

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
March 27, 1986

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, March 27, 1986 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Hermon L. Petty, Chairman
Albert Roach, Vice Chairman
Joe Antilley, Member
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Frank Gray, Member

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
James Moore, Engineer
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor
Jay Kuykendall, Planner
Bob Gruner, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
Bill Reece, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
Moe Seidensticker, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
Johnny Oswald, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
Joe Freeman, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
Roy Freeman, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
David Powell, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
Joe McKay, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
Don Brandenberger, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)
Dub Crumley, Field Representative (Soil Conservationist)

Directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts present were:

Waldo Smith, President
Buddy Clark, Director, Area II
Clyde Hale, Director, Area V

Others present were:

Coy A. Garrett, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. B. L. Harris, Agricultural Extension Service

Chairman Petty called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

Mr. Petty introduced Coy Garrett as the new State Conservationist for Texas effective April 13, 1986 and gave Mr. Garrett an opportunity to make comments.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes of the February 24, 1986 meeting were approved as mailed to each Board member.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

Edward A. Schubert - Nueces-Jim Wells-Kleberg SWCD # 311
David Ellis - San Patricio SWCD # 324
Ray Fallin - Montgomery Walker SWCD # 425
Vance L. Hargrove - Piney Woods SWCD # 429
Gordon Watson - Rusk SWCD # 447
J. D. Duncan - Hood-Parker SWCD # 529
Lewayne Peterson - Denton County SWCD # 547

On September 25, 1985, a petition was received to divide and reorganize the Central Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District #517 and the Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos Soil and Water Conservation District # 531 and create three districts; the Central Colorado SWCD # 550, Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos SWCD # 551, and Callahan Divide SWCD # 552. Public hearings held on October 23, 1985 in Albany, Baird, and Coleman were favorable. An audit has been made and agreement reached on distribution of funds. Documents on assets, liabilities, cooperator agreements, and easements have been executed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the division and reorganization of the Central Colorado SWCD and the Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos SWCD as being practicable and feasible. Due to the division of these two districts, the Board approved new subdivision boundaries and appointed directors for each new district as follows:

Central Colorado # 550

Zone 2 - Harold E. Pittard

Zone 4 - Harold Phillips

Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos # 551

Zone 2 - Ross Montgomery

Zone 4 - Jack Fambro

Callahan Divide # 552

Zone 2 - Charley Tom Straley

Zone 4 - Kenneth M. George

On October 30, 1985, a petition was received to divide and reorganize the Brown-Mills Soil and Water Conservation District # 523 creating the Pecan Bayou SWCD # 553 and the Mills County SWCD # 554. Public hearings held on December 2, 1985 in Goldthwaite and Brownwood were favorable. An audit has been made and agreement reached on distribution of funds. Documents on assets, liabilities, cooperators agreements and easements have been executed. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the division and reorganization of the Brown-Mills SWCD as being practicable and feasible. Due to the division, the Board approved new subdivision boundaries and appointed directors for each new district as follows:

Pecan Bayou # 553

Zone 2 - Kenneth L. Boyd

Zone 4 - O. B. Byrd

Mills County # 554

Zone 2 - Hubert Meyer

Zone 4 - W. G. Bishop

On March 16, 1986, a petition was received to divide and reorganize the Karnes-Goliad SWCD # 343 creating the Karnes County SWCD # 343 and Goliad County SWCD # 352. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board accepted the petition and authorized the staff to proceed setting dates for public hearings.

At the January 16, 1986 Board meeting, the Board approved a transfer of a

portion of Bee County from the Copano Bay SWCD # 329 to the Bee SWCD # 344. At that time the change in subdivision boundaries for Bee County was incomplete. New subdivision boundaries are now complete and in order. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved the new boundaries for the Bee SWCD # 344.

A request dated 2-24-86 from the Canadian River SWCD # 160 for a salary increase from \$6.50 per hour to \$9.00 per hour for the district technician was discussed. The guidelines set up by the Board for the Technical Assistance program limit the salary to \$6.50 per hour. Due to funds being cut by Executive Order MW 36, on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board declined the request for a variance in hourly wages.

James Moore informed the Board that the public comment period for the proposed rules to implement the Agriculture Code, Chapter 201, Subchapter H, had ended on March 20, 1986. Comments received from the Texas Water Development Board were reviewed. Those being the only comments received and suggesting no changes in the rules, the Board on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, approved the rules for adoption without change. The Board then reviewed rules adopted by the Texas Water Development Board implementing a grant program for purchase of irrigation efficiency evaluation equipment, and a pilot low interest loan program for irrigation water conservation equipment.

In preparation for allocation of funds under the Agriculture Code, Chapter 201, Subchapter H, the Board was presented data showing counties with projected water shortages, districts which include the principal irrigation areas, and districts above major water supply reservoirs which available data indicates are accumulating in excess of 1,000 acre-feet of sediment per year. Bob Buckley then presented the Board information on district requests for technical assistance allocations, allocation balances and total fund balances. The Board, by consensus, agreed to allocate the \$18,504.00 already received from the

Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Fund plus \$61,892.00 scheduled to be received from the fund on July 31, 1986. Allocations were then made to districts as shown on the attached schedule. On motion of Frank Gray, seconded by Dick Schendel, the allocations were approved.

The 1986-1987 Operating Budget with the 6 month period of expenditures was reviewed. The figures reflect the 13% cut in funding to comply with Executive Order MW 36.

Bob Buckley briefed the Board on requirements of the 1988-89 biennium budget instructions which limit level 1 to 80% and level 2 to 90% of the 1987 operating budget. Chairman Petty postponed action on this item until later in the meeting.

Harvey Davis explained the effects of the 13% reduction in funding on district directors' travel in compliance with Executive Order MW 36.

The proposed 1987 Conservation Awards Program was discussed. There were no changes made.

Hermon Petty welcomed the guests and asked if any had comments they would like to make.

Dale Fischgrabe updated the Board on Conservation Reserve Program activities. He reported that legal action had been initiated against sponsors of the Attoyac Bayou watershed to secure the removal of a plate from the principal spillway on Site 7. He told the Board that the Caddo Creek land treatment project was ready for implementation but the rescission proposed by the President prevented funding. He explained the rescission will expire about April 15 and Congress has done nothing to invoke it. He then informed the Board of the closing of the Rockwall and Rosebud field offices and the Rosenberg area office and gave the Board a recently completed brochure on soil cave-in.

Bill Harris briefed the Board concerning education activities for the Conservation Reserve Program and the status of the wind erosion projects

currently underway. He recommended that the Memorandum of Understanding between conservation agencies and districts be revised periodically, especially at the local level. He reported that the Extension Service had lost 110 employees during the last session of the legislature and expected to lose more as a result of State and Federal efforts to reduce budgets.

Hermon Petty reopened consideration of the 1988-1989 biennium budget request. After discussion, the Board instructed the staff to achieve the reductions called for in the instructions to attain level 1 of the request as follows:

- (1) Reduce Board Members' Per Diem to \$10.00 per day.
- (2) Reduce per diem rate paid to soil and water conservation district directors to \$10.00 per day.
- (3) Reduce staff by four positions, two positions are to be at the state headquarters and two from the field staff.
- (4) The balance of cuts needed are to be taken from the line item technical assistance.

All monies to be added back to reach level 2 are to be added to the technical assistance activity. Level 3 is to be the operating budget adopted to comply with Executive Order MW 36 and level 4 is to include all items approved at the January 16, 1986 meeting of the Board.

Clyde Gottschalk presented a 12 minute slide show on "West Rocky Creek". Copies are available for loan and each field staff person will have a copy of the presentation.

Pursuant to the division and reorganization of the Central Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District # 517 and the Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos Soil and Water Conservation District # 531 creating the Central Colorado SWCD # 550; Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos SWCD # 551; and the Callahan Divide SWCD # 552; the Board discussed reallocation of technical assistance funds.

Dub Crumley informed the Board that the newly formed Callahan Divide SWCD did not have a need for technical assistance funding at this time and therefore, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board reallocated the remaining balances of the technical assistance funds in the amount of \$5,800.00 to the Central Colorado SWCD # 550 and \$2,477.10 to the Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos SWCD #551.

Frank Gray announced he would not seek re-election as a State Board member from Area I and expressed his appreciation for the 27 years he has served on the Board.

All five areas of the State will hold elections for a Board member representing the area on Tuesday, May 6, 1986. Harvey Davis explained the procedure for conducting the elections.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on May 15, 1986.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Herman L. Petty
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

May 22, 1986
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 27, 1986.

May 22, 1986
Date

Harvey Davis
Executive Director