

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2012**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 21, 2012, at 2:02 p.m. at 4311 South 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Barry Mahler, Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Member  
José Dodier, Member  
Jerry Nichols, Member  
Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Steve Jones, Regional Office Coordinator  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Luis Pena, Program Supervisor  
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist  
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist  
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist  
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist  
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator  
Pam Casebolt, Nonpoint Source Grants Coordinator  
Mitchell Conine, Nonpoint Source Management Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Statewide Watershed Planning Coordinator  
Loren Warrick, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Ashley Alexander, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Rusty Ray, Natural Resources Specialist  
David Reeves, Database Administrator  
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer  
Richard Egg, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Programs Coordinator  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Coordinator  
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Kristen Kylberg, Intern  
Jim Clarno, Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors

A work session was conducted which covered all agenda items in detail. Questions were taken and answered.

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

May 24, 2012  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

May 24, 2012  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on March 21, 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

May 24, 2012  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

## Board Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2012

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on March 22, 2012, at 8:00 a.m. at 5247 South General Bruce Drive, Temple, Texas.

### Board Members present:

Barry Mahler, Chairman  
Scott Buckles, Member  
José Dodier, Member  
Jerry Nichols, Member  
Joe Ward, Member

### Staff members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Steve Jones, Regional Office Coordinator  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Luis Pena, Program Supervisor  
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist  
Jack Foote, Program Specialist  
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist  
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist  
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist  
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist  
Joel Clark, Program Specialist  
Trey Watson, Program Specialist  
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist  
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist  
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor  
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator  
Pam Casebolt, Nonpoint Source Grants Coordinator  
Mitchell Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Statewide Watershed Planning Coordinator  
Ashley Alexander, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
David Reeves, Database Administrator  
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer  
Richard Egg, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Programs Coordinator  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

### Others present:

Kristen Kylberg, Intern  
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General

Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
John Mueller, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board  
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute  
Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service  
Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Pat Hudson, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
Jim Clarno, Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors  
Andrew Vikman, PPM Consultants

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed those present.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment**

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

Mr. Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Bohmfalk stated that the TMDL's were adopted. Mr. Bohmfalk commented on the upcoming Stakeholder Meeting on March 28th, NPS Management Program, the completion of their annual report, their end-of-year meeting with EPA, the drought situation, water quality standards, the retiring of their Executive Director, and their new incoming Executive Director.

Mr. Andrew Vikman, PPM Consultants, addressed the Board. Mr. Vikman reviewed the handout information, and stated that their purpose is awareness and solution to farmers and ranchers.

Mr. Jim Clarno, Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors, addressed the Board. Mr. Clarno serves as Secretary and Treasurer for TAWS. Mr. Clarno commented on the Flood Control Program success, and the budget cuts. Mr. Clarno stated that their concerns are the age of the structures, loss in federal funds, and urbanization. Mr. Clarno stated that TAWS is requesting an exceptional item in the budget request to fully restore funding for the Flood Control Program, in the amount of \$17,500,000 plus administration costs.

Mr. Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute, addressed the Board. Mr. Wagner commented on the Arroyo Colorado, starting of 3 new projects, invasive species, bacteria, and a successful Science Conference.

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner reviewed handout. Mr. Turner commented on the drought, agriculture grant funding, conservation plans, and Legislature request from the Legislative Budget Board, House and Senate. Mr. Turner also stated that this meeting's Agenda Item 8, Joint Report, has already been approved by their Board Members. Mr. Turner said to let TWDB know how many copies that we will need, and they will get those to us, and upon the TSSWCB's Board Member approval, the TWDB will deliver the Joint Report to the Legislative Budget Board.

Mr. Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Harmel commented on their budget.

Mr. John Mueller, Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Mueller commented on ranking deadlines, Emergency Watershed Protection, personnel has 55 vacancies across state, rehabilitation planning and design, and data harmonization.

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

Mr. Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. Richmond stated TSSWCB Field Representative Don Brandenberger joined the ATSWCD in Washington D.C., and that the ATSWCD has initiated a policy to invite one Field Representative to accompany them on future Washing D.C. trips. Mr. Richmond commented on the meetings in Washington D.C., the 2012 Farm Bill, and the Landscape Initiative. Mr. Richmond stated that they will be meeting with the National Association of

Conservation Districts about their upcoming 2013 Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Mr. Richmond also commented on weekly emails from Ms. Tamara Daniel called Monday Minutes, the Certainty Program, which is a mirror image of our S.B. 503 program, NRCS restructure, and the regionalization of the NRCS State Conservationist.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: Minutes from the January 18-19, 2012 Board Meetings**

Chairman Mahler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18-19, 2012 Board Meetings. Mr. Ward moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: District Director Appointments**

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications. Mr. Dodier moved the following appointment be approved. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian Ash, Lipscomb #134, Zone 4, Replace Janet Tregellas  
Bill Jack Pittman, Hansford County #148, Zone 4, Replace Willard McCloy  
Charles Hutzler, Alamo #330, Zone 1, Replace Irving Ernst  
Brook Hurta, Bastrop County #340, Zone 5, Replace Les Hurta  
Brian G. Whatley, Marion-Cass #433, Zone 3, Replace Cindy Wilbanks  
Stuart Fisher, Ellis Prairie #504, Zone 2, Replace Edwin Bouska  
Roger L. Tonne, Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos #551, Zone 3, Tommy Hailey  
Keith Davis, Little Wichita #560, Zone 5, Replace Brice Jackson

**AGENDA ITEM 6: Fiscal Report**

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 7: Sunset Legislation Implementation Status**

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information at the March 21<sup>st</sup> Board Work Session. Nothing further at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Approval of TSSWCB and Texas Water Development Board Joint Report "An Assessment of Water Conservation" in Texas**

Mr. Egg reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the report as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers as per 31 TAC §523.6(E)(2)(A) thru (F)**

Mr. Jones reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the request for waivers for Panola SWCD #448, and tabled the request for Sulphur-Cypress SWCD #419. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: Water Quality Management Plan Program Report**

Mr. Jones reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Requests**

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the requests for SWCD #436 and SWCD #429, and to defer the requests for SWCD #448 and SWCD #428 until the May Board Meeting. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: Flood Control Programs Status Report**

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 13: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Report**

Ms. Casebolt and Ms. Alexander reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 14: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report**

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 15: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report**

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 16: Consider Approval of Amendment to the Water Supply Enhancement Program  
Guadalupe Project Proposal**

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for approval of the amendment as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 17: Regional Conservation Awards Programs**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 18: State Board Member Elections**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 19: Review Plans for 2012 Annual State Meeting**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Planning committee named consisting of the State Board Chairman, Mr. Mahler, the Area Board Member, Mr. Dodier, the Association President, Mr. Richmond, the Area Association Director, Mr. Bono, the State Board Executive Director, Mr. Isom, and any additional staff as needed. Mr. Ward moved to accept these named individuals as the Planning Committee. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 20: Consider Selection of Future Annual State Meeting Sites**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the 2013 Annual State Meeting to be held in Ft. Worth, and the 2014 Annual State Meeting to be held in the Galveston area. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Buckles moved for the 2014 Annual State Meeting to be held at the Galveston proposal, and not the Galveston-Moody Gardens proposal. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 21: Call for an Election to be Held in Accordance with 201.076(c), Agriculture Code for  
Colorado County SWCD #333**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. The Board agreed that Mr. Dodier should be designated as staff contact. The county needs the district's office space; therefore the Board agreed that the Field Representative, Mr. Franklin, be the designated person to coordinate maintaining, moving, and securing the district's records. Mr. Dodier moved for the adoption of the suggested election timeline dates to conduct elections in Colorado County SWCD #333 as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 22: Consider Adoption of Amendments to 31 TAC; Chapter 517; Subchapter B; Cost-Share  
Assistance for Brush Control; Sections 517.22 - 517.37**

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Buckles moved to adopt the proposed rule with amendments as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Consider Adoption of Amendments to 31 TAC; Chapter 520; Subchapter A; Election Procedures; Sections 520.3(d) and 520.2(e)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved to adopt the proposed rule amendments as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis stated that the agenda information was covered by Mr. Richmond under agenda item 3.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Gottschalk also stated that a District Director and Employee Workshop has been scheduled for June 26-27, 2012.

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information at the Board Work Session. Nothing further at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

May 23-24, 2012, to possibly be held at Farm Bureau in Waco.

Mr. Dodier moved to adjourn. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

  
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Chairman

May 24, 2012  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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Secretary

May 24, 2012  
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Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on March 22, 2012.

  
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Executive Director

May 24, 2012  
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Date