

Minutes
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
May 4, 1961
Hotel Texas, Fort Worth, Texas

The State Soil Conservation Board meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on May 4, 1961 by Chairman, J. C. Porter.

Other Members present were: E. W. Wehman, A. F. Leesch, J. Frank Gray, and J. S. Sharp.

Others present were: A. C. Spencer, Executive Director of the State Soil Conservation Board; H. D. Davis, Assistant Executive Director; J. M. Norton, Water Planning Engineer; Howard Boswell, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the January 11, 1961 meeting and February 3, 1961 meeting were read and approved.

Pictures of the present Board were made by Photographer Gene Gordon of the Ft. Worth Press.

A new watershed application on Escondido Creek in the Karnes-Goliad Soil Conservation District was approved for planning on motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by A. F. Leesch. This application will supplement work performed on Escondido Creek under the Pilot Watershed Program.

A report on the field examination of the Duck Creek Watershed was reviewed by J. M. Norton. The watershed was approved as being economically feasible for planning on a motion by J. Frank Gray, seconded by E. W. Wehman.

The Board canvassed the ballots of the election held April 4, 1961 for the purpose of dissolving the Duck Creek Soil Conservation District #101 and organization of Duck Creek Soil Conservation District #157 and Garza Soil Conservation District #158. The official results of the election were determined by the Board to be as follows:

1. Dissolution of Duck Creek Soil Conservation District #101

For Dissolutinn	484
Against Dissolution	78
Total votes cast	562

2. Creation of Duck Creek Soil Conservation District #157

For Creation	351
Against Creation	48
Total Votes cast	399

3. Creation of Garza Soil Conservation District #158.

For Creation	142
Against Creation	17
Total votes cast	159

Following discussion and after due consideration the Board determined the dissolution of Duck Creek Soil Conservation District #101 and the creation of Duck Creek Soil Conservation District #157 and Garza Soil Conservation District #158 to be administratively practicable and feasible upon motion by J. Frank Gray, seconded by A. F. Leesch.

The recommended subdivisions of the new districts as shown on attached maps were considered and approved on motion by J. Frank Gray, seconded by J. S. Sharp. The appointment of Victor Arrington and J. B. Morrison, Jr. as supervisors of subdivision 2 and 4 respectively for Duck Creek Soil Conservation District #157 and Virgil Smith and Walton McQuein as supervisors of subdivisions 2 and 4 respectively for the Garza Soil Conservation District were authorized when these new districts are officially created.

A. C. Spencer discussed present legislation as it affects departmental appropriations.

Howard Boswell explained the status of legislation now pending as it affects Soil Conservation Districts and the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.

Chairman Porter designated J. S. Sharp, E. W. Wehman, and A. F. Leesch to represent the Board at the Legislative Committee hearing on House Bill 780 to appropriate State funds to finance a Watershed Planning Party.

A. C. Spencer discussed with the Board the need to work with the State Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Committee and others to work out adjustments and correlate the Agricultural Conservation Program with Soil Conservation District work. The problem of "good conservation farmers" being penalized under acreage allotment programs is recognized as foremost in needing attention. The Board recommended that Spencer contact ASC Committee members and others and work for an adjustment in this program. The Board agreed to meet with State ASC Committee members in this regard. It was agreed that all District Supervisors should be asked for suggestions concerning needed changes in the ACP program to be used as a guide in the Board's work.

Spencer discussed a letter from Jack Barton, Extension Soil & Water Conservation Specialist, proposing the solicitation of suggestions from agricultural leaders and agencies and a meeting to revise our present Memorandum of Understanding between the A & M College System, Soil Conservation Districts, and the State Soil Conservation Board. It was approved on motion by Frank Gray, seconded by E. W. Wehman to submit letters separately to Soil Conservation Districts and Extension Service people for their suggestions for needed revision if any, and then to meet jointly to work out the Memorandum.

On motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by E. W. Wehman, the Board agreed that the individual Board Members would express their thanks and appreciation for the fine efforts of the Dalworth Soil Conservation District in assisting with the Annual State Meeting held in January.

A. C. Spencer reviewed the status of water planning in the State and stressed the importance of water for agriculture in the future.

Our work with the Bureau of the Census in regard to "irrigated acreage for 1959" was reported on by A. C. Spencer. An effort is being made to account for nearly a million acres of irrigated land which the preliminary census figures indicate was less than the acreage determined for 1958.

A. C. Spencer reported on his participation in the National Water Research Symposium held in Washington, D. C.

A. F. Leesch and J. M. Norton reported on the National Watershed Congress held at Tucson, Arizona.

Chairman Porter discussed the need for publicizing activities of Soil Conservation Districts and of keeping the public informed of outstanding work and accomplishments in the field of soil and water conservation. Mr. Spencer was directed by the Board to notify the Soil Conservation Districts of this important phase of their activities and to encourage them to utilize all means and facilities at hand to get this word to the public.

The Board expressed their sympathy to Mr. Spencer upon the death of his father.

The Board was informed of the re-election of J. C. Porter as Board Member from State District #5.

On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by J. Frank Gray, the Board elected J. S. Sharp as Chairman for the ensuing year.

On motion by J. Frank Gray, seconded by E. W. Wehman, A. F. Leesch was elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

J. S. Sharp
Chairman
Date July 26, 1961

J. M. Norton

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated May 4, 1961.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,
Price Daniel