TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2013

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 15, 2013, at 2:05 p.m. at 4311 S. 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, 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
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 2:05 and welcomed those present.

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

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Marty H. Graham
Chairman

July 18, 2013
Date

Karen D. Preece
Secretary

July 18, 2013
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, 2013.

Executive Director

July 18, 2013
Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2013

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 16, 2013, at 8:02 a.m. at 5247 S. General Bruce Drive, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, 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
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Pam Casebolt, Nonpoint Source Grants Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Ashley Alexander, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dave Morris, Geographic Information System Specialist
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Richard Egg, Statewide Programs Engineer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator

Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:
George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Pat Hudson, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Volney Hough, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Ben Bono, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Salvador Salinas, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kerry Nieman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kelly Holligan, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Daren Harmel, USDA-Agricultural Research Service
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Richard Eyster, Texas Department of Agriculture
Dan Utley, Historian

Chairman Mahler called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Dr. Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute, addressed the Board. Dr. Wagner stated that Dr. Neal Wilkins resigned as Director, and Dr. Roel Lopez has been named as Interim Director. Dr. Wagner stated that Texas Commission on Environmental Quality had awarded Texas Water Resources Institute and Texas A&M AgriLife with the Texas Environmental Excellence Award for the Buck Creek Watershed Partnership. Dr. Wagner commented on Task Force recommendations, funding, watershed efforts, and debris burning along the river.

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board and reviewed the handout. Mr. Turner commented on the drought and reservoir levels.

Mr. Kerry Nieman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Nieman commented on TMDL's, Nonpoint Source, Clean Water Act, upcoming meetings, and water quality standards.

Mr. Daren Harmel, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Harmel commented on their budget cuts, upcoming conference, and gave general invitation to Board and all staff to the Riesel Watershed 75th Anniversary in September.

Mr. Salvador Salinas, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas stated that they received their final allocation last week, commented on budget cuts and Farm Bill funding reductions. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout, and spoke about the USDA StrikeForce Initiative to boost rural economic growth and opportunity in Texas. Mr. Salinas stated that he will be serving as a Regional Conservationist stationed in Washington D.C. for awhile.

Mr. Dan Utley, Historian, addressed the Board. Mr. Utley stated that he is working with Mr. Rusty Ray on our 75th Anniversary project. Mr. Utley stated that photographs and history of when the State Board began are needed.

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

Mr. Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board and introduced the Association Board. Mr. Richmond commented on the success of the Legislative Day in Austin, the work they are doing to try to increase funding on Technical Assistance and Matching Funds programs, the Common Carrier Bill dead due to Point of Order, Washington D.C. trip including Program Specialist Bob Gruner, the success of the National Association of Conservation Districts Legislative Day in Washington D.C., and the Farm Bill.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Consider Approval of Minutes from the March 5-6, 2013 Board Meetings

Chairman Mahler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5-6, 2013 Board Meetings. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: 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 with the exception of Mr. Upshaw missing his Personal Data Sheet, and Mr. Sims missing a District Board Member's signature on his Personal Data Sheet. Mr. Ward moved for the approval of the following appointments contingent upon all paperwork being received in the Temple office. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Danny Allen, Parmer County #140, Zone 1, Replace Mike Beauchamp
John Upshaw, Palo Duro #147, Zone 4, Replace Joe Turpin (missing Personal Data Sheet)
Billy L Sims, Concho #201, Zone 4, Replace Debbie Ferguson (missing signature on Personal Data Sheet)
Raymond W Steeley, Jr., Lower Neches #437, Zone 1, Replace John Golden
Lanny Lewter, Upper Elm-Red #524, Zone 4, Replace C William Hermes
Bill Stelzer, Collin County #535, Zone 5, Replace Robert L King

Chairman Mahler noted appreciation of the early-on District Board Members.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Budget and Accounting Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Sunset Legislation Implementation Status

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster stated that we are still moving forward on the Water Supply Enhancement Program as the main Sunset focus at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented on the appropriation process.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Adopt Repeal to 31 TAC, Chapter 523, Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management (§§523.7-523.8)

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Buckles moved for the adoption of the repeal as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adopt Amendments to 31 TAC, Chapter 523, Agricultural and Silvicultural Water Quality Management (§§523.1-523.3 and 523.6 with new 523.7)

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the adoption of the amendments with new §523.7 as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Approval of Priority Watersheds and Aquifers List

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the list as the agency's Nonpoint Source Priority Area List as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers as per 31 TAC §523.6(E)(2)(A) thru (F)

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Consider Approval of Supplemental Requests for Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Assistance

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Requests

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Water Quality Management Plan Program Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Consider Approval of Amendment to 31 TAC, Chapter 529, Subchapter A: Operation and Maintenance Grant Program §529.3(e) to be Published in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day Review and Comment Period

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the approval for amendment to be published in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day public comment period. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider Approval of Amendment to 31 TAC, Chapter 529, Subchapter B: Structural Repair Grant Program §529.52(e) to be Published in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day Review and Comment Period

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved for the approval for amendment to be published in the *Texas Register* for a 30 day public comment period. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Consider Approval to Utilize Unobligated FY 2013 Repair Grant Funds for Operation and Maintenance Grants

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval to utilize funds as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Report

Ms. Casebolt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Consider Allocations of Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved for the approval of funding as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Mahler stated that Chris Couch would be receiving his 5 year service award.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Consider Petition to Remove a District Director from Navasota SWCD #440

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved to accept the petition of the Navasota Soil and Water Conservation District, and approve their request to remove Herbert Arceneaux as District Director. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Consider Approval of Subdivision Boundary Changes for Lower Neches SWCD #437

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Ward moved for the approval of the changes as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Consider Re-Adoption of 31 TAC, Chapter 517, Subchapter A, Conservation Assistance (§§517.1-517.12)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved for the rule re-adoption as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Consider Re-Adoption of 31 TAC, Chapter 519, Subchapter A, Technical Assistance (§§519.1-519.12)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Jacobs moved for the rule re-adoption as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Consider Re-Adoption of 31 TAC, Chapter 521, Subchapter A, Agriculture Water Assistance (§§521.1-521.13)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Dodier moved for the rule re-adoption as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 29: 2013 Annual State Meeting Planning

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Invitation to go to State Representative Drew Darby for award and as possible speaker. Mr. Davis discussed workshops. Mr. Davis stated that if a new State Board Chairman is elected at today's meeting, the newly elected Board Chairman will join the Annual State Meeting Planning Committee along with Mr. Mahler who will remain due to being the State Board Member from Area V.

Mr. Buckles made a motion to give authority to Executive Director and State Board Chairman to make decisions concerning Annual State Meeting. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Texas Conservation Awards Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 36: Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 37: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Mahler accepted nominations from the State Board Members.

Mr. Buckles nominated Mr. Graham for State Board Chairman. Mr. Dodier seconded the nomination. Nominations ceased. Mr. Jacobs moved for Mr. Graham's appointment by acclamation. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dodier nominated Mr. Buckles for State Board Vice-Chairman. Mr. Mahler seconded the nomination. Nominations ceased. Mr. Dodier moved for Mr. Buckles' appointment by acclamation. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 38: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

July 17-18, 2013, to be held in Temple.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary

July 18, 2013
Date

July 18, 2013
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 16, 2013.

Executive Director

July 18, 2013
Date