

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
May 17, 1984

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 17, 1984 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 1006 First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

J. Frank Gray, Chairman
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Vice Chairman
Hermon L. Petty, Member
Joe Antilley, Member
Albert Roach, Member

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
James Moore, Engineer
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Jay Kuykendall, Engineering Technician
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor

Directors of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts present were:

Waldo Smith, Vice President
W. Q. Richards, Secretary-Treasurer
Wilson Scaling, Director
Judge Larry McCasland, Director

Others present were:

Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service
Gary Westmoreland, Soil Conservation Service
O'Gene Barkemeyer, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service
Bob King, Texas Department of Agriculture

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes of the April 23, 1984 meeting were approved as mailed to each board member.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Hermon Petty, the board approved the following district director appointments:

A. J. Garland - Staked Plains SWCD # 155
Norman Rousselot - Edwards Plateau SWCD # 222
Fred L. Gilliam - Freestone-Leon SWCD # 424

Bob King, Texas Department of Agriculture, offered the services of his video department to produce news material to be released during Soil Stewardship Week. Joe Antilley, Waldo Smith and Gary Westmoreland were interviewed about soil and water conservation concerns in the State for the video.

Bob Buckley reported the Menard County Soil and Water Conservation District #215 had requested additional matching funds for fiscal year 1984. The original allocation for the Menard SWCD # 215 is \$713.00. This district has raised \$1,140.00. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board granted additional matching funds in the amount of \$427.00 to the Menard SWCD # 215.

Bob Buckley discussed technical assistance grant funds for fiscal year 1984. Several districts have either released funds or are asking for additional funds. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved technical assistance grant funds changes as follows:

Lynn County # 119 - released \$2,500
Concho # 201 - increased \$1,800
Middle Clear Fork # 206 - released \$3,000
Wharton # 342 - increased \$1,500
Trinity-Neches #422 - released \$2,000
Kaufman-Van Zandt #505 - increased \$3,800
Little Wichita # 532 - increased \$1,250

Wood SWCD # 444 requested an increase of \$14,000 for fiscal year 1985 in technical assistance grant funds. It was agreed by the Board that allocations would not be made for fiscal year 1985 at this time. The Board agreed that districts should be surveyed on the technical assistance grants program prior to establishing allocations for fiscal year 1985.

Dick Schendel reported on the public hearing held in Kingsville on May 14, 1984 relative to annexation of additional land territory in Kleberg and Kenedy Counties to the Nueces-Jim Wells-Kleberg SWCD # 311. This portion to be annexed was not included in the original district but is now a national seashore experiencing erosion problems and requesting soil survey information.

Landowners favor the annexation. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board determined there is a need for the inclusion and that this inclusion is administratively practicable and feasible.

The Board discussed the 1986-87 biennium budget request. Line items were reviewed and in order as previously discussed. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Albert Roach, the board agreed to increase the requests from districts for technical assistance grant funds in the amount of \$40,000 to be utilized to employ part time personnel at the Plant Materials Centers in Nacogdoches and Kingsville.

Mr. Petty briefed the Board on the hearing held on May 10, 1984, by the Budget and Oversight Committee of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee of the House. The committee recommended that State agencies reduce or contain increases in their 1986-87 budget requests. Since the lease of office space will effect requested expenditures in the 1986-87 budget request, Harvey Davis updated the Board on the status of the office space lease. On May 10, 1984, the bids for lease of office space were opened. The low bid was \$58,764 per year as compared to the current rate of \$26,070. The Board opposes moving its office from the present location in the First National Building which has housed the office for 30 years. The present office space does meet the City of Temple fire code but not the rules adopted by the Attorney General's Office because of having only one stair case. The Board feels this additional expenditure is excessive and unjustifiable. Each Board member agreed to contact his Representative or/and Senator. On May 18, Mr. Davis will meet with Mr. Foerster of the State Purchasing and General Services Commission and the low bidder to discuss the lease.

After careful consideration of funding needs to meet the responsibilities of the agency for the biennium 1986-87, on motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the budget request in the amount of \$4,959,412 for 1986 and \$5,154,290 for 1987.

The Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas on October 22, 23, and 24, 1984. Mr. Schendel reported facilities were convenient and could accommodate 1,200 people. Named to the Planning Committee for the Annual meeting were: Dick Schendel, Joe Antilley, Waldo Smith and Wilson Scaling along with the staff members.

Larry McCasland indicated Beaumont was interested in hosting our annual meeting at a future year. The Board recommended further checking into available facilities in Beaumont for consideration in selection of a site for the annual meeting in 1987.

Frank Gray welcomed the guests and asked if any would like to make comments.

Billy Griffin informed the Board that a formal request for technical assistance on implementation of a land evaluation and site assessment for Fayette County had been received. He requested the State Board to assist the Soil Conservation Service in the evaluation and indicated that the Board would be notified when arrangements are made.

Billy Griffin reported on the status of H.B. 5546 and what its effect would be on SCS personnel ceilings. He then informed the Board that Douglas Cunningham, Area Conservationist at Pampa had gone on extended sick leave and applied for early retirement. Brent Conlin has been designated Acting AC for the Pampa area. He briefed the Board on a groundwater recharge study conducted by the Hickory Underground Water District with SCS assistance. The district subsequently requested financial assistance from SCS for installation of three recharge structures. SCS responded that it has no authority to assist in such projects where flood control is not the primary purpose.

O'Gene Barkemeyer reported on a public meeting held in Marlin on April 12 to obtain public input into the Big Creek Watershed Project. No opposition to the project was expressed at the meeting. Since the meeting, however, some comments expressing opposition, mainly in the form of petitions have been received. In response to a question from Albert Roach, O'Gene Barkemeyer

updated the Board on the status of the Big Creek Watershed Project in Delta County and the Caddo Creek Project in Collin and Hunt Counties. Both are in the planning stage.

Gary Westmoreland updated the Board on a study conducted to determine the feasibility of an application for a water conservation and salinity control target area in the El Paso Valley. The application was determined to be feasible and will be submitted to the SCS National Office in February of 1985. Since the application also involves New Mexico, it will be considered separately from other target area applications Texas has already submitted. He then informed the Board that five Special Study Applications have been submitted for fiscal year 1985 funding. They are:

- (1) Upper Texas Gulf Coast Shoreline Erosion
- (2) Texas Rice Belt Water Conservation
- (3) Texas Surge Irrigation
- (4) East Texas Water Improvement and Mineral Balance
- (5) Conservation Tillage in the Texas Coastal Bend

He informed the Board that ASCS should soon change their regulations on eligibility for assistance in grassland areas to include the grassland condition as well as soil loss rates.

Bill Harris reported that this year's activities of the Food and Agriculture Council will center around resource conservation. He briefed the Board on planning by the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Research Service, Texas Forest Service and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service for demonstrations on wind erosion control which will involve soil and water conservation districts. He then provided brochures on a Bufflegrass Symposium scheduled for June 7, 1984, in Weslaco and on the Texas 4-H Roundup scheduled for June 7-8, 1984, at Texas A & M University. He expressed appreciation for the support provided by the State Association and soil and water conservation districts on the 4-H Roundup.

Earl Burnett reported that the current ARS Range Research Report does not provide for increased range research in Texas over the next few years.

Harvey Davis reported on the 1984 Statewide Conservation Awards Program. Mr. Davis attended all five of the area programs at Canyon, San Angelo, Victoria, Nacogdoches and Mineral Wells. Suggestions were made on improvement. In mailing out 1985 awards entry material, it was suggested that each district submit slides along with the entry to help expedite information on the regional winners.

On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board elected C. F. "Dick" Schendel as Chairman and Hermon Petty as Vice Chairman.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for July 19, 1984.

The Board went into Executive Session in accordance with Section 2 (g) of the Texas Open Meetings Act to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

C. F. Schendel
Chairman

Josephine Chipik
Secretary

July 19, 1984
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on May 17, 1984.

July 19, 1984
Date

Harvey Davis
Executive Director