Meeting Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
May 15, 2008

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 15, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at 1100 North Congress, Room E1.012, Austin, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Jerry Nichols, Chairman
Aubrey Russell, Member
Marty Graham, Member
José Dodier, Member
Barry Mahler, Member
Larry Jacobs, Member

Board members absent were:

Joe Ward, Member

Staff members present were:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Andy Garza, Regional Office Coordinator
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Joe Freeman, Program Specialist
Adrian Perez, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
John Foster, NPS Team Leader
Lee Munz, NPS SWCD Liason
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager
Richard Egg, Engineer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Vicki Davis, Administrative Coordinator

Others present were:

Scott Buckles, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Bill Thomas, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Denise Gentsch, BASF
Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Daren Harmel, USDA - ARS
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Richard Syster, Texas Department of Agriculture
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Issac Alvarado, Office of Representative Hilldabrand
Jason Skaggs, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
Aaron Henricksen, Legislative Budget Board

Chairman Nichols called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments presented at this time.

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

Richard Syster, Texas Department of Agriculture discussed the importance of agriculture to the Texas economy, bacteria TMDLs, watershed protection plans and revisions to the 303(d) list.

Jason Skaggs, Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association discussed their work in conjunction with the State Board on bacterial TMDLs and standards for TMDLs.

Daren Harmel, USDA-ARS stated ARS appreciated the State Board's assistance in getting their findings into the field.

Don Gohmert, Natural Resources Conservation Service reported on: new hires, budget, TSP agreements, Farm Bill, importance of partnerships between NRCS and state agencies, security requirements and dam safety.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Discussion of US Department of Agriculture Information Systems Security Program

This item was covered by Don Gohmert at the work session held May 14, 2008.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Comments from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Bill Thomas, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts reported on: tour of Jule Richmond Ranch, upgrading their communications system, national convention in Reno, Nevada, upcoming concerns, Team Texas, upcoming Association meeting and the Farm Bill.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Minutes from the March 19-20, 2008 Board Meeting

Chairman Nichols called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19-20, 2008 Board Meeting as emailed. Mr. Dodier moved that the minutes be accepted as emailed. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: District Director Appointments

Ms. Davis presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications. Mr. Dodier moved the following appointments be approved. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Lester, Yoakum #150, Zone 3, Replace Sterling Lovelace
Larry Day, Gaines County #166, Zone 3, Replace Dayton Elam
Joe Allen Wells, Llano County #233, Zone 2, Replace Richard Rabb
Charles Robert "Bob" Devine, Fayette #341, Zone 3, Replace Albert Nunn
Kay Ragle, Palo Pinto #518, Zone 1, Replace Mary Ann Miller
Donna Hinkson, Palo Pinto #518, Zone 4, Replace Judy Morrow
Rick Purdy, Denton County #547, Zone 5, Replace Charles Morris

AGENDA ITEM 7: Strategic Planning and Legislative Budget Request for the 2010-11 Biennium

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Operating Budget

Mr. Zajicek and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Russell moved approval be requested from the Governor and the Legislative Budget Board for an increase in the agency FTE limitation by 1 FTE from 67.5 to 68.5. Mr. Grahan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Discussion of Water Quality Management Plans and Associated Cost-Share

Mr. Isom stated there would be no presentation on this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Waiver in Accordance With 31 TAC §523.6 (e)(2)(B),(E) Pertaining to the Expiration of Life Expectancy of a Previously Cost-shared Best Management Practice on a Certified Water Quality Management Plan

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved waivers be granted for the three water quality management plans as presented. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Supplemental Requests for Cost-Share Assistance on Water Quality Management Plans

Mr. Garza reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved the Board approve supplemental requests for cost-share assistance as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler moved the Board approve the three deferred and one statewide water quality management plan cost-share requests as presented. Mr. Graham seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Request for Waiver of Rules to Chapter 203.154, Subsection (b) of the Agriculture Code

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Russell moved the Board set the approved cost-share percentage rate so that no individual contract may receive more than 80% cost-share from State Water Supply Enhancement Programs and Federal programs combined. Mr. Dodier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Allocation of FY 08 Water Supply Enhancement Funds

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved the Board approve FY 2008 allocations for Twin Buttes, Pedernales and Guadalupe Water Enhancement Projects as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Inclusion of Additional Territory in Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD #356

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved the Board authorize staff to coordinate with Mr. Dodier to establish and provide notice of a hearing date to consider this petition when it is received. Mr. Russell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17: 2008 Annual State Meeting - Galveston; September 29 - October 1

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. A planning committee was named and board members recommended possible speakers and tour sites for the State Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Future State Meeting Sites

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Further information will be presented at the July board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Texas Conservation Awards Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis and Mr. Thomas discussed the Legislative Conference schedule for July 2008 in Washington, DC and the South Central Region Meeting scheduled for August 2008 in Hot Springs Arkansas.

AGENDA ITEM 21: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Clean Water Act §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Watershed Protection Plan Program Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Discussion on Three Draft Total Maximum Daily Loads for Bacteria on the Lower San Antonio River (Segment 1901), Leon River Below Proctor Lake (Segment 1221) and Peach Creek (Segment 1803C)

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Discussion on Draft Implementation Plan for One Total Maximum Daily Load for Dissolved Oxygen on Lake O' the Pines (Segment 0403)

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information and took questions from the Board.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Total Maximum Daily Load Program Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Human Resources Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Election of Officers

Mr. Nichols opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Mahler nominated Mr. Nichols as chairman. Mr. Russell moved that nominations cease and Mr. Nichols be elected by acclamation. Mr. Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Russell nominated Mr. Dodier as vice chairman. Mr. Mahler moved that nominations cease and Mr. Dodier be elected by acclamation. Mr. Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Set a Date for the Next State Board Meeting

Board set the next Board meeting date as July 16 & 17, 2008.

Mr. Dodier moved the meeting adjourn, Mr. Russell seconded and Chairman Nichols called the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary

7/17/08
Date

7/17/08
Date

I 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 14-15, 2008.

7/17/08
Date

Executive Director