

OFFICIAL MINUTES

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD

March 24, 1958

The regular meeting of the State Soil Conservation Board was held in the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas beginning at 10:00 A. M., March 24, 1958.

Members present: A. F. Leesch, Chairman, J. S. Sharp, E. W. Wehman, S. J. Payne, and J. C. Porter.

Other present were: A. C. Spencer, and H. D. Davis of the State Soil Conservation Board, and Garner Jones of the Soil Conservation Service.

The minutes of the February 5, 1958, meeting were read and approved.

A motion was made by J. S. Sharp and seconded by E. W. Wehman to disapprove the following watershed applications pending preliminary surveys:

1. Houston County # 1 - Davy Crockett-Trinity County SCD # 404
2. Beason-Cedar Creek-Navasota SCD # 440
3. Mimms Draw-Highland SCD # 210

The motion carried.

Having received a petition for inclusion of additional territory in the Dallam County Soil Conservation District, a motion was made by S. J. Payne and seconded by E. W. Wehman to hold a public hearing on this proposition in Dallam County. The motion carried.

A. C. Spencer read a letter of application from Garner Jones, Engineer with the Soil Conservation Service, for the State Board's engineering position created by Senate Bill # 1, First Called Session, 55th Legislature. After considerable discussion, the Board agreed to establish the salary of the Engineer at \$8,400.00 annually and to headquarter the engineer, for the time being, at McKinney, Texas.

After discussing the position with Mr. Jones, a motion was made by J. C. Porter and seconded by S. J. Payne to employ Mr. Jones at a salary of \$8,400.00 per year beginning May 1, 1958. The motion carried.

Mr. Jones expressed his appreciation to the State Board for giving him

the opportunity to serve as their engineer and pledged himself to do the best job that he was capable of doing.

For the purpose of fulfilling the responsibilities delegated to the State Soil Conservation Board in Section 3 (b) of Senate Bill # 1, Acts of the Fifty-fifth Legislature, First Called Session, The State Soil Conservation Board authorizes and requests the State Comptroller of Public Accounts to set up an account for an engineer as follows for remainder of fiscal year ending August 31, 1958:

Salary	\$2,800.00
Travel Expense	1,000.00
Office Rent	164.00
Equipment & Supplies	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total	\$5,964.00

For fiscal year ending August 31, 1959, we request the following transfer to engineer's account.

Salary	8,400.00
Travel Expense	3,000.00
Office Rent	500.00
Equipment & Supplies	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$12,400.00

Engineer's account should be set up from funds transferred from travel expense of District Supervisors and Delegates including per diem. This item is appropriation number X2212 for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1958.

In relation to the responsibilities delegated to the State Soil Conservation Board in the preparation of a State Master Water Plan, the Board decided to propose a meeting of representatives of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts, the Soil Conservation Service, and the State Board to consider what information should be included in the plan.

The resolutions passed by the Supervisors at the State Meeting at Corpus Christi in January 1958 that pertained to the State Board were discussed including

the necessary procedures in getting the resolutions accomplished .

A. C. Spencer stated that the first draft of the Budget for the biennium beginning September 1, 1959 and ending August 31, 1961 had to be submitted to the Governor's Budget Division and the Legislative Budget Board by May 19, 1958.

The Board tentatively decided to submit the following budget for each of the two years:

1. Board Members, Per Diem	\$ 2,500
2. Executive Director	9,000
3. Executive Assistant	6,600
4. Field Planning Engineers	
3 @ \$6,600	19, 800
5. Engineer	8,700
6. Secretary	3,420
7. Seasonal & Part-time help	1,350
8. Travel Expense--Office	18,000
9. Travel Expense--District Supervisors, including per diem,	60,000
10. Utilities, contingent expense, equipment, printing, telephone, telegraph, postage, express, publication & notices of public hearings and rent.	<u>7,850</u>
Total	\$137,220

J. S. Sharp, A. C. Spencer, and H. D. Davis discussed the National Meeting of Executive Officers of State Boards and Soil Conservation District Supervisors that they attended in February, 1958, at Minneapolis.

Various problems that Soil Conservation Districts are having in operating and maintaining flood prevention structures were discussed. The Board agreed to help the Districts in any way that was proper.

The Board decided to request an opinion from the Attorney General based on specific questions submitted by the Upper Elm-Red Soil Conservation District in relation to the District's responsibility as being the second party to

Easements for flood prevention structures. (Copy of request attached)

The Board recessed at 6:15 P. M.

The meeting re-convened at 7:30 P. M. with all members present. Also present were W. C. Howard, President, Arthur Koehn, Sam Singleton, Harbert Byers, and William J. Sohl, Vice-Presidents of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts. Others present were H. B. Boswell, John Royal and A. C. Spencer.

A. F. Leesch stated that the State Board had asked representatives of the Association to meet with them to discuss:

1. The place of soil conservation districts in the development of a master water plan for Texas.
2. What changes should be made in the Soil Conservation District Law to permit an increase in the payment of mileage & per diem to district supervisors.
3. The location of the 1959 Annual State Meeting.

No motions were passed during the meeting but it was mutually agreed that:

1. The State Board, State Association and Soil Conservation Service should designate approximately three representatives each to serve as a policy committee to study the subject of what soil conservation districts should try to include in a master water plan for Texas.
2. No definite conclusions were drawn relative to a change in supervisors mileage and per diem.
3. A committee of two representatives of the State Association and two from the State Board would be appointed to inspect facilities at Abilene, Dallas and Galveston to determine where the next State Meeting will be held.

After inconclusive discussion concerning future requests for direct appropriations to soil conservation districts the meeting adjourned.

Harvey Davis
Secretary

A. F. Leesch
Chairman

May 16, 1959
Date