

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
March 19, 1970

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the Conference Room, 1016 First National Building, Temple, Texas, at 8:30 a.m., March 19, 1970.

Board members present were: E. W. Wehman, Chairman, H. W. Turney, Vice-Chairman, Albert Roach, Frank Gray and Joe Antilley.

Others present were: Harvey Davis, Executive Director; Leland Barnes, Engineer; and Josephine Chupik, Office Manager of the State Board staff; Clyde Graham, State Conservationist and L. J. Lann, Assistant State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the January 15, 1970 meeting were approved as read.

A watershed application on Roma Creek in Starr County was reviewed. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Frank Gray, the watershed application was disapproved pending a field examination to determine feasibility. Motion carried.

Favorable field examinations were reviewed on the Bee & Wolf Pen Creek watershed near College Station in the Brazos-Robertson SWCD and Old River watershed near Caldwell in the Burleson-Lee SWCD. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved the watersheds as being economically feasible for project development.

Unfavorable field examinations were reviewed on the Kelly Black Bayou watershed near Atlanta in the Marion Cass SWCD and Lone Wolf Creek near Colorado City in the Mitchell SWCD. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Henry Turney, the Board disapproved the Lone Wolf Creek watershed as not being economically feasible for project development and tabled action on the Kelly Black Bayou watershed.

A request to amend the Hitson, C & L, & Washburn Draw watershed near Dell City by adding the city of Dell City as a sponsor was considered by the Board. A motion was made by Joe Antilley and seconded by Frank Gray

to approve the amendment. Motion carried.

Leland Barnes reported on field level reviews held on Pond Creek watershed near Rosebud in the Central Texas SWCD, Lipan Creek watershed near Wall in the Concho and Eldorado-Divide SWCDs and Sanderson Canyon watershed near Sanderson in the Big Bend and Rio Grande-Pecos River SWCDs. No action was necessary by the Board.

Problems arising in the Seco Creek watershed near Hondo in the Medina County portion of the watershed were discussed by the Board. Landowners petitioned Medina County Commissioners Court to reject the plan. All structures except one are in Medina County. Representatives of the Board and Soil Conservation Service will meet with individual landowners to discuss individual problems on April 2 and 3, 1970. No action taken by the Board at this time.

Problems arising in the Lipan Creek watershed near Wall were reviewed by the Board. Landowners in the Susan Peak area of this watershed are expressing opposition to this proposed project according to the letter from the Concho Valley Council of Governments. No action taken by the Board at this time.

L. J. Lann reviewed the status of watershed construction and planning on Public Law 566 projects and presented a detailed summary to each Board Member.

Clyde Graham, State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service reported that M. J. Spears had been named as Deputy State Conservationist in Texas. Area Conservationist John Tippie is being transferred to Kansas. Area Conservationist Pug Bolton and Don Windrow were both retiring. Area offices are being reduced in Texas.

Mr. Graham reported on the extension of the Great Plains Program. Additional counties are asking to be included. Mr. Graham stated that this program was one of the best ways to get land treatment on the land.

The Board agreed to transmit a letter to Mr. Graham supporting the extension of the Great Plains Program.

Pollution was discussed at length. Many agencies and organizations are attempting to find a solution to some of the problems of pollution. Suggestions were made to set up a criteria to be used by Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the State in regards to agriculture pollution. A motion was made by Frank Gray, seconded by Henry Turney, to explore the possibility of developing a memorandum of understanding between the State Board, Texas Water Quality Board and Soil Conservation Service to deal with agriculture pollution. Motion carried.

Watershed tours and hearings will be scheduled in the May meeting of the State Board.

Mr. Davis reviewed a letter from Congressman Poage in regards to the Board's expression of opposition to Congressman Blackburn's HR 14918. Congressman Poage stated that he would bear in mind the considered judgment of the Board on this legislation.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the appointment of the following directors:

C. H. Graham - King-Stonewall SWCD #120
Darren Brady - King-Stonewall SWCD #120
Romeo Alaniz - Starr County SWCD #332
Clifford Shavar - Trinity-Neches SWCD #122
William Surface - Bedias Creek SWCD #128
David Feagin - Long Leaf SWCD #139

A discussion was held on the distribution of Matching funds for this fiscal year ending August 31, 1970. To date districts have released only \$3,350.00 in Matching funds and districts not originally in the budget are now requesting funds totaling approximately \$9,752.00. At the present time there is no reasonable way to determine distribution of the released funds. The Board agreed to wait until after the 1st of June to allocate unused Matching funds.

Harvey Davis reported that some concern had been expressed by County Commissioners in relation to contributing funds to Districts due to District Directors not being elected by all registered voters. The reason for the concern was that all registered voters vote for Commissioners and that taxes are being collected from all tax payers, not just landowners. District Directors are elected by landowners only. It was also pointed out that electing Directors by zones was obsolete and causing problems. The idea of removing zones and changing voter qualifications of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be discussed with District Directors throughout the State by State Board Field Representatives to get their reaction.

Contacts had been made by all State Board members with the Governor and several other State officials in regards to moving the State office from Temple to Austin. According to information given individual Board members, the Board agreed to drop the subject of moving the office at the present time.

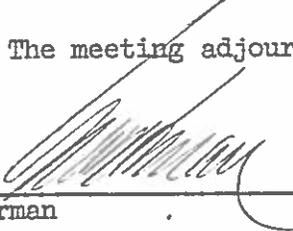
Since the position of Assistant Executive Director is vacant at the present time, on motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board authorized Josephine Chupik to approve vouchers for the State Board.

The site for the 1971 Annual State meeting of Soil & Water Conservation District Directors was discussed. On motion of Henry Turney, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to check out facilities at Austin and Corpus Christi to determine the site of the meeting.

The Texas Conservation Awards program sponsored by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, formerly the Fort Worth Press Awards Program, will hold the State Awards program at 7:00 p.m. on May 2, 1970, at the Student Center of Texas Christian University. This will be the 25th year for this conservation awards program.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 21, 1970.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.


Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

May 21, 1970
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 19, 1970.

May 21, 1970
Date

Henry Davis
Executive Director