

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
MAY 6, 1966

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session in the Texas Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas, at 3:00 p.m., May 6, 1966.

Board members present: A. F. Leesch, E. W. Wehman, J. Frank Gray, and Henry W. Turney.

Others present: Harvey Davis, Executive Director, J. M. Norton, and S. E. Jones of the State Board staff, C. W. Graham, Deputy Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, and Gene Gilbreath, Secretary of the Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District.

The minutes of the Board meeting of April 14, 1966, were read and approved.

Mr. Davis reported on the State Board Member election held on May 3, 1966, at McGregor. The Board welcomed Mr. Henry W. Turney as a new Board Member from Area V.

The Board reviewed its long standing practice of electing officers each year. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board elected J. S. Sharp as Chairman and A. F. Leesch as Vice-Chairman of the Board for the Year-May 1966 to May 1967.

A favorable field examination report was reviewed on the Lyford-Los Coyotes watershed near Raymondville, Texas. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the Lyford-Los Coyotes watershed as economically feasible for project development.

C. W. Graham reported on the effects of the upstream watershed program during recent storms in the State. Of some 1,100 floodwater retarding structures in place, only 130 structures had temporary flow through the emergency spillway, none over 2.0

feet depth. In watersheds where structural measures have been completed or a high percent of the structural measures have been installed, flooding was reduced as planned and in some cases completely controlled. It was estimated that the program produced benefits of some \$5 million from reduced flood damages. Mr. Graham reviewed watershed planning and congressional action on USDA program budgets. The House of Representatives has restored watershed funds to allow 100 planning starts and 80 construction starts during the next fiscal year.

Harvey Davis reported on the need to transfer state planning funds from Bennett Creek and Pecan Creek watersheds to the Aquilla-Hackberry Creeks watershed. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to sign supplemental agreements #12-10-410-7718 and #12-10-410-8045 respectively, with the Soil Conservation Service to reduce funds for the estimated cost of work plan development on Bennett Creek watershed by \$8,865.62 and Pecan Creek watershed by \$9,444.42, and to sign a project agreement in the amount of \$18,310.04 for work plan development of the Aquilla-Hackberry Creek watershed.

On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board approved funds for work plan development of Bitter, Oaks, John Mann, Polecat Creeks watershed and authorized Harvey Davis to sign a project agreement with the Soil Conservation Service when completed.

Harvey Davis reported on correspondence received from Congressmen relative to proposed cuts in planning and construction starts, and in which they all expressed support to restore these items to previous levels.

A letter to Congressman Poage relative to the policy of the Department of Agriculture not granting high priorities for planning of watersheds in which primary benefits were from the enhancement to the production of crops in surplus supply was briefed for the Board. Congressman Poage indicated in his answer that

he was unaware of the policy and did not think it was a good policy. He further indicated that he would check into the policy with the officials of the Department.

Harvey Davis reported on progress in negotiating with the State Board of Oklahoma and the Red River Authority relative to arrangements for planning the Sweetwater Creek watershed. Oklahoma indicated that they could provide their portion, but it would probably be delayed a few months because of previous commitments.

A sample form of resolution prepared by Phil Glick, General Council, for the NACD, for adoption by Soil and Water Conservation Districts relative to the ownership of "land-use plans" and the right to examine these plans was reviewed with the Board. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board agreed to table action on the resolution until the next Board meeting.

The Board considered a request from the Bee Soil and Water Conservation District to change the zone boundaries within the District for better representation and operation. On motion by E. W. Wehman, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the change in zone boundaries as recommended.

A petition from 23 landowners in the Davy Crockett-Trinity Soil and Water Conservation District #A04 was received by the Board requesting the transfer of 31,188 acres in Walker County to the San Jacinto Soil and Water Conservation District #A25. The petition has been certified as having signatures of more than 2/3 of the landowners involved. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board authorized a hearing to be held to determine feasibility.

Harvey Davis reviewed contacts with the Attorney General's office to determine if any changes have been made in voter qualifications in supervisor elections following recent rulings of the courts in respect to eligibility of voters. Mr. Davis found no change has been made in existing procedures. If a change is desired, it would be by legislative act. Changes in the general election laws do not affect Soil and Water Conservation Districts because they are considered special-purpose

districts with special election procedures.

Harvey Davis reported to the Board that an official request had been submitted to the Attorney General's office for an opinion on the legality of Soil and Water Conservation Districts owning and operating Natural Gas Distribution systems. The request has been acknowledged by the Attorney General's office.

Copies of a proposed new salary schedule established by the State Job Classification Officer and distributed by the Legislative and Executive Offices were presented to the Board. Based on recommendations of the State Job Classification officer, a motion was made by Frank Gray and seconded by E. W. Wehman to amend the salaries of all classified positions listed in the budget request that was approved at the April 14, 1966 meeting to comply with the new schedule and to amend the salary request for the Executive Director to \$16,000 for fiscal year 1968 and \$17,500 for fiscal year 1969. The amended requests for classified positions are:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Requested 1968</u>	<u>Requested 1969</u>
Water Planning Engineer	12,096	12,576
Assistant Executive Director	10,368	10,776
Soil Conservationist	10,368	10,776
Clerical Supervisor IV	6,528	6,528
Secretary III	5,388	5,604
Accounting Clerk II	4,440	4,620

This making a total Budget Request of \$431,586 for 1968 and \$436,002 for 1969.

The motion carried.

A motion was made by Frank Gray and seconded by E. W. Wehman to change the next regular meeting from July 20, 1966 to July 12, 1966, which

is the date set for the Board's Budget hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. so that the representatives of the Board could attend the Annual Conservation Awards Program sponsored by the Fort Worth Press.

L. J. Sharp
Chairman
July 11, 1966
Date

J. M. Norton
Secretary

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 May 6, 1966.

July 11,
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated May 6, 1966.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Connally