

OFFICIAL MINUTES
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
May 25, 1988

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Wednesday, May 25, 1988 at 8:00 a.m. at the Piney Woods Conservation Center of Stephen F. Austin University on Lake Sam Rayburn at approximately 70 miles southeast of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Board members present were:

Joe Antilley, Chairman
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Vice Chairman
Fred Squyres, Member
Hermon Petty, Member
Larry McCasland, Member

Staff members present were:

Harvey Davis, Executive Director
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director
Bob Buckley, Director of Programs
James Moore, Engineer
Josephine Chupik, Office Services Supervisor
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Bob Gruner, Soil Conservationist
Rex Isom, Soil Conservationist
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist
David Powell, Soil Conservationist
Joe McKay, Soil Conservationist
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist
W. T. "Dub" Crumley, Soil Conservationist

Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts representatives were:

Clyde Hale, President
Donald Swann, Director, Area III
S. W. Dorrell, Director, Area IV
Waldo Smith, Past President

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service
Dale Fischgrabe, Deputy Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. B. L. Harris, Soils Specialist, Texas Agriculture Extension Service
Comer Tuck, Head, Agricultural Conservation Unit, Texas Water Development Board
Bobby Young, Texas Forest Service

Chairman Antilley welcomed Larry McCasland the new State Board Member from Area IV elected on May 3, 1988 replacing Albert Roach and called the

meeting to order.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the minutes of the March 16, 1988 board meeting were approved as mailed out to each Board Member.

John Millican reviewed information on appointees for district directors for consideration of approval by the Board. On motion of Larry McCasland, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved the following district director appointments:

James R. Jones - Hall-Childress SWCD # 109
Terry Adcock - Dawson County SWCD # 124
John Dell Barron - Dawson County SWCD # 124

John Millican reported that on January 13, 1988, a petition was received to divide and reorganize the San Saba-Brady Soil and Water Conservation District #214 and create the McCulloch SWCD # 249 and the San Saba SWCD # 250. Public hearings held on February 16, 1988 in San Saba and Brady were favorable. An audit has been made and agreement reached on distribution of funds. Documents on transfer of assets, liabilities and cooperator agreements from the old Soil and Water Conservation District to each of the new SWCDs have been executed. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board approved the division and reorganization of the San Saba-Brady SWCD # 214 as being practicable and feasible. Due to the division of this district the Board approved new area and subdivision boundaries and appointed two directors for each new district as follows:

McCulloch County SWCD # 249

Zone 2 - Jack Edmiston
Zone 4 - Charles Haenisch

San Saba County SWCD # 250

Zone 2 - Van Gossett
Zone 4 - Bob Millican

John Millican reported that on February 18, 1988, a petition was received to divide and reorganize the Brazos-Robertson SWCD # 431 and create the Brazos

County SWCD # 450 and the Robertson County SWCD # 451. Public Hearings held on April 12, 1988 in Franklin and Bryan were favorable. An Audit has been made and agreement reached on distribution of funds. Documents on transfer of assets, liabilities and cooperator agreements from the old SWCD to each of the new SWCDs have been executed; however, some of the papers have not been received by the State Board. On motion of Larry McCasland, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board approved pending receipt of the completed forms, the division and reorganization of the Brazos-Robertson SWCD # 431 as practicable and feasible. Due to the division of this district the Board approved new area and subdivision boundaries and appointed two directors for each new district as follows:

Brazos County SWCD # 450

Zone 2 - Preston J. Ruffino, III
Zone 4 - Edgar D. Davidson

Robertson County SWCD # 451

Zone 2 - Howard W. Hoegemeyer
Zone 4 - John W. Nigliazzo

The preparation of the 1990-1991 biennium budget request was not finalized at the last Board meeting. Requests are now in from Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the amount of \$1,069,360.00 for 1990 and \$1,083,935.00 for 1991 for conservation assistance funds and \$1,827,320.00 for 1990 and \$1,868,600.00 for 1991 in technical assistance funds. The Board agreed to include these figures in the budget request.

Harvey Davis called attention to a letter received from Speaker of the House Gib Lewis in regards to the status of the brush control program. Speaker Lewis assured Mr. Davis when the 71st Legislature met, consideration would be given to funding of this program.

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board included \$5,000,000.00 in the Brush Control program for the 1990 FY with the unexpended funds to be used in the 1991 FY be included in the budget request.

The watershed program was discussed by the Board. Many SWCDs are having extensive expenses in maintenance and operation of the structures built 20 years ago or longer. After discussing the problem, on motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board included \$400,000.00 in the 1990 FY and 1991 FY budget request for Operation and Maintenance of Flood Control Structures.

On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Dick Schendel, the budget request in the amount of \$9,907,948.00 for 1990 FY and \$4,963,353.00 for 1991 FY was adopted by the Board.

The Board considered a request in the amount of \$1,200.00 in Conservation Assistance (matching) funds from the Gray County SWCD # 125. Since the Gray County district has already received the maximum amount of \$3,800.00, on motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Larry McCasland, the Board declined the request for an additional allocation.

Bob Buckley informed the Board that Subchapter H funds for FY 1988 in the amount of \$62,206.56 were available for allocation to Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Technical assistance needs by districts with projected water supply shortages, major irrigated areas and sediment contributions potentially affecting water supplies were reviewed. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board agreed to apportion funding for each area of the State as follows:

Area I	\$18,841.41
Area II	10,766.52
Area III	13,458.15
Area IV	6,280.47
Area V	12,860.01
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	\$62,206.56

The amount of funds allocated to each individual soil and water conservation district is attached.

James Moore presented an application for assistance under P. L. 83-566 on the East Lake Corpus Christi Laterals submitted jointly by the Live Oak, San Patricio and Bee Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the City of Corpus

Christi. Mr. Moore reported that the application had been submitted prior to a feasibility study and that the Texas Review and Comment System requirements had not been fulfilled. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board disapproved the application pending a feasibility study.

James Moore reviewed EPA's proposed groundwater protection strategy for pesticides and presented comments on the proposed strategy prepared by the National Association of Conservation Districts. After a discussion, the Board directed the staff to prepare a letter to EPA reflecting the Board's comments.

James Moore then reviewed EPA's proposed Endangered Species Protection Program under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and presented comments on the proposed program prepared by the National Association of Conservation Districts. After discussion, the staff was directed to prepare a letter to EPA reflecting Board comments.

James Moore presented draft copies of the Assessment of Agricultural and Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Water Pollution in Texas prepared pursuant to Section 319 of the Federal Water Quality Act of 1987. Mr. Moore indicated that approximately 34 referred problems had been assessed. Of the 34, one was assessed as a known problem and 15 were assessed as suspected/potential problems. The remaining 18 had insufficient data to complete an assessment. The Board was informed of a public hearing scheduled for June 14 in Austin to receive public comment on the assessment report.

Harvey Davis presented excerpts from Chapter 26 of the Texas Water Code dealing with agricultural waste, other waste, prohibition on discharges of agricultural waste and other waste, permit requirements, enforcement and penalties for unauthorized discharges. Mr. Davis then explained why sediment had never been declared a pollutant in Texas. To do so had the potential of accusing Texas farmers and ranchers of illegally polluting Texas streams without evidence that they were actually doing so. Mr. Davis further explained that the State Soil

and Water Conservation Board adopted the position many years ago to focus nonpoint source programs on identified water quality problems and those activities with a reasonable potential to cause water quality problems.

James Moore then discussed the 1988-1997 update of the National Program for Soil and Water Conservation prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture and presented comments prepared by the National Association of Conservation Districts. After discussion, the Board directed the staff to submit a letter reflecting their comments.

James Moore briefed the Board on a hearing held in Lubbock on April 29, 1988 by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Nonpoint Source Regulation. Discussion centered around a statement made by Mrs. J. M. Sterling which accused the State Board and Harvey Davis of refusing to submit a report on conservation programs which had been requested by EPA two years ago. Harvey Davis presented a letter which had been sent to Representative Terral Smith, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, transmitting a letter from EPA, Region VI indicating that no such report had been requested.

Harvey Davis briefed the Board on a meeting with Senator John Stennis of Mississippi, the Environmental Protection Agency and staff from each Senator's office whose State joins the Gulf of Mexico, on the "Gulf Initiative Program" in Washington, D. C. on April 11, 1988. Mr. Davis advised that Governor Clements had been requested by EPA to appoint someone from Texas to serve on a Policy Committee for this program and that we had been invited to make suggestions for the appointment; however, we have not been able to gather enough information about what would be required of such person to properly discuss it with anyone.

Joe Antilley welcomed the guests and invited comments.

Bill Harris reported on Extension Service nonpoint source activities; Conservation Tillage, furrow diking and subsoiling demonstration projects; and requested input from the group for the Great Plains Council Task Force.

Dr. Harris announced that Dr. Charles Arntzen had been named as the new Deputy Chancellor and Dean of Agriculture at Texas A & M University and expressed appreciation to the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts for help in soil judging contests. Dr. Harris informed the Board of an International Dryland Agricultural Conference to be held August 15-19 at Texas Tech University and of a Fugitive Dust Study being set up by EPA.

Bobby Young indicated his primary interest was in the nonpoint source management programs and how they might be coordinated with Texas Forest Service activities.

Comer Tuck reported on Texas Water Development Board programs. Mr. Tuck indicated that the Water Development Board had been working with the Bosque Soil and Water Conservation District relative to their water conservation grant program and had received inquiries on their pilot loan program from the Comal-Guadalupe, Hays County and Bosque Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Wes Oneth reported that the Soil Conservation Service had recently employed 32 student trainees and reminded the Board of the June 4, 1988 deadline for comments on USDA's National Conservation Program. Mr. Oneth briefed the Board on a study he had recently initiated covering 39 counties in the Blackland Prairie Resource Area to determine how much money counties spend on removing sediment from roadways and ditches and how much money is spent removing suspended solids at water treatment plants. Mr. Oneth indicated that the results of the study would be brought before the State Board. Mr. Oneth also informed the Board that Soil Conservation Service appropriations in the future may come through identified water quality problem areas.

Mr. Oneth went over the results of an SCS functional appraisal of controlled burns, thanked the Texas Forest Service for their help in fighting fires in West Texas, and indicated that the Alternative Treatment Systems for conservation compliance were pretty well in place. Mr. Oneth updated the Board on the Conservation Reserve Program, discussed the possibility of a joint

agreement between the SCS, the State Board and soil and water conservation districts covering soil survey and work being paid for by outside sources, and emphasized the upcoming Soil and Water Conservation Society meeting and the fact that Clarence Durban will be attending.

Clyde Hale commented on district director workshops scheduled during area association meetings across the State. Mr. Hale noted that while the attendance was small at the first workshop, the program and material covered were excellent. Mr. Hale then introduced S. W. Dorrell as the new Association Director from Area IV.

A discussion of the soil survey joint agreement mentioned by Wes Oneth followed. The Board agreed that the proposal should be studied and a decision made based upon its results.

Harvey Davis informed the Board on National Bulletin # 230-8 on the subject of Representation on Boards, Councils, and Committees received from Wilson Scaling, Chief of Soil Conservation Service calling for a Plan of Action to meet the equal opportunity objectives through SWCDs at the local level relative to female and minority representation on district boards. The Board discussed the objectives of the Plan of Action. Wes Oneth assured the Board he could answer all the required statements in the Plan of Action in a positive manner.

Harvey Davis reported on the Special Committee meeting held on April 28, 1988 relative to House Concurrent Resolution 36 on the reorganization of State government attended by he and Chairman Antilley. In response to questions raised at the meeting about the possibility of duplication and overlap between the State Board, Department of Agriculture and Water Development Board, a letter was written to John Castle, Chairman of the Subcommittee explaining the functions of the State Board.

Executive Order WPC 88-4 issued March 17, 1988 appointed a Governor's Committee on Water Resources Management. Bob Buckley reported on the first meeting of this Committee.

Regional Conservation Awards Programs were discussed. Since the 1988 program had fewer entries, changes were considered. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Hermon Petty, the Board decided to eliminate some of the detail figures, limit the slides to twenty, streamline the format and change the poster entry to produce artwork with materials that do not readily smear, crack or chip and the artwork dimension should be flat.

The Annual Statewide meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors will be held on October 3, 4, and 5, 1988 in Lubbock, Texas. It was agreed that the planning committee would consist of the Chairman of the State Board and his designee, President Clyde Hale of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts and his designee, and Harvey Davis.

District Director Workshops will be held in all areas of the State. On May 20, 1988, the first workshop was held in Lancaster, Texas consisting of district directors in the North Central Texas area. The next workshop will be held July 7, 1988 in Gatesville encompassing directors from the Central Texas area.

The Texas Section Soil Conservation Society of America will hold its annual meeting in Longview, Texas on June 9-11, 1988. The National meeting will be held in Columbus, Ohio on July 31 - August 3, 1988.

The Leadership Conference of the National Association of Conservation Districts will be held in Missoula, Montana on August 24-26, 1988. On motion of Hermon Petty, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board authorized the Chairman and Executive Director to attend.

On nomination by Fred Squyres, the Board elected Dick Schendel as Chairman and on nomination by Dick Schendel, the Board elected Fred Squyres as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Schendel thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Chairman and thanked outgoing Chairman, Joe Antilley, for the fine job he has done.

A letter of thanks and appreciation for hosting the meeting at the Stephen F. Austin University Conservation Center will be sent to Dr. Kent Adair, Dean, School of Forestry.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for July 20, 1988.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Clement J. Schendel
Chairman

Josephine Chupik
Secretary

July 20, 1988
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on May 25, 1988.

July 20, 1988
Date

Harvey Davis
Executive Director

Subchapter H Technical Assistance Allocations

5/25/88

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
109	Hall Childress	598.14	301	Wilson County	850.00
111	Blackwater Valley	598.14	304	Caldwell-Travis	598.14
115	Upper Colorado	598.14	306	Comal-Guadalupe	444.42
124	Dawson County	598.14	311	Nueces-Jim Wells-Kleberg	897.21
125	Gray County	598.14	313	Burleson-Lee	299.07
126	Cap Rock	897.21	316	Matagorda County	897.21
127	Donley County	299.07	317	Coastal Plains	897.21
129	Hockley County	598.14	318	Waters Davis	897.21
133	Salt Fork	897.21	323	Live Oak	897.21
134	Lipscomb	299.07	329	Copano Bay	299.07
136	Running Water	598.14	330	Alamo	897.21
137	Moore County	598.14	332	Starr County	598.14
140	Parmer	598.14	333	Colorado	897.21
142	Ochiltree	598.14	339	DeWitt County	299.07
143	Tierra Blanca	598.14	340	Bastrop County	299.07
146	Hutchinson	897.21	342	Wharton County	897.21
	Hansford	598.14	343	Karnes County	299.07
149	Cochran	598.14	348	Washington	299.07
151	Terry	299.07	349	Willacy	500.00
152	Hartley	598.14	350	Hidalgo	897.21
155	Staked Plains	897.21	351	Hays County	598.14
156	McClellan Creek	598.14			
160	Canadian River	897.21		Area III Total	13,458.15
161	Foard County	897.21	412	Harrison County	299.07
162	Lower Pease River	299.07	415	Lamar	299.07
163	Cottle	598.14	419	Sulphur-Cypress	598.14
166	Gaines County	598.14	423	Red River County	598.14
167	Stonewall	598.14	424	Freestone-Leon	299.07
168	King	299.07	426	Smith County	299.07
169	Duck Creek	897.21	428	Bedias Creek	299.07
170	Andrew Kent	299.07	440	Navasota	1,196.28
	Area I Total	18,841.41	443	Delta	598.14
205	El Paso-Hudspeth	897.21	447	Rusk	598.14
206	Middle Clear Fork	576.00	450	Brazos County	598.14
207	Mitchell	598.14	451	Robertson County	598.14
213	Upper Pecos	598.14		Area IV Total	6,280.47
216	Kendall	598.14	504	Ellis Prairie	598.14
220	Gillespie	639.07	506	Hamilton-Coryell	598.14
221	Nueces-Frio-Sabinal	598.14	512	McLennan County	598.14
223	Mason County	599.07	513	Taylor	897.21
225	Upper Llanos	299.07	514	Navarro	299.07
226	Medina Valley	897.21	520	Fannin County	299.07
228	Maverick	698.55	524	Upper Elm-Red	1,337.91
229	Bandera	598.14	532	Little Wichita	1,200.00
234	Middle Concho	598.14	540	Hill County-Blackland	299.07
241	Sandhills	829.17	541	Johnson County	598.14
243	Howard	598.14	546	Haskell	1,337.91
245	Nolan County	46.05	549	Jack	1,300.00
246	Andrews	598.14	551	Lower Clear Fork	1,300.00
248	Tom Green	500.00	552	Callahan Divide	1,300.00
	Area II Total	10,766.52	554	Mills County	897.21
				Area V Total	12,860.01
				GRAND TOTAL	62,206.56