

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
April 19, 1979

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on April 19, 1979
at 8:00 p.m., Kirby Resources Building, Highway 92 North, Silsbee, Texas.

Board members present were:

Frank Gray, Chairman
Joe Antilley, Member
Henry Turney, Member

Staff members present were:

A. C. Spencer, Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor
David Powell, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Budd Fountain, Soil Conservation Service
Bill Harris, Agricultural Extension Service
Val Blanchette, Long Leaf Soil & Water Conservation District
G. P. Clubb, Coastal Soil & Water Conservation District
Jim Green, Soil Conservation Service
Ken McCain, Soil Conservation Service
Jim Webster, Kirby Industries
John Wood, Kirby Industries
Tom Price, Kirby Industries
Al Fredericks, Kirby Industries
John Roberson, Kirby Industries
Lee Seabrooke, Kirby Industries

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order. Carl Spencer introduced
and welcomed the guests.

Since each Board member received a copy of the minutes of the meeting
held on March 13, 1979, in the mail and there being no changes, on motion
of Henry Turney, seconded by Joe Antilley, the minutes were approved with-
out being read.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Henry Turney, the following
district director appointment was approved:

J. L. Schooler - Cochran SWCD # 149

Grady Clubb informed the Board of problems facing rice farmers in the coastal area due to A.S.C.S. restrictions placed on irrigation practices being limited to land irrigated four out of five years. The four year rule makes irrigated rice land ineligible for cost share practices under A.S.C.S. The Board agreed to write letters to the State Conservation Board or Committee offices of other rice growing states to determine if this regulation is causing them problems.

Val Blanchette reported that in East Texas the tree farmers through basic conservation practices were aware of the importance in production of food and fiber for our nation.

Each board member was given a draft of the planning procedure on agricultural/silvicultural nonpoint source for review. Bob Buckley outlined two phases in the draft: (1) preliminary activities concerning suspect problem areas and (2) planning procedures for confirmed problem areas.

Bob Buckley explained the new procedure on PL 566 watershed applications. Form A-95 is being used prior to submission of an application for a watershed protection and flood prevention project. The A-95 form establishes review by state and local clearinghouses and a field examination is made prior to submission of an application.

Mr. Fountain reported that the Plant Materials Center at Knox City was available for transfer to non-federal control with no obligation of funds. The State Board has no appropriated funds to manage a research center and would need legislative approval to do so. Further study will be given to this item prior to any action taken.

Each member received an itemized statement of the Board's expenditures for the first seven months of the 1979 fiscal year.

Carl Spencer reported that S.B. 538 as passed and signed by the Governor raises mileage and per diem for district directors to 18 cents per mile and \$30 per day, but no funds have been appropriated for this additional expenditure.

Bob Buckley stated that districts are submitting vouchers with supporting data on the RCA program. This new program with computerized procedures in issuing warrants is operating satisfactorily.

Carl Spencer reported that N.A.C.D. Executive Vice President, Neil Sampson, was in Texas April 3-7. He attended a state meeting of Area Conservationists of the Soil Conservation Service one day and then met with district directors in Area III and V, appeared on several TV programs, held press conferences with news people, and made a tour of the Rio Grande Valley area.

Mr. Spencer advised the Board that he had been appointed to serve on the District Outlook Committee of the National Association of Conservation Districts. This committee will consider the objectives of 3,000 soil and water conservation districts for the next five years in its meeting on May 30, 31 and June 1, 1979 in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Antilley reported that he and Barney Jefferson, Soil Conservationist in Area II had been in El Paso checking on various items of interest in preparation for the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in El Paso on October 2, 3 and 4, 1979.

While in the Silsbee area the board toured numerous forestry sites to observe timber management practices and reforestation methods. The tour also included a visit through the Kirby Lumber Company plywood mill.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held on May 17, 1979
in Temple.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

J. Frank Gray
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

May 17, 1979
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 April 19, 1979.

May 17, 1979
Date

[Signature]
Executive Director