

Official Minutes

State Soil and Water Conservation Board

May 24, 1989

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, May 24, 1989, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Chairman  
Fred Squyres, Vice Chairman  
Joe Antilley, Member  
Harvey Davis, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director  
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director  
Bill Neiser, Director of Programs  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
James Moore, Engineer  
Jay Kuykendall, Planner  
Janet Gonser, Planner  
Clyde Gottschalk, Information Specialist  
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Rex Isom, State Board Field Representative  
Bob Gruner, State Board Field Representative  
Joe Freeman, State Board Field Representative  
Johnny Oswald, State Board Field Representative  
Roy Freeman, State Board Field Representative  
Andy Garza, State Board Field Representative  
David Powell, State Board Field Representative  
Joe McKay, State Board Field Representative  
Don Brandenberger, State Board Field Representative  
Dub Crumley, State Board Field Representative

Others present were:

Clyde Hale, President, Association of Texas SWCDs  
S. W. Dorrell, Director, Association of Texas SWCDs  
Don Swann, Director, Association of Texas SWCDs  
Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Dale Fischgrabe, Soil Conservation Service  
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agriculture Research Service  
Atlan Pflugger, Texas Water Development Board  
Gary Westmoreland, Soil Conservation Service  
O'Gene Barkemeyer, Soil Conservation Service

Chairman Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bill Neiser was welcomed as a new State Board employee

and Harvey Davis was welcomed as a new State Board member replacing Hermon Petty in State District V.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Harvey Davis, the minutes of the March 15, 1989, meeting were approved as mailed to each Board member.

John Millican reviewed information on appointees for district directors for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board approved the following district directors:

Jerry H. Homfeld, Tierra Blanca SWCD #143

Tommy Love, Lower Pease River SWCD #162

Teofilo Flores, Jr., Southmost SWCD #319

Steve W. Burnett, Panola SWCD #448

Peggy F. Reed, Limestone-Falls SWCD #501

I. D. Eiland, Miller-Brazos SWCD #542

Ronnie D. Voyles, Trinity-Neches SWCD #422 was approved contingent upon receipt of appointment forms containing original signatures.

John Millican reported on the status of the division and reorganization of the Dos Rios Soil and Water Conservation District #322. Mr. Millican reported that favorable public hearings had been held in Cotulla, Texas and Tilden, Texas and asked the Board for

authorization to proceed with the division. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board authorized the staff to proceed with the division and reorganization.

Bob Buckley provided the Board members with a list of districts whose audits had been received and approved. A report was given on the discrepancies found in the audits. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Harvey Davis, the report on discrepancies was accepted and approved by the Board.

Mr. Buckley reviewed the proposed rule change discussed in the Board meeting of March 15, 1989, which proposed that maximum pay rates "not to exceed the level of pay for a GS-5, Step 1 on the federal general schedule pay scale..." On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Joe Antilley, it was the decision of the Board to leave the pay scale as it presently is now at \$6.50 per hour.

A letter requesting an additional \$5,000 in technical assistance was presented to the Board from Wheeler County Soil and Water Conservation District #141 and a letter from Waters Davis Soil and Water Conservation District #318 turning back \$1,500 in technical assistance. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Harvey Davis, it was the decision of the Board to keep the procedure as it has been in the past leaving the returned funds in the area it came from. Motion carried. Fred Squyres made the motion to let the Executive Director in consultation with the field representatives and Board member to make allocations to

districts that request additional funds. Harvey Davis seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Buckley advised the Board there was \$67,003.41 available in Subchapter H Technical Assistance funds. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Joe Antilley, it was the decision of the Board to allocate the available funds according to the water conservation potential of each area. (See attachment). Joe Antilley made the motion to allocate the funds as per attached. Fred Squyres seconded and motion carried.

Mr. Buckley reported to the Board the status of the agency budget request for the 1990-91 biennium. He then reviewed pending legislation that would affect soil and water conservation districts.

Wes Oneth advised the Board that Dale Fischgrabe would be retiring and this would be his last Board meeting. He also said Dale Allen, the SCS Public Information Specialist, would be retiring. He reported on the National Watershed Conference and said Texas had more people in attendance than any other state represented. He said one thing that came out of the meeting was an expression of a need to form a coalition to work for watershed funding.

James Moore updated the Board on the status of the Agricultural/Silvicultural nonpoint source assessment and management program and reviewed revisions made to the management program for the May 4 submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency. The Board was

provided with copies of the Texas Water Commission transmittal letter which accompanied the submission of the May 4 revision and a summary of the major revisions made to the agricultural/silvicultural management program. The Board was then provided with a list of Fiscal Year 89 milestones contained in the agricultural/silvicultural management program. As part of the milestones, James Moore discussed formation of a State Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee and a State Agricultural/Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Joe Antilley, the staff was instructed to form both committees. Under the FY 89 milestones for the North Bosque River, possible approval of a P.L. 83-566 application was discussed. The Board agreed that a tour and hearing should be held before approving an application and that it should be done in conjunction with the September Board meeting. James Moore indicated that the FY-89 milestone accomplishments would be included in a report to be submitted to EPA prior to August 1 of this year, and would include any needed updates to the agricultural/silvicultural nonpoint source management program.

James Moore reported that the Gulf of Mexico subcommittee assignments requested by the Board were still pending. He briefed the Board on recent meetings of the Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee for the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program and Dick Schendel reported on meetings of the Citizens Advisory Steering Committee. James Moore briefed the Board on activities of the State Nonpoint Source Advisory Committee and on a nonpoint source meeting held at St. Louis,

Missouri on April 23-26. The Board was then provided with a summary of the Board's portion of the Texas Water Commission grant request for nonpoint source management.

Dale Fischgrabe reported to the Board that 3.6 million acres of land in Texas was in the Conservation Reserve Program. He also advised the Board that legislation had been introduced in Congress to continue the Great Plains program. He told the Board he had enjoyed working with them. Chairman Schendel wished him well in his retirement.

Dr. Bill Harris made the report for the Agricultural Extension Service. He reported that the state soil judging contest would be held June 7, 1989 and told Clyde Hale he appreciated the financial assistance of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agriculture Research Service, reported they were in the process of filling a soil scientist position. He also reported they were working with Soil Conservation Service and have two SCS people assigned to their laboratory.

Atlan Pfluger of the Water Development Board reported that Sherman County Soil and Water Conservation District #159 had received a grant to purchase a water flow meter. Hale County Soil and Water Conservation District #132 had applied for a grant for a water flow meter. He advised the Board that rules to allow water quality as a purpose for grants under their grants for equipment purchases program should be in

effect by July.

Clyde Hale reported that Texas will be the host state for the national meeting of the Great Plains Committee. He also reported that 83 soil and water conservation district directors had attended a meeting of the "Committee of 100" held in Austin on April 10, 1989 and he was very pleased with the turnout and participation.

Chairman Schendel reported on the National Watershed Conference that Board members and staff members had attended in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on May 15-17, 1989.

Mr. Buckley advised the Board that the NACD South Central Regional meeting would be held at the Radisson Resort, South Padre Island, Texas on July 31-August 1, 1989.

A report was heard from the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. Committee members included: C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Joe Antilley, Clyde Hale, Don Swann, Kay Swann, Bob Buckley, and John Millican. The format of the meeting will basically be the same as in previous years. The annual meeting will begin October 23 in McAllen and will conclude at noon on October 25, 1989. The Embassy Suite Hotel will be the headquarters hotel.

James Moore provided the Board members a copy of the national wetlands definition.

Development of a request of an Attorney General's Opinion relating to district finances was discussed. A list of questions submitted to the Attorney General's Office was provided each Board member.

Clyde Gottschalk updated the Board on the activities of the Public Information/Education Committee. He reported on the progress of the shoreline erosion documentary, textbook covers, teacher workshops and Boy Scout workshops.

John Millican reported on the breakdown of expenses of the Conservation Awards Program. All the Board members expressed their appreciation to the field representatives and office staff for the outstanding job being done on these awards programs.

Mr. Buckley provided the Board with a copy of his financial statement for their approval in order for him to sign contracts. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Fred Squyres, Mr. Buckley's financial statement was accepted.

Mr. Buckley asked the Board to add authorization for Lois Cain and himself to sign checks on the State Board's state meeting account at the First National Bank in Temple, Texas. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Harvey Davis, this request was approved.

Mr. Buckley also requested that Lois Cain be added to other staff

persons now authorized to sign expenditure vouchers for the agency. On motion of Joe Antilley, seconded by Harvey Davis, this authorization was approved by the Board.

A proposed job description for the Executive Director was reviewed. Joe Antilley made a motion to utilize the job description as a guideline, but to continue the policy of the Executive Director serving at the pleasure of the Board. Harvey Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Out of state travel was approved for all Board members to attend the National NACD meeting in San Diego, California on February 4-7, 1990. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Joe Antilley, travel was also approved for the Chairman to attend the NACD Leadership Conference in St. Paul, Minnesota on August 23-25, 1989.

Before the election of officers Mr. Schendel said he had enjoyed serving as chairman this past year and looked forward to serving with the new officers this coming year. Harvey Davis nominated Fred Squyres to serve as chairman. Joe Antilley seconded and moved that nominations cease and that Mr. Squyres be elected by acclamation. Motion carried. Joe Antilley moved to elect Larry McCasland to serve as vice chairman. Harvey Davis seconded. Motion carried. Mr. Squyres expressed his appreciation for the confidence of the Board in electing him as chairman.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Fred H. Spang                      Lois Cain  
Chairman                                      Secretary

7-19-89  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on May 24, 1989.

7-19-89                      Robert A. Buckley  
Date                                      Executive Director