

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
June 7, 1996

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met at 10:00 a.m., June 7, 1996, in the meeting room of Temple Chamber of Commerce Building, 2 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Chairman
Harvey Davis, Vice Chairman
Paul Robertson, Member
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Member
Gene Sollock, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Cherié King, Director of Programs
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information/Education Director
Lois J. Cain, Administrative Technician

Others present were:

Tomas Dominguez, Natural Resources Conservation Service
James K. "Rooter" Brite, Association of Texas SWCDs

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration and advised the Board all appeared to be in order except original resignation letters were required. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Buddy Clark, the following appointments were approved pending receipt of original resignation letters:

George Alderman, Andrew-Kent SWCD #170
Harvey D. Hilley, Jr., El Paso-Hudspeth SWCD #205

Bill Neiser discussed the 1998-1999 Legislative Appropriation Request and said the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House have told all state agencies to limit their requests to the 1996-97 level. Additional funding may be requested for exceptional items subject to prior review by both the Governor's and Legislative budget offices. The exceptional items are due July 1, 1996 for review. The budget request is due August 15, 1996. After much discussion and on motion of Harvey Davis and Gene Sollock and seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board voted to include the following exceptional items in the 1998-1999 Biennium Legislative Appropriation Request prioritized as follows: 1) additional Technical Assistance; 2) additional Conservation Assistance (matching funds); 3) increases in Senate Bill 503 Program; 4) Flood Control Structure Maintenance to cover unfunded costs incurred by districts; 5) Brush Control; and 6) raise Employee Position Target from 61 to 65 positions.

Mr. Neiser then discussed the Agency Strategic Plan which is due in Austin by June 15, 1996. The Board received a draft of the plan at the May board meeting. Since that meeting proposed changes to the performance measures have been approved by both budget offices. The draft has been revised to include the approved changes. On motion of Gene Sollock and seconded by Paul Robertson, the Strategic Plan was adopted as presented.

Mel Davis advised that the Planning Committee for the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors would be meeting at 1:00 p.m. following the conclusion of the Board meeting and invited Board members not on the committee to attend the planning meeting. He advised that Governor George Bush has been invited to present a keynote address at the Annual Statewide Meeting but has not confirmed.

Bill Neiser provided a recruiting and training update for the Board's information. He said staffing is up to 59 plus 5 that are on cooperative agreements. An updated organizational chart was provided the Board along with an Affirmation Action Status Report.

Tomas Dominguez gave the NRCS report and discussed appropriation approval by the House subcommittee for the coming fiscal year on all NRCS programs. He advised they were having frequent teleconferences on the Farm Bill and invited the State Board to attend the next one which is scheduled for June 20th. Bob Buckley expressed his appreciation to Mr. Dominguez for the way NRCS is keeping the State Board up-to-date on the Farm Bill. Mr. Dominguez informed the Board that 45 new employees went to work for NRCS on May 28th and that most of the new hires were on the Student Employment Program (SEP).

Mr. Buckley updated the Board on an open records question received from a district concerning a water quality management plan. The Attorney General's Office had been contacted and after their review it was determined that the district must release a copy of a water quality management plan when requested in writing.

Mr. Buckley informed the Board this would be Cherié King's last Board meeting since she would be leaving the agency on June 14th to get married and move out of state. Mr. Schendel, on behalf of the Board, extended well wishes in her future endeavors and said it has been a pleasure having her work for the State Board.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for July 17, 1996.

Clarence D. Schendel
Chairman

Lois J. Cain
Secretary

7-17-96
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on June 7, 1996.

7-17-96
Date

Robert H. Buckley
Executive Director