

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD
MAY 1, 1965

The State Soil Conservation Board met at 3:00 p.m. in the Texas Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas, May 1, 1965.

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

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director, O. F. Armstrong, A. W. Dalrymple, S. E. Jones, and J. M. Norton of the State Board staff; C. W. Graham, Deputy Conservationist and H. N. Smith, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Temple, Texas.

The minutes of the March 17, 1965 meeting were read and approved.

A field examination report on the Comal River Basin watershed was reviewed by J. M. Norton as being a favorable and economically feasible watershed project. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board approved the application for assistance under Public Law 566.

Mr. Davis read an invitation to the Board members to attend a tour and review of the Comal River watershed and two of the structures completed by the County on May 11, 1965, sponsored by the Comal-Hays-Guadalupe Soil Conservation District, the Chamber of Commerce, and Comal County in the interest of development of the Comal River watershed. Mr. Wehman is to be the principal speaker.

Recent action of the Pond Creek watershed sponsors toward renewing interest in developing their project was reviewed for the Board. Several meetings have been held with the interested landowners. New legislation is proposed setting up the WCID on a benefited acre basis, and new WCID Directors are to be elected.

Harvey Davis reported to the Board that the Ecletto Creek WCID together with the San Antonio River Authority were interested in financing a work plan on the Ecletto

Creek watershed and have agreed to share the planning cost of \$60,000 on a 50-50 basis. A tour of the watershed and a meeting of the sponsors with representatives of the State Board is scheduled on May 3, 1965 to show the progress made in land treatment in the watershed and the interest of the local sponsors and landowners in developing the project.

Mr. Davis reviewed recent correspondence pertaining to the Dell City watersheds in which the Dell Valley Chamber of Commerce stated that their agricultural crops were not in surplus supply or under the price support program. This was in reference to the problem of getting watershed work plans approved by the Bureau of the Budget where the primary benefit justification was based on an increase or enhancement to the production of crops that were in surplus supply. A letter from Gordon Zimmerman was also reviewed pertaining to this problem. As a follow up on the last Board meeting, Mr. Graham had written the Washington office of the Soil Conservation Service relative to whether Acala Cotton, as is grown in the Dell City area, is considered as a crop in surplus supply or not. He reviewed a letter from the Washington Soil Conservation Service office which stated that according to ASCS cotton was considered as a surplus crop regardless of the type, staple, or other characteristics, and selling above the support price did not change the situation. This information was directed to be submitted to the Dell City people to let them know of the continued problem in the development of their watersheds.

The Board was reminded of the scheduled date of May 4, 1965 for a Board Member election in Area III at Kenedy. A program has been arranged to be held at Site 7, Escondido Creek, which is a floodwater retarding structure with Representative Wayne Connally as principal speaker.

Mr. Davis also reviewed for the Board the concept of the Neighborhood Youth Corps. This program is directed toward enrolling your ¹¹² people between the ages of 16 and 21, who are high school drop outs or from needy families with less than \$3,000

annual income into employment. The Federal government will finance 90 percent of this program with the sponsoring agency putting up 10 percent which can be in services. On motion by J. C. Porter, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to pursue this further and check with the Attorney General's office as to the legality of the Board handling this and the procedures for implementing the program.

Mr. Davis reported that the legislative bills concerning the Board and Districts had passed the Senate and House and are awaiting the Governor's signature. Funds for the increase in per diem and mileage have not as yet been secured in the appropriation.

An invitation was extended to the Board to attend and participate in a tour through the BIG-BET program areas scheduled to originate in Tyler on June 13 to 17, 1965. The purpose is to observe land treatment, pasture improvement, the watershed protection and flood prevention programs, improved livestock programs, and other important agricultural programs. The tour is sponsored by the East Texas Chamber of Commerce at \$100 per person.

Mr. A. F. Leesch reviewed the program of the National Watershed Congress held in Sioux City, Iowa, April 25-28, 1965, and some of the highlights of the panel and round-table discussions. Land treatment and education of both rural and urban people were among points brought out for the improvement of the watershed program. The small size of the watersheds and flood prevention structures in the Little Sioux watershed were of favorable significance both in distribution of these facilities and the elimination of many of the easement problems.

Mr. Davis discussed the theme and program for the Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors in Texas to be held in Corpus Christi in October. The collection of a "registration fee" to the meeting was reported by Davis as being legal, and could be used by the Board to pay for such items as travel expense for guests on the program and other incidentals. The theme for the

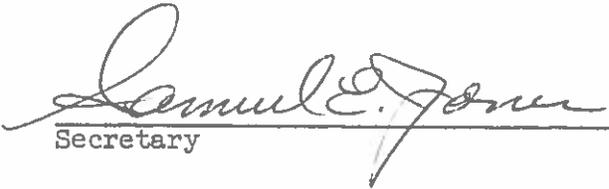
program was discussed in the light of it being the "25th Anniversary of Soil Conservation Districts". A committee from the Board consisting of Mr. E. W. Wehman, J. C. Porter, and Harvey Davis are to meet with the Program Committee of the Association on May 24 to further outline the program and select speakers.

The next State Board meeting was scheduled for May 31 or June 1, 1965, in League City so the Board may meet with Gordon Zimmerman and Phil Glick of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Harvey Davis is to confirm the date.

The Board meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. and those present attended the annual State-wide Conservation Awards Program sponsored by the Fort Worth Press held in Fort Worth.



Chairman



Secretary

7/17/65

Date