

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
June 21, 1993

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on June 21, 1993, at 1:00 p.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
John W. Millican, Assistant Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs
James M. Moore, Engineer
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board
Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Guillermo Benavides Z., Jr., Association of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the minutes from the May 19, 1993 Board meeting were approved as mailed. Motion carried.

John Millican presented district director appointments for consideration. He advised the Board all appointments appeared in order and recommended they be approved. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel the following district director appointments were approved.

Joel T. Hoskinson, San Patricio SWCD #324
Michael Jurena, DeWitt County SWCD #339
Richard Haley, Piney Woods SWCD #429
Elbert Sowell, Piney Woods SWCD #429

Bill Neiser presented letters from the Tule Creek Soil and Water Conservation District #110 and Bosque Soil and Water Conservation District #555 requesting the Board to consider a waiver of rules on their conservation assistance requests which were postmarked after the May 15th deadline and resulted in their districts' funds being reduced. Bill advised the Board that these districts had met on May 14th and approved their requests for conservation assistance funds and mailed their requests immediately. Due to postal mail handling procedures their requests were not postmarked until Monday, May 17th. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board granted a waiver of rules allowing the claims to be honored. Motion carried.

John Millican presented a request from King Soil and Water Conservation District #168 for new subdivision boundaries for Zones 2, 3 and 4 which would provide for more balance in eligible voters and prospective district directors. Mr. Millican said everything was in order and recommended the changes be approved. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Buddy Clark the new subdivision boundaries were approved as presented. Motion carried.

John Millican and Harvey Davis discussed two public hearings that were held June 16, 1993 in Archer City and Henrietta to consider the division and reorganization of the Little Wichita Soil and Water Conservation District #532. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Buddy Clark, the staff was authorized to proceed with

the division process. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser advised the Board that Technical Assistance and Subchapter H Technical Assistance funds have been released by Matagorda County SWCD #316, Hays County SWCD #351 and Wilbarger SWCD #537. He provided the Board a proposed reallocation of funds as follows:

	<u>TA Funds</u>	<u>Subchapter H Funds</u>
Alamo SWCD #330	300.00	
Jackson SWCD #336	540.00	
Gonzales SWCD #338	100.00	219.62
Victoria SWCD #346	390.81	
Austin Co. SWCD #347	100.00	
Goliad Co. SWCD #352	200.00	
Total Area III	\$1,630.81	\$219.62
Miller-Brazos SWCD #542		329.43
Jack SWCD #549		140.95
Total Area V		\$470.38

On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the reallocations were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser discussed the Conservation Assistance Funds Report. The reduction of funds due to the May 15th deadline for district claims was in the amount of \$12,124.71 after the waiver for Tule Creek SWCD and Bosque SWCD was approved. These funds will become available for supplemental requests in August.

Wes Oneth reported on activities of the Soil Conservation Service. He said ground breaking was recently held on Adams Branch Watershed in Brownwood and on Cook Slough in Uvalde plus the dam dedication on Ecleto Creek Watershed near Runge. He said over \$17,000,000 of the Emergency Watershed Fund had been obligated. The first water control site at Fort Hood Military Base was dedicated

on Memorial Day. He briefly brought the Board up to date on the status of the USDA reorganization.

Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station advised the Board that work has been completed on the addition to the Blackland Research Center in Temple. The addition will be shared with Agriculture Research Service and Soil Conservation Service. Staff members of the three agencies are working on a cooperative effort on water quality. He invited the Board to attend the dedication of the addition on July 9th. He also briefly discussed a brush control study and effect of brush on water yield on rangeland. He said control of brush will have effect on water availability.

Comer Tuck representing the Texas Water Development Board said there were no major changes in the water code as a result of the Legislative Session just ended and their water conservation and agriculture funding were about the same as the last biennium. The Texas Water Development Board is working with the Soil Conservation Service on the 1994 irrigation survey on water use.

Guillermo Benavides Z., Jr. represented Donald Swann, President of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He said a meeting of the State Association is planned for late July but no date has been set. He reminded those present of the South Central Regional NACD meeting to be held July 25-27, 1993 in San Antonio.

Dick Schendel discussed the PL 566 dam dedication on Ecletto Creek Watershed held May 20, 1993 and said it was very well

attended and that Congressman "Kika" de la Garza had been the keynote speaker. It was the consensus of the Board to send a letter to Roy and Betty Freeman for their hospitality the night before the dam dedication and also to the Schendel family for their many contributions the day of the dedication.

Bill Neiser and Bob Buckley discussed in detail the proposed operating budget for the 1994 fiscal year. Mr. Buckley said nine additional people would be hired for the state headquarters office and three regional offices would be opened during the 1994 fiscal year with two additional regional offices to open in fiscal year 1995. In discussing Strategy A1.2 it was the consensus of the Board to budget additional funds in the Conservation Assistance program to allow districts to receive their full request up to the maximum allocation of \$3200. It was also the consensus of the Board to budget additional funds for districts that had not participated in the Technical Assistance program but are now requesting funds to receive up to \$3500 in Technical Assistance funds in order to get them started in the program.

Chairman Evans called for an Executive Session to consider personnel matters as provided under provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act, Article 6252-17. The Executive Session began at 5:20 p.m. and was recorded. At 6:20 p.m. Chairman Evans called the meeting back into regular session.

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board agreed to request an increase in salary for the Executive Director to \$67,500. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser discussed Board member travel.

On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board instructed the Executive Director to take necessary steps to establish the following exempt positions effective September 1, 1993: Director of Conservation Programs at a salary of \$60,000; Director of Administration at a salary of \$55,000; and Director of District Operations at a salary of \$54,000. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Albert Evans
Chairman

Lois J. Cain
Secretary

7-21-93
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on June 21, 1993.

7-21-93
Date

Robert H. Buckley
Executive Director