

**Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**May 18, 1994**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 18, 1994, at 8:00 a.m. in its conference room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Albert Evans, Chairman  
Paul Robertson, Vice Chairman  
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Member  
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member  
Harvey Davis, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director  
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director  
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director  
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director  
Cherie King, Director of Programs  
Bo Spoons, Director of Programs  
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information/Education Director  
Lupe Pinto, Hydrologist  
Mohendra Mohite, Research Specialist  
Lois Cain, Administrative Technician  
Charley Rodgers, Hale Center Regional Manager  
John O'Connor, Mt. Pleasant Regional Manager  
Dan Hayes, Engineer, Dublin Regional Office  
Rex Isom, Soil Conservationist  
Bob Gruner, Soil Conservationist  
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Andy Garza, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist  
Joel Clark, Soil Conservationist  
Dub Crumley, Soil Conservationist  
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Kenton Inglis, Soil Conservation Service  
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board  
Ron Jones, Institute for Applied Environmental Research,  
Tarleton State University  
Don Swann, President, Association of Texas SWCDs  
Mike Holt, Vice President, Association of Texas SWCDs  
James "Rooter" Brite, Director, Assn. of Texas SWCDs  
John Earl Smith, Director, Association of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Bob Buckley introduced newly hired Mount Pleasant Regional Manager John O'Connor and Hale Center Regional Manager Charley Rodgers. He advised the Board that both men were recent retirees from the Soil Conservation Service.

On motion of Dick Schendel and seconded by Buddy Clark the minutes of the April 29, 1994, board meeting were approved as mailed. Motion carried.

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration and advised the Board the appointments appeared to be in order. On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Paul Robertson, the following district director appointments were approved:

Mrs. J. M. (Rusty) Carpenter, Upper Pecos SWCD #213  
Steve Wilkins, Crockett SWCD #235  
Jack W. Betts, Smith County SWCD #426  
Robert L. McLaren, California Creek SWCD #545  
Joseph S. Langdon, Brazos Valley SWCD #557

Mel Davis presented a petition for transfer of territory from the Toyah-Limpia Soil and Water Conservation District #209 to the Upper Pecos Soil and Water Conservation District #213. Mr. Davis advised the Board that the legal description of the portion of land

to be transferred was identified but not described by metes and bounds. The description should be corrected so the revised boundary would be consistent with and compatible to existing boundaries. On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Harvey Davis, the transfer of territory was approved contingent on getting the language in the legal description of the transferred territory corrected to metes and bounds. Motion carried.

Mel Davis updated the Board on the preparations for conducting elections to fill the unexpired terms of three directors to the Mustang Soil and Water Conservation District #242. It was reported at the last board meeting that three directors had resigned and business could not be conducted because they cannot establish a quorum. The Ag Code provides that if the number of qualified directors is less than the number required to conduct business the State Board may call for an election for the purpose of electing directors for each vacant subdivision to complete the unexpired term. The election date has been set for June 1 and legal notices have been posted. Prior to the elections a program on the roles of districts and directors, State Board and SCS will be presented.

Bill Neiser discussed Article 5, Section 110 budget reduction rider. The Legislative Budget Board notified the State Board the proposed reduction of \$125,200 has been approved. The staff recommended to the Board that the reduction be funded by Fiscal Year 1994 nonpoint source lapsed salaries. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis the Board agreed to follow staff recommendation and take the budget reduction out of FY 94

nonpoint source lapsed salaries. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser updated the Board on the Expenditure Report for the 8-month period ending April 30, 1994. Each appropriation item is close to budget but the regional offices are significantly behind their annual budget because of the time lapsed in getting the offices on line.

Mr. Neiser then discussed allocation of FY 94 Subchapter H Technical Assistance grant funds. He informed the Board of letters from Pedernales SWCD #218, Wood SWCD #444 and Monte Mucho SWCD #331 requesting additional technical assistance funds. He said all technical assistance funds have been allocated. No action was taken on the letters of request. Mr. Neiser then presented proposed Subchapter H Technical Assistance allocations totaling \$40,221.00. Harvey Davis moved to adopt the allocations as proposed, Paul Robertson seconded. Motion carried. Harvey Davis suggested the Board might need to look at the criteria on how Subchapter H Technical Assistance funds are allocated and may need to include water quality. During the review of the district allocations an error was discovered in the allocation process. Buddy Clark moved, seconded by Dick Schendel, to rescind the previous motion to approve Subchapter H allocations and to adopt Subchapter H Technical Assistance funds allocations as corrected. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser presented the agency's draft Strategic Plan for the 1995-1999 period and discussed changes and modifications that had been made since the draft strategy had been mailed to each

Board member for their review. Paul Robertson moved to adopt the Agency Strategic Plan with the changes and modifications as presented. Buddy Clark seconded and the motion carried.

Clyde Gottschalk updated the Board on the activities of the Public Information/Education Department. He briefly discussed the Cen-Tex Ag Tour scheduled for May 19, 1994 in the Salado area and said 185 reservations had been made and included state, county and city officials. Mr. Gottschalk said there has been good participation from area banks and soil and water conservation districts in the Central Texas area. Mr. Gottschalk also discussed the following: press release recently mailed to ag related trade journals introducing SB 503; SB 503 Reference Guides provided to the Board were to be sent to field and area SCS offices; developing news articles on 319 grants; Boy Scout programs going well and may try to do the same type program for Girl Scouts; video library is very successful; has several teacher workshops in place for the summer; and discussed the Food, Land and People Steering Committee meeting he had just returned from in Washington, D.C. and said this program is gaining a lot of national support.

Kenton Inglis reported the Soil Conservation Service will be conducting agricultural and environmental forums. He said the national office will conduct two in Texas, probably in Abilene and the Dallas/Fort Worth area, regarding the 1995 Farm Bill. The state office will hold five forums, one in each of the State Board state districts, with emphasis on what is expected of the NRCS in the district program. Mr. Inglis updated the Board on the recent

"buyout" of SCS employees. He said 79 employees were approved to take the buyout and SCS presently has 787 full time employees across the state. Mr. Inglis then discussed their agency strategic plan. He said they were working on short-term and long-term plans to help better serve soil and water conservation districts and private land users. The short-term plan is an interim staffing plan to be submitted to the national SCS headquarters by June 1, 1994. Bob Buckley is serving on their strategic plan committee and said it showed him that SCS has the same philosophy as the State Board and SWCDs.

Comer Tuck reported the Texas Water Development Board is also in the process of updating their strategic plan. The TWDB will be meeting on May 19, 1994 and will consider requests from two soil and water conservation districts for Subchapter H funds to purchase flow meters, and other water conservation equipment. They have been involved in performing irrigation evaluations at the request of the SCS and other agencies. He said 1994 is the year to conduct the statewide irrigation survey which is done every five years. Data should be available in a year and a half.

Don Swann reported on the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts' board meeting held on May 17, 1994. He said a letter is being sent to each district concerning procedure for submitting resolutions to be considered at the Annual State Meeting to be held in Austin on September 26-28, 1994, along with a set of Policy Positions for the Association of Texas SWCDs. He also said the State Association had sent a letter to Wes Oneth at

the SCS state headquarters opposing the U.S. Forest Service landowner survey and the use of SCS field personnel to conduct the National Private Landowners Survey.

Bob Buckley reported on a meeting of the Texas Cropland Improvement Alliance he had attended recently. The purpose of the Alliance is to promote crop residue management. Virgil Helms from the SCS requested that the State Board continue to co-chair the Alliance. Mr. Buckley asked the Board if they wished to appoint someone to continue to serve on the Alliance. Paul Robertson was asked and agreed to serve as temporary chairman until one could be elected.

Mr. Buckley requested Kenton Inglis from the SCS to discuss the U.S. Forest Service National Private Landowner Survey. Mr. Inglis gave the history of the survey and said as of May 18th they had received 23 letters from SWCDs requesting not to be involved in the survey.

Cherie King reported on the 1994 Conservation Awards Program that has just been completed and discussed the preliminary financial statement as of May 16, 1994. She reported that at the Association's directors meeting it was decided to request the addition of a water quality category to the 1995 awards program. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board voted to support this category and the Association's recommendation. Motion carried.

Mel Davis advised the Board it was time to appoint a planning committee for the Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water

Conservation District Directors which is scheduled to be held in Austin, September 26-28, 1994. Chairman Evans appointed the following people to serve: Chairman of the State Board; Donald Swann, President of the State Association; Bob Buckley, Executive Director of the State Board; Janel Franklin, President of the Auxiliary of the Association of Texas SWCDs; Harvey Davis, State Board member from State District Five and an appointee from Area III to be named by the Association President.

James Moore gave the Board a nonpoint source status report. He referred to a letter from EPA dated May 13, 1994, regarding the revised copy of Texas' Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Management Program. It has been tentatively approved and is being readied to undergo a public comment period after which submittal to EPA will be made through the Governor's Office. He reported that Fiscal Year 1994 grant projects are reaching the point where they will be finalized and 1995 requests for proposals have gone out.

Bob Buckley advised the Board of the desire of the Governor to have a member of the State Board on the Coastal Coordination Council. He said a letter has been received from the GLO inviting Albert Evans to serve as an ex-officio member of the Council. Mr. Evans recommended to the Board that Dick Schendel serve as the State Board's representative. On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board agreed to select Mr. Schendel as their representative if he would agree to accept the position and if it is agreeable with the Governor. Mr. Schendel thanked the Board for their confidence and said he would attempt to represent the Board

and agriculture on the Coastal Coordination Council.

James Moore updated the Board on the Clean Water Act Reauthorization. He discussed a proposed piece of legislation to amend the Clean Water Act which was presented to the Board at the last meeting held in Lubbock and said it was based on the S.B. 503 concept being implemented in Texas. Ron Jones gave an overview of the proposed legislation. Mr. Moore advised the Board that the State Association had reviewed the legislation the previous day and had some questions, but were supportive of the legislation if those points could be cleared up. Mr. Moore and Mr. Jones were asked to work on language to satisfy the expressed concerns.

Mr. Moore updated the Board on the status of implementation of S.B. 503. He said two sessions have been planned for June 14 in Plainview and June 16 in Stephenville for the State Board staff to meet with SCS and districts in the area. Mr. Moore said a meeting has been set for May 22 in Stephenville to discuss water quality management plans with district and SCS representatives in that area to clarify procedures to certify water quality management plans and identify potential plans now in the planning process.

James Moore discussed the allocation of water quality cost share funds. Since the April 29, 1994 Board meeting districts eligible to receive an allocation have been notified and advised that in order to receive an allocation they must submit a letter requesting funds to the State Board office in Temple. James Moore advised the Board that as of May 18, 1994, ten letters requesting cost share funds had been received and recommended that the

allocations be made according to the attached summary. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board adopted the allocations as recommended. Motion carried.

Randy Jones gave a recruiting update report. He said the Temple office is fully staffed and most positions in the three regional offices have been filled.

Each board member was provided a travel and per diem expense report for the eight-month period ending April 30, 1994. It was noted the NACD South Central Regional meeting would be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in July.

Election of officers was the next item on the agenda. Albert Evans nominated Paul Robertson for chairman and Buddy Clark seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, nominations ceased and Paul Robertson was unanimously elected to serve as chairman for the coming year. Nominations for vice chairman were then called for. Dick Schendel nominated Buddy Clark. Paul Robertson moved for nominations to cease and Buddy Clark be elected by acclamation, seconded by Dick Schendel. Motion carried and Buddy Clark was unanimously elected to serve as vice chairman for the coming year.

Harvey Davis and other Board members commended Albert Evans for the excellent job he has done while serving as chairman. Mr. Evans expressed his appreciation to the Board and State Board staff for their cooperation and friendship throughout his year as chairman.

The next Board meeting was set for Thursday, June 16, 1994, in Temple.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Albert H. Evans  
Chairman

Lois J. Cain  
Secretary

6-16-94  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on May 18, 1994.

6-16-94  
Date

Robert L. Buckley  
Executive Director