

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2011

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 25, 2011, at 2:05 p.m. at 4311 S 31st Street, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Steve Jones, Regional Office Coordinator
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Interim 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
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Programs Officer
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator
Pam Casebolt, NPS Project Manager
Loren Warrick, NPS Project Manager
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager
Ashley Alexander, NPS Project Manager
Jana Baker, NPS Project Manager
David Reeves, Database Administrator
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Richard Egg, Engineer
Lee Munz, Flood Control Programs Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Dawn Heitman, H R Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary

July 21, 2011

Date

July 21, 2011

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 25, 2011.

Executive Director

July 21, 2011

Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Board Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2011

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on May 26, 2011, at 8:07 a.m. at 1749 Scott Boulevard, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
Steve Jones, Regional Office Coordinator
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor
Ricardo Chapa, Interim Program Supervisor
Bob Gruner, Program Specialist
Jack Foote, Program Specialist
Ben Wilde, Program Specialist
Kendria Ray, Program Specialist
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Trey Watson, Program Specialist
Don Brandenberger, Program Specialist
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
Tuffy Wood, Program Specialist
Mark Cochran, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Programs Officer
Aaron Wendt, Watershed Planning Coordinator
Pam Casebolt, NPS Project Manager
Loren Warrick, NPS Project Manager
Mitchell Conine, NPS Project Manager
Ashley Alexander, NPS Project Manager
Jana Baker, NPS Project Manager
David Reeves, Database Administrator
Kenny Zajicek, Fiscal Officer
Richard Egg, Engineer
Lee Munz, Flood Control Programs Coordinator
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist
Ben Bowers, Flood Control Specialist
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist
Dawn Heitman, H R Coordinator
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

George Noelke, Office of the Attorney General
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Monica Harris, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Clyde Bohmfalk, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Shane Harrington, Texas Forest Service
Rickey James, Area I Association Director
Lindsey Ashley, Governor's Office/Texas Film Commission

Chairman Dodier called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner congratulated Salvador Salinas as new state conservationist, and commented on our cooperative working partnership, working with Richard Egg, Sunset, their budget bill, possible reduction in force, and monitoring of drought situations.

Mr. Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute, addressed the Board. Mr. Wagner commented that Dr. Harris will be retiring effective August 31, 2011, and that they have named Dr. Neal Wilkins as Director effective June 1, 2011.

Ms. Monica Harris, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Ms. Harris commented on TMDL's, NPS \$600,000 reduction, success stories, Sunset, and Rainwater Harvesting Bill.

Chairman Dodier acknowledged Mr. Shane Harrington, Texas Forest Service.

Mr. Daren Harmel, USDA – Agricultural Research Service, addressed the Board and commented on the partnership of 2 new NRCS staff members, National Seed Modeling Team, and EPA and ARS modeling work. Mr. Harmel also stated that his position as Agricultural Engineer has become a permanent position.

Chairman Dodier congratulated Mr. Salvador Salinas on his new position as Texas state conservationist.

Mr. Salvador Salinas, Natural Resources Conservation Service, addressed the Board and reviewed the NRCS Activity Report. Mr. Salinas commented on the Farm Bill being 90% allocated, the Grassland Reserve Program, that the RC&D program and watershed operations have been cut next fiscal year, early employee retirements for USDA, fiscal year 2012 Farm Bill, EQIP and AWEP cost share programs, and the State Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Salinas stated that they need good outreach programs at the local level to reach more people, and asked for districts input.

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

Chairman Dodier acknowledged Area I Association Director Rickey James.

Mr. Jule Richmond, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Mr. Richmond thanked Mr. Scott Buckles for his service as the Association President, commented on Sunset, meetings in Washington D.C., Technical Assistance program, Water Supply Enhancement Program funds to Sierra Club and Parks and Wildlife, and budget cuts.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Motion Picture Industry/Agriculture

Mr. Jule Richmond introduced Location Scout Ms. Lindsey Ashley, Texas Film Commission. Ms. Ashley spoke about The Lone Ranger movie project. The movie remake is a Disney film that may be shot on Mr. Richmond's ranch. Ms. Ashley spoke about the positive impact that movies made in Texas have on the Texas economy.

Chairman Dodier welcomed Mr. Scott Buckles as Area I Board Member.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Minutes from the March 29-30, 2011 Board Meetings

Chairman Dodier called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 29-30, 2011 Board Meetings. Mr. Mahler moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6: District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointment for the Board's consideration and verified it was in order and met all qualifications. Mr. Nichols moved the following appointment be approved. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amber Fry, Pedernales #218, Zone 2, Replace Dwayne Hoppe

AGENDA ITEM 7: Fiscal Report

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers as per 31 TAC §523.6(E)(2)(B),(E)

Mr. Jones reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Consider Approval of Supplemental Requests for S.B. 503 Cost Share Assistance

Mr. Bob Gruner, Program Specialist, addressed the Board and commented on S.B. 503 committee. Mr. Gruner stated that the committee met twice and had no recommendations at this time, but requested to continue with committee. Board granted request.

Mr. Jones reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of requests as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Consider Statewide Water Quality Management Plan Cost Share Request

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the requests as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Adoption of Standardized Rates for In-Kind Contributions of Match Funding Related to Flood Control Operation and Maintenance Activity Reimbursement Requests

Mr. Munz stated that there are no requests at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Report

Ms. Casebolt and Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 14: Poultry Water Quality Management Program Status Report

Mr. Cochran reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Allocation of FY 2011 Water Supply Enhancement Program Funds

Mr. Wood reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Graham moved for the approval of the allocations as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Water Supply Enhancement Program Report

Mr. Wood reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Davis stated that there is currently a Bill to extend the Coordinating Committees Sunset review date to coordinate with TSSWCB's Sunset review date.

AGENDA ITEM 18: Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Report

Mr. Davis reviewed agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 19: National Association of Conservation Districts Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 20: National Association of State Conservation Agencies Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 21: Review plans for 2011 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of Pre-registration fees to be set at \$110 for Attendee, \$75 for Spouse, and On-site/late registration fees to be set at \$125 for Attendee, \$90 for Spouse. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval for four sites of an olive orchard and Stay-Tuff Superior Fence Products. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Dodier to appoint committee to schedule guest speakers.

AGENDA ITEM 22: State Board Member Elections and Texas Conservation Awards Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Dodier called for election of officers.

Mr. Graham nominated Mr. Mahler for Chairman. Mr. Ward seconded the nomination. Nominations ceased. Mr. Graham moved for Mr. Mahler to be accepted by acclamation. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mahler nominated Mr. Graham for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Dodier seconded the nomination. Nominations ceased. Mr. Mahler moved for Mr. Graham to be accepted by acclamation. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Legislative Update/Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 24: Public Information/Education Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 25: Human Resources Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Heitman stated that Mr. Steve Jones had accepted the position as Regional Office Coordinator, introduced Ms. Jana Baker as a new NPS Project Manager, and Mr. Ricardo Chapa is temporary Interim Program Supervisor at the Harlingen Regional Office.

Ms. Heitman commented on upcoming CPR training.

Mr. Dodier awarded service awards to the following:

Ruby Garcia – 5 years

Johnny Oswald – 25 years

AGENDA ITEM 26: Set Date for the Next State Board Meeting

July 20-21, 2011 in Temple, Texas.

Mr. Jacobs welcomed Mr. Buckles to the State Board and complimented him on his service to the Association.

Mr. Jacobs also thanked Mr. Harrington, Texas Forest Service, for the work and dedication that they have shown with the wildfires that are currently burning. Mr. Mahler also complimented them for their training and job well done.

Mr. Mahler thanked Mr. Dodier for the job and his service as State Board Chairman.

Mr. Nichols moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary

July 21, 2011

Date

July 21, 2011

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Executive Director

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