COUNTY	0.00
425	MONTGOMERY-WALKER	400.00
426	SMITH COUNTY	350.00
427	CHEROKEE	300.00
428	BEDIAS CREEK	400.00
429	PINEY WOODS	0.00
432	COASTAL	4311.74-
433	MARION-CASS	350.00
434	TRINITY BAY	400.00
438	UPPER NECHES	400.00
439	LONG LEAF	1794.50-
440	NAVASOTA	1350.12
441	JASPER-NEWTON	1794.00-
442	HARRIS	0.00
443	DELTA	350.00
444	WOOD	400.00
446	LOWER SABINE-NECHES	200.00
447	RUSK	350.00
448	PANOLA	0.00
450	BRAZOS COUNTY	600.00
451	ROBERTSON COUNTY	200.00

TOTALS

AMOUNT# 0.00 0.000 AVG.

Printed 28 of the 180 records.

Records were selected as follows:

NUMBER = "4"

END