

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2015

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 20, 2015, at 3:08 p.m. at 4311 S 31st Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
Joel Clark, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project management Coordinator
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Russell Gregorczyk, Jansen & Gregorczyk, CPA

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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

AGENDA ITEM 9: Facilities Update

Mr. Zajicek updated Board Members on facilities. June 3 at 3:00 state will open Requests for Proposals for future office space.

Mr. Zajicek stated that Board Members must attend training by September if agency administers contracts.

Mr. Oswald stated that there is to be a meeting on June 9th about Biological Control of Arundo donax of the Rio Grande Basin.

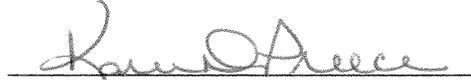
Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman

July 16, 2015

Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

July 16, 2015

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 20, 2015.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

July 16, 2015

Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2015

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 21, 2015, at 8:05 a.m. at 1749 Scott Boulevard, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

Marty H. Graham, Chairman
Scott Buckles, Vice-Chairman
José Dodier, Jr., 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
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
Johnny Oswald, 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
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Liza Marshall, 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, Public Affairs Specialist
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist

Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist
Cindy Ramirez, Engineering Technician
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Andrew Lutostanski, Office of Attorney General
Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Jule Richmond, 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 Niemann, Texas Commission on Environment Quality
Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Pete Laney

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

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

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner commented on the rainfall, drought, and regional water plans.

Mr. Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environment Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on the TMDL Program, Implementation Plan, Nonpoint Source Program, and the 2014 Integrated Report.

Mr. Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas reviewed the handout. Mr. Salinas thanked the State Board and Staff for their patience of the Fiscal Year 2015 rollout of funds. Mr. Salinas commented on the funding for the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative, drought funding, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, personnel updates, Risk Management Agency crop insurance, Conservation Client Gateway rollout on May 28, the upcoming June 9th project meeting in Muldoon, and future direction projects.

Chairman Graham acknowledged Mr. Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service, and Mr. Andrew Lutostanski, Office of the Attorney General.

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

Mr. Rickey James, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. James commented on the progress of the resolutions, and the meetings in Washington, D.C. that were attended.

Chairman Graham acknowledged Mr. Pete Laney.

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

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Graham called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3-4, 2015 Board Meetings.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Nichols 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.

K. Bruce Bridges, Lamb County #130, Subdivision 2, Replace Jimmy McCurry
James L. Greer III, Upper Nueces-Frio #238, Subdivision 4, Replace Charles Carson
Curtis Koehler, Comal-Guadalupe #306, Subdivision 5, Replace Robin Baker
Reynaldo G. Nino, Loma Blanca #328, Subdivision 4, Replace Romualdo L. Herrera
Richard L. Niemann, Copano Bay #329, Subdivision 4, Replace Cy Bauer
Cy Bauer, Copano Bay #329, Subdivision 5, Replace Harley Dallas Ford
Curtis L. Koenig, DeWitt County #339, Subdivision 2, Replace Charles Riedesel
James A. Davis, Bowie County #408, Subdivision 5, Replace Ernest Shelton
Preston Lindsey, Cherokee County #427, Subdivision 1, Replace Nolan Scruggs
Dennis Lane, Lower Neches #437, Subdivision 2, Replace C. M. Sanderfer
Harold D. Wood, Upper Neches #438, Subdivision 1, Replace Elton Woods
Laird Wade Moncrief, Longleaf #439, Subdivision 3, Replace John English
Tim Schur, Wilbarger #537, Subdivision 4, Replace Patsy Schur Donges

AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Approval of Internal Audit of Clean Water Act Section 319 (h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 7: Consider Approval of Internal Audit of Water Quality Management Planning Program

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the internal audit as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 Internal Audit Plan

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the internal audit plan as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Facilities Update

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: External Funds

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Fiscal Year 2015 Flood Control Programs O&M Allocation

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

AGENDA ITEM 15: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Consider Approval of Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with 31 TAC §523.6(f)(2) Relating to Criteria for Waivers

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

AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider Approval of Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Consider Issuing Fiscal Year 2016 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 request as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Consider Reallocation of Fiscal Year 2015 Grant Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Jacobs moved for the approval to de-allocate and reallocate funds as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Clark reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Clark commented on the new district computers, and gave an update on the outreach video.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Consider Re-adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC Chapter 520, Subchapter B, Requirements to Receive State Funds or Administer State Programs (§§520.11-520.13)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to publish the scheduled rule as presented in the Texas Register for a 30 day public review and comment period. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Consider Request from Crockett Soil and Water Conservation District #235 for Name Change to Crockett County Soil and Water Conservation District #235

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the name change to be sent to the Secretary of State for their approval, and upon the Secretary of State's approval confirmation, the name change to become official. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Consider Request by Llano County Soil and Water Conservation District #233 for Subdivision Boundary Change

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 27: Consider Request by Oldham County Soil and Water Conservation District #153 for Subdivision Boundary Change

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the change as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 29: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to Improve and Restore the Gulf of Mexico

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Review Plans for 2015 Annual State Meeting

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

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

AGENDA ITEM 31: Texas Conservation Awards Program Recognition of Winners

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 32: State Board Member Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 33: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 35: National Association of Conservation Districts Status Report

Mr. Davis and Ms. Daniel reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 36: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 37: Prescribed Burn Board Status Report

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 38: Historical Marker Dedication

Mr. Ray reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 39: Public Information/Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

There was a video presentation of the drone flying over a Flood Control structure. Mr. Foster, Mr. Munz, and Mr. Bednarz gave narrative of video.

Mr. Isom commented on the Flood Control Program in Texas and its partnership with NRCS.

AGENDA ITEM 40: Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information.

Chairman Graham presented service award plaques to the following staff:

Cynthia Ramirez – 5 years

Thomas J. Helton – 10 years

Mr. Perez presented a card from staff to Mr. Franklin for his upcoming wedding.

Chairman Graham acknowledged Mr. Memo Benavidez.

AGENDA ITEM 41: State Board Officer Elections

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler nominated Mr. Scott Buckles as Chairman. With no other nominations, Mr. Ward called for Mr. Buckles' appointment by acclamation.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of Mr. Buckles to serve as Chairman of the State Board. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Buckles to appoint Vice Chairman.

AGENDA ITEM 42: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

July 15-16, 2015 to be held in Temple.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

July 16, 2015

Date

July 16, 2015

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 21, 2015.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

July 16, 2015

Date