

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2016

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 18, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at 4311 S. 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Scott Buckles, Chairman
José Dodier, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Marty H. Graham, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Barry Mahler, 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
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, 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
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dave Morris, GIS Specialist
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Information Specialist
Molly Dutton, Information Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Ruby Garcia, Administrative Assistant

Teresa Reese, Natural Resources Specialist
Brian Miculka, Natural Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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

AGENDA ITEM 6: Temple Facilities Update

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Tentative move-in date is July 1, 2016, with July 31, 2016 being the final day at the 31st street location. Next State Board Meeting is tentatively set for August 4, 2016 at the new location of 1497 Country View Lane, Temple, with a Dedication/Open House afterward.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Legislative Appropriations Request

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek stated that the due date will probably be around August 10, 2016.

AGENDA ITEM 8: External Funds

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster stated that the Monarch Butterfly Program is expecting between \$5-7 million dollars.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented on the Flood Control funds, a request of flood control structure tour with Representative Gonzales and Representative Ray, and watershed operations budget.

Mr. Munz presented an update on regional office meetings, and introduced Ruby Garcia from Harlingen Regional Office, Brian Miculka from Gonzales Poultry Office, and Teresa Reese from Centerville Poultry Office.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Clark reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Clark commented on:

- #5 – Communication Plan through Public Relations
- #2 – Tech Advisory
- #3 – Staff to meet with ATSWCD Board & TCAWS Board
- #25 – Improved communication through training

AGENDA ITEM 20: Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Parker commented on technical requirements received from NRCS, 7,400 acres in applications, and over 370 applications received to date.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Consider Plans for 2016 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis, Ms. Warrick, and Ms. Dutton reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Buckles commented that he was able to attend Earth Day along with several other staff members. He stated that it was a tremendous meeting. Chairman Buckles complimented and thanked staff that was in attendance, and wanted to have media sent out about the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman

August 4, 2016
Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

August 4, 2016
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 18, 2016.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

August 4, 2016
Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2016

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 19, 2016, at 8:05 a.m. at 1749 Scott Boulevard, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Scott Buckles, Chairman
José Dodier, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Marty H. Graham, Member
Jerry Nichols, Member
Barry Mahler, 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
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, 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
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dave Morris, GIS Specialist
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Information Specialist
Molly Dutton, Information Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist

Ruby Garcia, Administrative Assistant
Teresa Reese, Natural Resources Specialist
Brian Miculka, Natural Resources Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Ellen Sameth, Office of the Attorney General
Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Volney Hough, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Vicki Riser, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
David Basinger, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
J. C. Mathews, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Kerry Neimann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Jim Clarno, Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m., welcomed those present, and acknowledged guests.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Mr. Neimann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Neimann commented on the Restore Act – Gulf Coast, the MOU between TSSWCB and TCEQ, the TMDL Program, and the 2014 Integrated Report.

Mr. Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute, addressed the Board. Mr. Wagner reviewed the handout, and commented on area ongoing projects, and watershed plans.

Mr. Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout. Mr. Salinas commented on upcoming meetings, Farm Bill update, Conservation/Innovation Grants, Regional Conservation Program, a Monterrey Mexico visit to give presentation of Texas Monarch Butterfly Program, and a League of United Latin American Citizens conservation tour.

Mr. Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner commented on their Board considering a State Water Plan on May 19, and also considering Executive Administrator or Interim Executive Administrator. Mr. Turner also commented on their new website: www.texasflood.org with a drought probability tool.

Mr. Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Harmel commented on conservation in Central Texas, and the Long Term Agro-ecosystem Research budget.

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

Ms. Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel commented on the National Association of Conservation Districts Farm Bill survey sent to 500 districts, a nationwide boot camp for 3 weeks of training employees on programs, a regional meeting in Arkansas, and an upcoming Board Meeting.

Mr. James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. James thanked Mr. Oswald and Mr. Foster for making the trip with the Association Board to Washington D.C., and stated that they were a tremendous help to the Association. Mr. James thanked Mr. Ray and Mr. Franklin for their contribution to Soil Stewardship. Mr. James commented on National Association of Conservation Districts and his appreciation to his fellow ATSWCD Board Members.

Mr. Mahler stated that there is an upcoming Soil Health Meeting in Area V on February 23-24, 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Consider Approval of Minutes from Previous State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece previously emailed a copy of the minutes to Board Members for their review.

Chairman Buckles called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 23-24, 2016 Board Meetings. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Glen Sansom, Middle Clear Fork #206, Subdivision 4, Replace Charles Hobbs
Debbie Kemp, Runnels #232, Subdivision 4, Replace Bobby Myers
Teodulo R. Rodriguez, Agua Poquita #321, Subdivision 5, Replace Willie Utley
Marshall Henson, Goliad County #352, Subdivision 4, Replace John Dreier
Charles Tate, Smith County #426, Subdivision 5, Replace Wayne Lacy
J. O. Grimes, Jr., Upper Neches #438, Subdivision 3, Replace J. O. Grimes, Sr.
Malcolm H. Guillory, Lower Sabine-Neches #446, Subdivision 3, Replace Pat Hudson

AGENDA ITEM 6: Temple Facilities Update

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Legislative Appropriations Request

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session.

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

Mr. Clarno, Texas Association of Watershed Sponsors, addressed the Board. Mr. Clarno reviewed the handout. Mr. Clarno commented on funding, rehabilitation projects, and deficit of \$5,350,000, and requested an exceptional item in our budget.

AGENDA ITEM 8: External Funds

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented on the coastal project, the Monarch Butterfly Habitat, and the Emergency Watershed Project.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented on the Flood Rehabilitation Project being incomplete, and the National Watershed Coalition.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Consider Approval of Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with 31TAC §523.6(f)(2) Relating to Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Cochran introduced Brian Miculka and Teresa Reese, and they explained where they are located and their job duties.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider Issuing Fiscal Year 2017 Request for Proposals for Brush Control Projects for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the changes as requested, authorize staff to issue RFP as requested, and publish in the *Texas Register*. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Isom complimented Mr. Oswald and Mr. Wendt on doing an excellent job on this assignment.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier commented that on a May 18th Hearing in Austin, there was a discussion about the Zika Virus coming to Texas, warning was issued to the committee, and that the Carrizo Cane could be a probable mosquito habitat.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Clark reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session. Mr. Clark stated that there are 25 projects, and all have been implemented.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Enhancing and Restoring Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Texas

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Parker stated that there have been over 370 applications to date, that she is contacting the applicants within 30 days, and that they are getting conservation on the ground as soon as possible.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Conservation Plans to Restore Health of the Gulf Coast

Ms. Parker reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Parker stated that there are currently 17 plans, 9 of which have been completed, and 8 in the process, for a total of 8,000 acres. Ms. Parker stated that they are in the process of setting up meetings to promote the program, and that contractors are available.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie Chicken

Mr. Gibson congratulated Mr. Graham and Mr. Nichols on their re-election to the State Board.

Mr. Gibson reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Gibson stated that they have received 2 planners' resignation letters, and that there are currently 17 requests awaiting conservation planning assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Consider Adoption of Amendments to 31 TAC, Chapter 520, District Operations, Subchapter A, Election Procedures, §§520.3(b) and 520.5(b)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to adopt the amendments and that they be posted in the *Texas Register* as adopted. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Consider Plans for 2016 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to set Pre-Registration rates at \$125, with \$90 spousal rate, and On-Site Registration rate at \$140 with \$100 spousal rate. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Texas Conservation Awards Program and Banquets

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 27: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 28: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis stated that there is no information to present at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Election of State Board Officers

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to retain current State Board Officers of Mr. Buckles as Chairman, and Mr. Dodier as Vice Chairman. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Public Information and Education Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's Work Session.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Public Relations and Information Status Report

Ms. Warrick reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Buckles presented service award plaques to the following staff:

- Ruby Garcia – 10 years
- Johnny Oswald – 30 years
- Mel Davis – 40 years

AGENDA ITEM 33: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

August 3-4, 2016.

Chairman Buckles stated that our August meeting will be held in the new building, and that he is honored, proud, and excited for our new facilities.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

August 4, 2016
Date

August 4, 2016
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 19, 2016.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

August 4, 2016
Date