

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
May 19, 1983

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 19, 1983 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 1006, First National Building, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present were:

Joe Antilley, Chairman
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Hermon Petty, Member
Albert Roach, Member

Staff Members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Jay Kuykendall, Engineering Technician
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Billy Griffin, Soil Conservation Service
Charles Thompson, Soil Conservation Service
Kelly Cook, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Agricultural Extension Service
George Marks, Retired, Soil Conservation Service

Chairman Antilley called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests.

On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the minutes of the March 7, 1983 meeting were approved as read.

On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the minutes of the March 21, 1983 meeting were approved as read.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the following district director appointments were approved:

Mike Miller - Parmer County SWCD #140
Robert E. McKnight, Jr. - Toyah-Limpia SWCD #209
Douglas Brown - Navasota SWCD #440
Richard Kirchner - Panola SWCD #448

Bob Buckley reported the status of the agency's 1984-85 Budget Request.

He reported that the Conference Committee had tentatively approved funding for a Technical Assistance program for soil and water conservation districts.

Harvey Davis reported a request had been made to the Soil Conservation Service for a cooperative River Basin Study to be undertaken on critical shoreline erosion problems on the Texas Gulf Coast encompassing Jefferson, Galveston, Chambers, Brazoria, Matagorda, Jackson and Calhoun Counties.

Harvey Davis reported on legislation affecting programs of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Board. S.B. 558 amending the Agriculture Code with regards to districts handling conservation materials and supplies has been signed by the Governor. S.B. 873 relating to the annual statewide meeting of the district directors has passed the Senate and is on the calendar for a second reading in the House of Representatives.

Bob Buckley gave a status report on districts' claims against their allocations of conservation assistance funds. The criteria for allocating supplemental matching funds will be established in the July Board meeting.

Billy Griffin gave a report on SCS activities and a briefing on the effects of the new federal jobs bill on conservation projects in Texas.

James Moore briefed the Board on activities in P.L. 83-566, watershed protection and flood prevention program. Each member was given a current status report on watersheds being planned or in review process.

An application for a land treatment watershed project on the Lower Aquilla-Hackberry Creek in Hill and McLennan Counties sponsored by the Aquilla-Hackberry Creek Conservation District, the Hill County-Blackland Soil and Water Conservation District was discussed. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Board disapproved the application pending a feasibility study.

Charles Thompson gave a report on the progress of soil surveys in Fannin, Harrison, Freestone, Limestone, Lavaca, Liberty, Milam and Frio

Counties being conducted under a contract with the State Board.

Mr. Thompson brought to the attention of the Board, the "Farm Land Protection Policy Act". Since this item was not on the agenda the Board took no action and agreed to place it on the agenda for the July meeting.

Kelly Cook explained the procedure and composition of a land treatment only watershed application.

James Moore discussed the salinity study. Deposition of salts by natural or man-induced means in sufficient quantities affects soil and is recognized as a growing problem. A questionnaire is being sent to each soil and water conservation district in the State to determine the extent and location of salinity problems.

Harvey Davis reported on the Regional Conservation Awards programs held throughout the State in May. One hundred thirty-six districts had conservation entries in the program sponsored and financed by contributions from 169 soil and water conservation districts. Each region had good participation in the program.

Harvey Davis discussed the 1983 Annual State Meeting to be held in McAllen, Texas on October 24, 25 and 26, 1983. The Board selected Frank Gray, C. F. Schendel, Joe Montgomery, Waldo Smith and Harvey Davis to serve as a planning committee for the meeting.

Bob Buckley reviewed the letter of recommendations from the State Auditor concerning the examination of the financial activities of the Board for the 1980 and 1981 fiscal years. Actions taken to comply with recommended procedural changes were discussed.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are required by State law to have audits of their accounts prepared every two years. Many districts have reported excessive costs associated with these audits. Bob Buckley presented an analysis of statewide audit costs for the biennium ending

August 1982. The highest priced audit reported was \$1,250.00 and the lowest price was \$90.00. The statewide average was \$365.49 per biennium.

Dr. Burnett reported on research now being conducted on the effect of insects in long term conservation tillage systems.

Harvey Davis reported to the Board that they had been invited to become members of the Texas Water Conservation Association. No action was taken by the Board.

Each member was given a report of the current staff activities including expenditures for the period ended April 30, 1983.

Room reservations were made for each Board member at the Sheraton Acadiana Hotel in Lafayette, Louisiana for the South Central Area-National Association of Conservation Districts meeting to be held July 24-26, 1983.

Harvey Davis reviewed the model state act for soil conservation that will be distributed to Governors prior to the National Governor's Association annual meeting July 30-August 1, 1983 in Portland, Maine. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Board authorized Harvey Davis to write the Director, Committee on Agriculture, of the National Governors' Association, with a copy of the letter to Governor Mark White, emphasizing the State Board's position on (1) voluntary conservation program with adequate incentives, (2) the importance of local government control, and (3) the unnecessary establishment of a state soil conservation advisory committee by legislation.

Harvey Davis discussed the need for developing procedures for the new program on Technical Assistance included in the 1984-85 budget request. Possible guidelines for the Board's policy in handling the program were discussed. It was decided that soil and water conservation districts should be surveyed for their needs. The staff will work on recommendations for the Board's consideration.

Dr. Harris reminded the Board of the Soil Conservation Society meeting in Abilene on June 16 and 17 and the Surface Mining Conference on October 11-12, 1983.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for July 21, 1983.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board elected Frank Gray as chairman and C. F. Schendel as vice chairman.

In accordance with Section 2 (g) of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board convened into Executive Session to discuss personnel problems in the Running Water Soil and Water Conservation District #136 and the litigation involving the Comal-Hays-Guadalupe Soil and Water Conservation District #306. No official action was taken.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

J. Frank Gray
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

July 21, 1983
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on May 19, 1983.

July 21, 1983
Date

Sammy Davis
Executive Director