

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
May 22, 1986

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, May 22, 1986 at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North 5th, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Hermon L. Petty, Chairman
Albert Roach, Vice Chairman
Joe Antilley, Member
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Fred H. Squyres, Member

Staff members present were:

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

Others present were:

Coy Garrett, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Agricultural Extension Service
Dr. Earl Burnett, Agricultural Research Service

Chairman Petty welcomed Fred Squyres, the new State Board member from Area I elected on May 6, 1986 replacing Frank Gray and called the meeting to order.

On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes of the March 27, 1986 meeting were approved as mailed to each Board member.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

Robert Jameson - Gaines County SWCD # 166
William Raymond Braden - Dewitt County SWCD # 339
Herbert J. Brune - Austin County SWCD # 347
T. G. Bellmyer - Shelby SWCD # 449
Jimmy Haggerton - Mustang SWCD # 242

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved the following appointments contingent upon receipt of additional information:

Ross Stavley - Rio Grande Pecos River SWCD # 237
(need data form # 50)
Jay Gatlin - Limestone-Falls SWCD # 501
(need resignation notification)

Public hearings were held on April 23, 1986 in Goliad, Texas and Kenedy, Texas relative to the division and reorganization of the Karnes-Goliad Soil and Water Conservation District # 343. Testimony presented at the hearings was favorable. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board authorized the staff to proceed with the division and reorganization.

A petition was received on April 14, 1986 from the Duck Creek SWCD # 157 to divide and reorganize into two districts; Duck Creek # 169 and Andrew Kent # 170. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board authorized the staff to proceed with the division and reorganization and set date/dates for public hearings.

The current 1986 FY operating budget was discussed. Since nearly two-thirds of the fiscal year is gone, unexpended funds have been evaluated. As per attached, on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board approved an amended 1986 FY operating budget.

Bob Buckley reported that Governor Mark White's letter dated May 19, 1986, requires a quarterly report be submitted by each State agency to provide in detail the 13% reduction in FY 1986-87 operating budget pursuant to Executive Order MW-36.

The Board discussed updating its State soil and water conservation plan pending availability of Resource Conservation Act funds. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board agreed the plan did not need revision during the 1986 fiscal year and will not request any grant funds.

A request from the National Association of Conservation Districts to become a regular dues paying member of the organization was discussed. Since the 13% reduction is in effect pursuant to Executive Order MW-36, and the fact that our agency staff has served as advisors and/or on various committees of NACD without remuneration from NACD, the Board agreed not to become a paying member of NACD. The Board felt our contribution is our assistance to the organization in various phases of the soil and water conservation program. A letter of explanation will be sent to NACD.

A claim received May 13, 1986 for Conservation Assistance Funds (matching funds) in the amount of \$3,800.00 from the Montgomery Walker SWCD # 425 was discussed. No funds had been allocated to this district. In compliance with the Board's policy on allocation of conservation assistance funds, on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board declined payment of this claim.

Several districts have relinquished allocation of Subchapter H, Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Assistance funds totaling \$6,000.00. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, these funds were re-allocated to other districts as follows:

Hockley County # 129	\$ 500.00
Lamb County # 130	300.00
Cottle County # 163	700.00
Burleson-Lee # 313	2,300.00
Hays County # 351	2,200.00

In compliance with the Board's policy in effect on funding for FY 1986, on motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Roach, the Board declined a request dated May 12, 1986 from Hale County SWCD # 132 for allocation of Subchapter H, Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Assistance funds. A letter of explanation of the Board's action will be sent to the Hale County SWCD.

The 1988-89 FY proposed budget request was discussed. Funding levels

I thru IV were reviewed. Budget figures reflect the 13% reduction implemented by Executive Order MW-36. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board approved the proposed 1988-89 biennium budget request as per attached.

The Board reviewed draft proposed rules covering conservation assistance funding and technical assistance funding. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Joe Antilley, the Board voted to adopt the proposed rules and authorized the staff to proceed with publishing the rules in the Texas Register.

Hermon Petty welcomed the guests and asked if anyone had comments to make to the Board.

Coy Garrett reported on the Conservation Reserve Program and the beneficial effect it has had on SCS-ASCS relations. He reported that SCS is in the final stage of developing a revised state staffing plan to help meet budget reductions. He indicated that State Office personnel numbers will be reduced, area office coverage will be reorganized, project and field offices will be reduced. He recommended that the State begin to build a technical conservation program to fill the void being left by federal budget reductions. He updated the Board on Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention activities and indicated that the proposed budget recisions affecting the ACP program, watershed construction and the Great Plains Program did not receive congressional action necessary for them to carry. He also updated the Board on the status of the second Conservation Reserve Program sign up.

Bill Harris updated the Board on Extension Service activities pertaining to the Conservation Reserve Program. He updated the Board on the progress of the Wind Erosion Projects being done in cooperation with soil and water conservation districts. He expressed concern about proposed rules covering conservation easements to be taken by USDA for forgiveness of debt and discussed the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the State Board, Soil

and Water Conservation Districts and the Texas A & M University System. He announced that State Soil Judging would be held at College Station on June 11 and reminded the Board of the upcoming SCSA meeting in College Station on July 10-12, 1986.

Earl Burnett informed the Board that Dr. Rex Johnston had retired and that Dr. Bob Stewart will be Acting Area Director of the Southern Region for 120 days. He indicated that the Agricultural Research Service has escaped any major budget reductions thus far and that the 4.2% cut experienced previously had been restored. He indicated that the Agricultural Research Service and the Experiment Station were concerned about water used by brush and the lack of data which currently exists pertaining to the potential to obtain enhanced water yields through brush management. He reported that research in this area will be undertaken in the near future.

The 1986 Texas Conservation Awards programs held in May for each of the five State areas were reviewed. Improvements on length of time of the programs was discussed. If too lengthy, attendance may be affected. Estimated financial status on banquet tickets sales and disbursements for each area were handed out.

The Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be held on October 20, 21, and 22nd, 1986 in Austin, Texas. Suggestions for the program were made. The Planning Committee consists of the Chairman of the Board, Dick Schendel, Waldo Smith and Clyde Hale.

The Board reviewed facilities available as possible Annual State meeting sites in the following cities:

Galveston
Lubbock
Abilene
Amarillo
El Paso
Corpus Christi

Meeting space and lodging facilities were considered. On motion of Albert Roach, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board chose Galveston as the site for the 1987 Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board chose Lubbock as the site for the 1988 Annual meeting.

Jay Kuykendall briefed the Board on the outline of topics for consideration in the State brush control program. These topics will be discussed in the Advisory Committee meeting in June.

Clyde Gottschalk reported that the film treating the cause and effects of brush is nearing completion and should be available for distribution this summer. He discussed the joint project with the Soil Conservation Society of America on development of the audio visual program from SCSA's booklet entitled, "Land, Its Use and Abuse Through Centuries". With respect to broadcast educational materials, he reported that radio public service programs on woodland, range and cropland are being completed and will be distributed through local SWCDs. In addition Television Public Service Spots relative to minimum tillage were recently released to selected television stations through local SWCDs. He advised the Board that a conservation billboard public awareness program will be used this summer promoting soil and water conservation in harmony with the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration. He reported that several major retail grocers are actively participating in the public awareness program again this year. He concluded by saying that the State Board will have participation in environmental/conservation graduate courses at several universities this summer.

Harvey Davis discussed the need to begin work on any legislative matters to be covered by the 70th Texas Legislature. Discussion centered around a bill to exempt conservation related purchases from sales tax, legislation relative

to reclamation of surface mining, possible attempts to repeal the agricultural valuation for ad valorem taxes and on the need to be involved in any attempts to authorize the \$200 million bond program approved in proposition # 2. It was reported that Representative Pete Patterson had offered to carry needed sales tax legislation for conservation purposes.

Dick Schendel reported on the meeting of the Marsh Conservation Committee of Louisiana that he, Waldo Smith and Harvey Davis attended on April 2 and 3, 1986 in Cameron, La. area. The group toured the coastal marsh areas and viewed the effects of programs initiated to control coastal marsh erosion.

Since the sunset legislation changed the term of office of board members, all five State areas held elections on Tuesday, May 6, 1986. Members elected to the Board are as follows:

Area I	Fred Squyres	1 year term
Area II	Joe Antilley	2 year term
Area III	C. F. Schendel	1 year term
Area IV	Albert Roach	2 year term
Area V	Hermon Petty	1 year term

The Board discussed election of officers. In the past with five members serving 5 years, the Board used a rotation system to elect its chairman and vice-chairman each year. The Board agreed to maintain election of officers each year after the Board member election in May. The Board elected Albert Roach as Chairman and Joe Antilley as Vice Chairman.

The Soil Conservation Society of America, Texas Section, will hold its meeting on July 10, 11, & 12, 1986 in College Station, Texas.

The South Central Area meeting of NACD will be held July 27, 28, and 29, 1986 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. All Board members plan to attend as previously adopted in the Board's travel policy. Lodging reservations will be made for the Board members.

The Soil Conservation Society of America, National Section, will meet

on August 3-6, 1986 in Winston-Salem, N.C. The Board authorized John Millican to represent the Board at the meeting.

The NACD Leadership Conference will be held on August 20-22, 1986 in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Board authorized Albert Roach and Harvey Davis to represent the Board at the meeting.

The aforementioned out of state travel is a directly related service to the agency as provided in Executive Order MW-36.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 17, 1986.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Albert Roach
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

July 17, 1986
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on May 22, 1986.

July 17, 1986
Date

James Davis
Executive Director