TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2014

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 14, 2014, at 2:36 p.m. at 4311 S. 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Marty H. Graham, Chairman
Scott Buckles, Vice-Chairman
José Dodier, Jr., Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Barry Mahler, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m. and welcomed those present.

A work session was conducted which covered agenda items in detail. Questions were taken and answered.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Marty H. Graham, Chairman

July 28, 2014
Date

Karen D. Preece, Secretary

July 28, 2014
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on May 14, 2014.

Rex Isom, Executive Director

July 28, 2014
Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2014

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 15, 2014, at 8:05 a.m. at 5247 S. General Bruce Drive, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Marty H. Graham, Chairman
Scott Buckles, Vice-Chairman
José Dodier, Jr., Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Barry Mahler, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Tony Franklin, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Ashley Wendt, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dave Morris, Geographic Information System Specialist
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Volney Hough, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Vicki Riser, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
David Basinger, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
J. C. Mathiews, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Bill Thomas, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Dr. Mark McFarland, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

AGENDA ITEM 2: Comments from Federal, State and Local Governmental Entities

Chairman Graham acknowledged Mr. George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General, and thanked him for his service as he retires on July 1, 2014.

Chairman Graham acknowledged speaker Dr. Mark McFarland, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner reviewed the Texas Water Development Board Texas Drought Report handout, and commented on the Agricultural Conservation Program and grants applications.

Mr. Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas commented on the State Technical Advisory Meeting, and extended an invitation to State Board Members and staff to join subcommittees. Mr. Salinas commented on Farm Bill programs, guidance to field offices, their budget and vacancies, Watershed Rehabilitation, drought and drought funding. Mr. Salinas also commented on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) contracts, Environmental Protection Agency-Waters of the United States, Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP).

Mr. Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on new water quality measures, the Nonpoint Source Program, Water Quality Standards, and the Texas Clean Rivers Program.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Mr. Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. James stated that the Association had presented the President's Award to Mr. Aubrey Russell, former State Board Member. Mr. James commented on Soil Stewardship, the Washington D. C. trip and visits concerning the Farm Bill, and the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Protecting Water Resources through Partnerships

Dr. Mark McFarland, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of Minutes from Previous State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Graham called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19-20, 2014 Board Meetings.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the following appointments. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David London, Canadian River SWCD #160, Zone 1, Replace F. G. Collard
Curt Cornett, Canadian River SWCD #160, Zone 2, Replace Will Price
Enrique Garza, Maverick County SWCD #253, Zone 4, Replace Douglass J. Fletcher, III
William M. Murphy, III, Victoria SWCD #346, Zone 2, Replace Clay Ohrt
Troy D. Shewmaker, Willacy SWCD #349, Zone 4, Replace Jack Scogin

AGENDA ITEM 7: Biennial Budget Request for Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Allocations for Clerical Assistance Contribution Agreement

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the allocation changes as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Financial Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Sunset Legislation Implementation Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Consider Approval of Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers in Accordance with 31 TAC523.6(f)(2)

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information

Mr. Jacobs moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Consider Reallocation of Fiscal Year 2014 Grant Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the reallocation of funds as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Consider Adoption of Water Supply Enhancement Program Policies and Procedures

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the new policies and procedures as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Consider Approval to Publish for Public Comment the 2014 Revision of the State Water Supply Enhancement Plan

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved to publish in the *Texas Register* the proposed revisions as presented for a 30 day review and comment period. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Consider Approval to Publish for Public Comment Proposed Revisions to 31 TAC Chapter 517, Subchapter B, Cost-Share Assistance for Water Supply Enhancement (§§517.22-517.37)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved to publish in the *Texas Register* the proposed revisions as presented for a 30 day review and comment period. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 23: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: State Board Officer Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

With no nominations, Mr. Mahler moved to re-elect Mr. Graham as Chairman and Mr. Buckles as Vice-Chairman by acclamation. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Consider Re-adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC Chapter 518, Subchapter A, Employee Training Rules (§§518.1-518.2)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved to publish in the *Texas Register* the scheduled rule for a 30 day review and comment period. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Consider Re-adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC Chapter 523, Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management (§§523.1-523.8)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved to publish in the *Texas Register* the scheduled rule for a 30 day review and comment period. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Consider Re-adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC Chapter 525, Subchapter A, Audit Requirements for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (§§525.1-525.9)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved to publish in the *Texas Register* the scheduled rule for a 30 day review and comment period. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Candidate Conservation Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Proposed Rules on "Waters of the United States"

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the State Board to submit comments on this federal rulemaking. Discussion ensued. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Texas Conservation Awards Program Recognition of Winners

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Review Plans for 2014 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis and Ms. Warrick reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Warrick presented proposed changes of 2 Panel Discussions: Waters of the United States and the Farm Bill

Top workshop topics: Social Media, Endangered Species, Border Patrol, and Meteorology

Tour idea: Winery

Currently working on getting CEU credits for workshops.

Mr. Dodier and Mr. Mahler expressed their approval of the new format.

Mr. Dodier moved to adopt the proposed format changes to the State Meeting. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: National Association of Conservation Districts Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Ms. Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel commented on the NACD South Central Regional Meeting in College Station July 27-29, 2014. Ms. Daniel stated that a room has been reserved for the afternoons for our State Board Work Session on July 27th and State Board Meeting on July 28th. Ms. Daniel commented on the speakers, tour, dinner, and hotel.

AGENDA ITEM 35: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 36: Public Information/Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk and Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 37: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Graham presented service awards to the following:
Kim York – 5 years (presented to Johnny Oswald)
Tuffy Wood – 10 years (presented to Johnny Oswald)
Kenny Zajicek – 15 years

AGENDA ITEM 38: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

July 27-28, 2014, to be held in College Station.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Marty H. Graham, Chairman

Karen D. Preece, Secretary

July 28, 2014
Date

July 28, 2014
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on May 15, 2014.

Rex Isom, Executive Director

July 28, 2014
Date