

Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 20, 2008

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 20, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. at 720 East Blackland Road, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Jerry Nichols, Chairman
Reed Stewart, Vice Chairman
Aubrey Russell, Member
José Dodier, Member
Barry Mahler, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member
Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Andy Garza, Regional Office Coordinator
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Natural Resource Specialist
Steve Jones, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
John Foster, NPS Team Leader
Lee Munz, NPS SWCD Liaison
T. J. Helton, NPS Grant Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, NPS Watershed Coordinator
Pam Casebolt, NPS Project Manager
Loren Henley, NPS Project Manager
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager
Donna Long, NPS Project Manager
Meredith McArthur, Information Specialist
Richard Egg, Engineer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, HR Coordinator
Kyra Summerford, Administrative Assistant
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Norm Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Claudia Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Tom Gerik, Agri Life Research
Marva Beck, Texas Association of RC&Ds
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Daren Harmel, USDA - ARS
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Eric Mendelman, River Systems Institute
Penny Wimberly, City of Waco

Chairman Nichols called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed those present.

Tom Gerik welcomed the members of the Board and persons attending the meeting to their facility, explained the relationship between the two agencies, informed the Board of their agency's name change and discussed new hires.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments presented at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Marva Beck, Texas Association of RC&Ds stated the President had recommended budget cuts for their agency which would reduce them to one coordinator per state and asked for the Board's assistance. Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Dodier encouraged those present to look into the issue.

Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service reported on: budget, vacancies, TSP, obligated over \$10 million in Farm Bill funds, economic impact to the state from funds distributed by NRCS, wild fire problem and the lack of disaster funds.

Norm Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service was presented a plaque by the State Board for his 43 years of service with NRCS and his help and support of the State Board and their programs.

Daren Harmel, USDA-ARS welcomed the State Board to their facility.

Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute handed out a quarterly outcome report and reviewed pertinent information.

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality stated the coordination between state and federal agencies in the State of Texas is unlike any other state and we need to continue to coordinate and cooperate.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Tamara Daniel reported on: Farm Bill, appropriations, April meeting in Alpine and Fall meeting in South Texas.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Minutes from the January 16-17, 2008 Board Meeting

Chairman Nichols called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16-17, 2008 Board Meeting as emailed. Mr. Dodier moved that the minutes be accepted as emailed. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications. Mr. Stewart moved the following appointments be approved. Mr. Russell seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Marisue Potts Powell, Upper Pease #164, Zone 5, Replace Joyce Smith
David Symm, Kerr County #217, Zone 4, Replace Buck Menges
John Dreier, Goliad County #352, Zone 4, Replace Herbert J. Pieper, Jr.
Jim S. Bluntzer, Goliad County #352, Zone 5, Replace John Dreier
Harvey Buehring, Nueces #357, Zone 3, Replace Ronald Nemece

AGENDA ITEM 6: Report on Native Grasses Science Fair Project

Mr. Jacobs displayed a triboard and notebooks from the first place winner of the Houston Science Fair and explained the project and his involvement with it.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Subdivision Boundary Changes for Frio Soil and Water Conservation District #325

Mr. Perez reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved the subdivision changes be approved as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Deliberation and Possible Vote Regarding Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved the Board approve the cost-share request from Bedias Creek SWCD #428. Mr. Stewart seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Deliberation and Possible Action on Strategic Planning and the Legislative Budget Request for the 2010-11 Biennium

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Deliberation and Possible Action Regarding the Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board Operating Budget

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Deliberation and Possible Action to Approve Request for Waiver Per 31 TAC §523.6 (e)(2)(B),(E)

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Stewart moved waivers be granted to Southmost, Cochran County and Marion Cass SWCD's. Mr. Dodier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Deliberation and Possible Action to Approve Rule Amendment for 31 TAC, Chapter 523, Eligibility for Cost-Share Assistance, §523.6 (e)(A-E)

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. After discussion, Mr. Russell moved to table this agenda item until the next board meeting. Mr. Stewart seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Russell asked that Mr. Garza get more information to the board members concerning this issue before the next scheduled board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Water Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

Agenda Item 14: Deliberation and Possible Action Regarding Allocation of Fiscal Year 2008 General Revenue Water Enhancement Funds

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Stewart moved the Board approve the allocations as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Review and Consider Future State Meeting Sites

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. The board instructed Mr. Davis to look into Ft. Worth, Corpus Christi and Lubbock as future meeting sites.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Review and Consider Revised Rule Review Plan

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Russell moved the Board adopt the proposed rule review plan. Mr. Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Texas Conservation Awards Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis and Ms. Daniel discussed the July legislative conference and board meeting, reception at the Smithsonian, budget, Farm Bill, and the South Central Regional meeting to be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

AGENDA ITEM 20: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier complimented staff on their work at the South Central Regional Meeting in March.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Coastal Coordination Council Report

Mr. Egg reviewed the agenda information and informed the Board that he and Mr. Dodier would be attending a meeting in Austin that afternoon.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Flood Control Dams - Current Activities Report

Mr. Egg reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs asked staff to work with NRCS on the feasibility of changing the terminology "end of their 50 year life".

AGENDA ITEM 23: One Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Bacteria in the Leon River below Proctor Lake

Mr. Wendt stated there was no handout for this agenda item due to the fact that TCEQ discussed the item at their board meeting on Wednesday. TCEQ voted to release the TMDL for public comment and the 30 day comment

period will end April 17, 2008. He reviewed the TMDL contents and stated the TMDL would be brought to the Board in May.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Clean Water Act (CWA) §319(h) NPS Grant Program Report

Ms. Casebolt reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) Program Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program Report

Ms. Henley reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Program Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

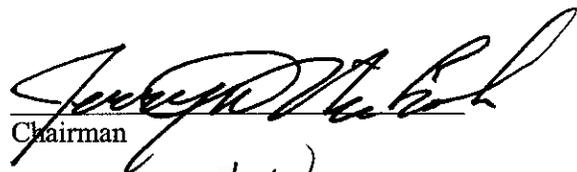
AGENDA ITEM 29: Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Set a Date for the Next State Board Meeting

Board set the next Board meeting date as May 14-15, 2008.

Mr. Dodier moved the meeting adjourn, Mr. Mahler seconded and Chairman Nichols called the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.


Chairman

Date

5/15/08


Secretary

Date

5/15/08

I 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 19-20, 2008.

Date

5/15/08


Executive Director