

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING
APRIL 24, 1963

The State Soil Conservation Board met in regular session in the Congress Inn at 8:00 a.m., April 24, 1963, at Plainview, Texas.

Board members present were: A. F. Leesch, Chairman, J. Frank Gray, J. C. Porter and E. W. Wehman.

Others present were: H. D. Davis, Executive Director and J. M. Norton, Engineer, of the State Board; A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts; L. H. Barnes, Soil Conservation Service; F. F. Calhoun, Chairman of the Running Water Draw Sterring Committee.

The minutes of the March 6, 1963 meeting were read and approved.

Chairman Leesch read a telegram from Mrs. J. S. Sharp expressing Mr. Sharp's regrets at not being able to attend the Board meeting due to illness. The Board members expressed their sympathies.

H. D. Davis reviewed the action taken at the informal field review of the Pine Creek watershed work plan. The Campbell Soup Company asked for a delay in approval until they could check the effect of discharging water from their plant into one of the sites. This has apparently been cleared and the sponsors have accepted the plan as the one which is most economical and provides the protection which they desire. The plan is now before federal agencies for their review and comments.

Correspondence from Cameron County requesting early consideration of a planning priority as well as a statement from the State Board to the Housing and Home Finance Agency assuring them that the project could be started in 5 years was reviewed by Davis. Cameron County is trying to secure a loan from the Housing

and Home Finance Agency to finance the planning of the three Cameron County watershed projects. It was noted that the State Board had requested a Basin type survey of the Valley area in November 1962, which should facilitate watershed planning and give the local people additional data from which they can determine the local cost of the individual projects. The Board felt that this Basin survey should precede the watershed planning since it would provide an overall plan of the Valley incorporating major outlet locations and needed drainage facilities necessary for a comprehensive plan.

Further, the Cameron County resolution to underwrite the local financing of the projects was contingent upon a bond issue being approved by the electorate of the county. The Board determined that they were in no position to assure the initiation of the project within a definite period of time, but that when the local people had developed sufficient interest and could assure the procurement of adequate rights of way and local financing the Board would then consider them for a planning priority.

Harvey Davis reported that planning of the Hondo Creek watershed would not be completed by the termination date on the Project Agreement and that an extension of time was needed. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the extension of time by a Supplemental Agreement.

An amended application on the Wichita County watershed was reviewed and presented to the Board for consideration. The amendment changed the name of the watershed from Wichita and Archer Counties watershed to the Wichita County watershed and reduced the area of application from 230,000 to 27,000 acres. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board accepted the amended application.

Harvey Davis reviewed the present status of watershed planning in the State and the possibility of a need for a small watershed to be planned with a Trust fund arrangement to complete the fiscal year. Chocolate, Little Chocolate, and Lynn's

Bayou watershed is now in litigation and is being held up in planning by opposition to the project. Some \$12,000 in Trust funds are involved in this project. If it does not clear up in the near future, similar Trust funds from some alternate watershed group will be needed to fulfill the planning program to August 31, 1963. Williamson Creek sponsors had previously agreed to furnish 2/3 of their estimated planning costs, and when contacted they wanted to be considered for full trust fund (\$21,000) if the situation arose whereby they could get immediate planning. On a motion by Frank Gray, seconded by J. C. Porter, the Board approved the Williamson Creek watershed for planning provided the project was needed to fill in prior to August 31, 1963 and that the local sponsors would pay the total cost of planning.

Hondo Creek watershed planning was reported to be nearing completion, Escondido Creek planning is well under way, and planning on Donahoe Creek watershed is being initiated.

Mr. Porter discussed correspondence he had received from Paul Harvey and C. M. Newton urging a planning priority for Hackberry Creek watershed near Hillsboro. Mr. Barnes reported that the Soil Conservation Service planned to re-examine the watershed since a major reservoir had been proposed by the Corps of Army Engineers in this watershed. The Board suggested that Harvey Davis notify the sponsors of the re-examination and that the Board would give due consideration when priorities are selected.

Harvey Davis reported on the meeting with the Rush Creek sponsors and of their desire to express their interest to the Board in getting their project started. This watershed is reported to have about 90 percent of lands under Basic Agreement and about 90 percent of the planned practices applied.

Norton reported on work with the Texas Water Commission in interpreting data and information needed by the Commission in applications being submitted for water permits. It was brought to the State Board's attention that more information and data was being requested from applicants than was needed, particularly on the

floodwater retarding structures where copies of the original easements were requested. It was pointed out that a conveyance by letter or easement was needed by an applicant from other owners relative to their approval of the use of the water. It is hoped that this action may make it easier and more economical for applicants to secure permits.

Harvey Davis reported on present status of recommended appropriations for the State Soil Conservation Board for fiscal years 1964-65. Due to an error, the Senate Finance Committee had included all classified positions at one step lower salary grade than they should have been. This was called to their attention and has apparently been corrected. The new grades should give all employees a raise. All versions of the budget recommendations included \$100,000 for watershed planning, but only the Governor's recommended budget included any funds for Soil Conservation Districts.

A resolution of commendation from the Association of Soil Conservation Districts was accepted by the Board. They expressed their pleasure and appreciation of the resolution and in turn directed the Executive Director to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution and to express to the Association and to all district supervisors their thanks and continued cooperation in all efforts directed at furthering the soil and water conservation district program.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Bading then discussed the program and arrangements for the annual state meeting of Soil Conservation District supervisors in McAllen in October. Among other things, the selection of principle speakers, program arrangement, and program for the ladies was considered.

Mr. Davis reported that participation of Districts in the Fort Worth Press Awards Program is getting less each year. A meeting is being planned with the interested parties to attempt to revive the program and stimulate interest by revising the score cards, perhaps change or revise the categories, and to create

interest on the local levels.

The Texas Bank and Trust Company Awards Program was discussed by Davis and Bading. The Company has spent \$60,000 in 12 years and participation is less and less. A meeting is planned for the near future to determine what may be worked out on this program.

A. L. Bading reviewed the meeting with the Governor, attended by Chairman Leesch, E. W. Wehman, Harvey Davis, and others in which the Governor signed the official proclamation declaring the week of May 19-26 as "Soil Stewardship Week".

F. F. Calhoun reviewed the plans and arrangements for the tour and hearing of the Running Water Draw watershed with the State Board.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. so the Board could tour and hold a hearing on Running Water Draw and proceed to Spur the next day to tour and hold a hearing on Duck Creek.

J. Frank Gray
Chairman

J. M. Norton
Secretary

July 26, 1963
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated April 24, 1963.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
John Comwell