

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
April 23, 1984

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on April 23, 1984
at 8:00 a.m. in Room 1006, First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Carl Gray, Agronomist
Jay Kuykendall, Engineering Technician
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor

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

Joe Montgomery, President
Waldo Smith, Vice President
W. Q. Richards, Secretary-Treasurer
Wilson Scaling, Director
Judge Larry McCasland, Director

Soil Conservation Service personnel present were:

Billy Griffin
Dale Fischgrabe
O'Gene Barkemeyer
Charles Thompson

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Hermon Petty, the minutes of
the March 15 and March 25, 1984 meetings were approved as mailed to each
board member.

John Millican discussed the appointment papers of Fred L. Gilliam from the Freestone-Leon Soil and Water Conservation District #424 replacing Julian Hunt who had resigned. Mr. Gilliam owns land in Zone 5 but resides in Buffalo which is in Zone 2. F. R. Hill, Chairman of the Freestone-Leon Soil and Water Conservation District did not sign the appointment forms; thereby only two directors from the three remaining directors on this district board signed the appointment forms. After lengthy discussion, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board tabled action on the appointment of Mr. Gilliam until State Board office staff can meet with this district board.

A request from the El Paso-Hudspeth Soil and Water Conservation District #205 to change its subdivisions was discussed. Due to conversion of cropland to urban land, landownership has changed in the subdivision. The new subdivision boundaries provide equitable representation of landowners in each subdivision. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the new subdivision boundaries.

John Millican reported petitions signed by five landowners to annex land territory within the east shoreline of Padre Island in the Counties of Kenedy and Kleberg to the Nueces-Jim Wells-Kleberg Soil and Water Conservation District #311 were received. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board agreed to hold a public hearing to determine the feasibility of the annexation.

A request from the Lower Trinity Soil and Water Conservation District #435 for an increase in Matching funds for fiscal year 1985 from the \$3,000.00 requested to \$4,500.00 was discussed. Since the maximum amount allocated to any district for fiscal year 1984 and 1985 is \$3,800.00, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board increased the allocation to \$3,800.00 for fiscal year 1985.

The Board discussed the 1986-87 budget request. Harvey Davis informed

the Board of a letter received from Speaker of the House, Gib Lewis and Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Jim Rudd recommending preparation of a "no-growth" budget for the 1986-87 biennium complying only with pertinent law and meeting any statutory requirements applicable to our agency. In response to the Gib Lewis-Jim Rudd letter the board reconsidered some items that had been tentatively approved at a previous meeting and on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the board agreed not to ask for funds for a full time attorney. The board agreed to include funds in the budget request for a part time attorney possibly taking care of this need through an interagency contract with another state agency.

In compliance with action of the Board in its meeting of July 21, 1983 relative to installation of a computer system, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the purchase of automated data processing equipment by Balcones as recommended by the staff. This system is installed with three independent components and each component has the capability of providing back-up service for the other two.

Harvey Davis updated the Board on the status of activities with the Sunset Advisory Commission.

Carl Gray made a presentation to the Board covering salinity problems in Texas. The presentation centered around characteristics, causes and effects of salinity. James Moore briefed the Board on recent activities associated with a suspected groundwater arsenic problem in the Big Spring area. The board was brought up-to-date on the ongoing study headed by the Texas Department of Water Resources which is intended to determine the extent, severity and possible causes of the problem.

James Moore gave a report on the P.L. 83-566 program. A proposed Cooperative River Basin Study entitled "Texas Critical Flooding and Erosion Cooperative River Basin Study" designed to evaluate the feasibility of four

potential P.L. 83-566 projects (Tributaries of the Lavaca River above Hallettsville, Lavaca County; Rocky and Boggy Creeks, Lavaca County; Union Creek and China Branch, Haskell and Knox Counties; and LaGrulla Watershed, Starr County) was discussed. On motion of Hermon Petty and seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board voted to request that the Soil Conservation Service undertake the study as a Cooperative River Basin Study.

James Moore then discussed a Soil Conservation Service request to renew watershed planning contracts on Caddo Creek in Collin and Hunt Counties and Big Creek in Delta County. On motion by Joe Antilley and seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to execute the contract renewals through August 31, 1984 in the amount of \$50,000.

O'Gene Barkemeyer then reported to the Board on a public meeting conducted in Marlin on April 12 to obtain public input on the Big Creek Watershed Project in Falls, Limestone and McLennan Counties. No opposition to the project was expressed at the public meeting.

Clyde Gottschalk gave a report on public information activities. He informed the Board that the film entitled "A Land Called Texas" which covers water and wind erosion problems in the State is now in the field and being heavily used. He reported that research and information collection is underway for the production of a film to deal with brush management in the State. The Board was informed of efforts to develop a joint public awareness program with members of the Retail Grocers Association. A meeting of the Information and Education Committee to be scheduled in the near future was announced.

Billy Griffin reported on Soil Conservation Service activities. Development of regulations pursuant to the Farmland Protection Policy Act was discussed. Special studies to be included in the Soil Conservation Service 1985 planning budget were presented and a possible target application for water conservation in the El Paso valley was discussed. Dale Fischgrabe reported on the consolidation of the Winnsboro and Mineola field offices

into one office to be located at Quitman. Charles Thompson discussed the 1982 Natural Resource Inventory.

Mel Davis reported on proposed rules for Section 404 permit requirements under P.L. 92-500. After a general discussion, the Board by consensus instructed the staff to prepare comments for review by the Board members at the next Board meeting.

Jay Kuykendall gave a report on a meeting held in LaGrange on March 26 to explain the Land Evaluation and Site assessment system to the local people. Local people had requested the meeting to help them make the decision whether or not to request such assistance from the Soil Conservation Service. The Board was advised that the decision now rests with the local people.

W. Q. Richards presented a paper to the Board entitled "Proposed Reconstruction of the National Conservation Program." A general discussion of national conservation issues followed.

Frank Gray led a discussion concerning the proposed high level nuclear waste repository sites in Texas. On motion of Albert Roach and seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board voted to support the two resolutions passed at the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors which oppose the disposal of high level nuclear waste in Texas and support recycling of nuclear waste.

Dick Schendel gave the Board a report on the Senate Agriculture Interim Study hearing held in Robstown on April 17 and Frank Gray reported on a hearing by the same subcommittee held in Amarillo on April 10. Both hearings include subjects dealing with soil and water conservation programs and all felt that the results were positive.

Wilson Scaling reported the planning committee for the South-Central area meeting of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to be held in Laredo,

Texas on the 22, 23 and 24th of July, 1984 had met to plan the meeting. Air transportation is available for groups with Metro Airlines of San Antonio and Royale Airlines of Houston.

Bob Buckley reviewed the comments on the technical assistance grants guidelines as a result of surveying the districts. Of 164 districts surveyed only 15 comments were received. After reviewing allocations for 1984 fiscal year, on motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved allocations in the amount of \$1,137,869.15 for the 1985 fiscal year. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board allocated \$40,000 from the technical assistance grant fund to hire part-time personnel at the three Plant Materials Centers in Knox City, Kingsville and Nacogdoches.

A request from Gaines County Soil and Water Conservation District #166 to increase the \$6.50 hourly rate of pay set up in the technical assistance grants guidelines was discussed. Since the survey of districts indicated only two districts out of 164 districts were having difficulty with the hourly-wage limit, the Board agreed to leave it at the present rate of \$6.50 per hour.

Harvey Davis led a discussion of H.R. 5200, the National Agricultural Soil Protection Act, which includes a proposal to place all conservation activities of U.S.D.A. under one Undersecretary. A general discussion on the bill followed.

Clyde Gottschalk discussed the revision of a publication entitled "Profile of a Soil Conservation District" which is out of print and out-of-date. The pamphlet has been used by intermediate grades as educational material. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board approved updating and printing of the publication.

Harvey Davis requested the Board to consider recording equipment to be used in meetings for informational purposes. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board authorized the purchase of recording equipment.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday,
May 17, 1984.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

J. Frank Gray
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

May 17, 1984
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of
the board meeting held on April 23, 1984.

May 17, 1984
Date

Henry Davis
Executive Director