

OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD  
JULY 11, 1966

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met in regular session at its office in the First National Building at 7:30 p.m., July 11, 1966.

Board Members present: J. S. Sharp, Chairman, A. F. Leesch, J. Frank Gray, and Henry Turney.

Others present: H. D. Davis, Executive Director and J. M. Norton of the Board staff; C. W. Graham, Deputy State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service; and A. L. Bading, Executive Director of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the Board meeting of May 6, 1966 were read and approved.

A new watershed application under Public Law 566 on the Paluxy River watershed was reviewed with the Board. On a motion by Frank Gray, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board disapproved the application pending a field examination to determine economic feasibility.

Mr. Davis reviewed a letter from Mr. Paul Harvey relative to amending the Aquilla-Hackberry watershed by adding approximately 23,000 acres. Davis stated that the Soil Conservation Service had reviewed this amendment and advised that it appeared needed and feasible. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board approved the amendment contingent on receipt of an amended application properly filled out.

Favorable field examinations were reviewed by J. M. Norton on Rankin Draw watershed, Rankin, Texas; Willow Creek watershed, Miles, Texas; and Meridian-Neils Creek watershed, Meridian, Texas. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board approved the above watersheds as being economically feasible for project development.

Mr. Graham reported on the status of watershed planning. Choctaw Creek and Rush Creek plans are in Washington for final approval. Farmers Creek, Pecan Creek, and Bennett Creek are in review. Planning is completed on 2 Cameron County watersheds and on Running Water Draw and Mill Creek. Planning is underway on North Cuero, McClellan Creek, Ruckers Creek, Aquilla-Hackberry Creek and Darr's Creek. Lakeview watershed is just starting and planning authorization has been granted on Cibolo Creek and Pond Creek watersheds.

Mr. Graham further reviewed recent policy on the "surplus crop" situation whereby such watersheds can be planned if given a high priority by the State Board and no additional land is to be brought into production of surplus crops.

Graham further explained that the Bureau of the Budget is holding some 40 work plans because they have contended it unconstitutional for Committees of Congress to approve the plans.

Based on a previous request of the Bee Soil and Water Conservation District to adjust zone boundaries for better representation, the Board approved a change in zone numbers trading places with zone 1 and 3. The motion was made by Frank Gray, seconded by A. F. Leesch and carried.

Mr. Davis reported on a hearing held in response to a petition from landowners to transfer territory in the Davy Crockett-Trinity Soil and Water Conservation District in Walker County to the San Jacinto Soil and Water Conservation District. The hearing being favorable; on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board made a determination of need and a determination of practicability and feasibility and authorized the transfer of territory. No election was necessary because less than 100 landowners were involved.

An election to transfer territory from the San Jacinto Soil and Water Conservation District to the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District was canvassed by the Board (4 votes for and 1 vote against) and approved. On motion

by Frank Gray, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board made a determination of practicability and feasibility and authorized the transfer of the territory.

In regard to the organization of the Canadian River Soil and Water Conservation District, Harvey Davis reported on the hearing held April 16, 1966 to determine need. Approximately 90% of the landowners were present and gave favorable testimony. A determination of need was made on May 27, 1966 by telephone. An election was held on June 15, 1966 with 60 votes cast for and 6 votes cast against the creation of the district. The Board canvassed and approved the election. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board made a determination of practicability and feasibility and approved the organization of the Canadian River Soil and Water Conservation District, appointing Leland W. Abbott as supervisor for Zone 2 and John Detton as supervisor for Zone 4.

A request from the Randall-Potter Soil and Water Conservation District to change their name to the Palo Duro Soil and Water Conservation District was considered by the Board. On motion by Frank Gray, seconded by H. W. Turney, the Board approved the change.

At 11:00 p.m. the State Board recessed its meeting until 8:00 a.m., July 12, 1966 to be continued at its office in the First National Building.

July 12, 1966

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board reconvened at 8:00 a.m., July 12, 1966 in its office in the First National Building with the same State Board and staff members present.

A resolution prepared by Philip Glick, Council for NACD, relative to ownership and use of conservation plans developed as cooperative agreements with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts was briefly discussed. The Board agreed to hold any further action on this until their next meeting due to lack of time for proper consideration.

Mr. Davis reported on the Board's financial condition. The Board Members per diem fund has been exhausted, the Members having been paid through June 30, 1966. Funds are still sufficient for travel expense.

The State Meeting Program was discussed and the need for Board Members on the Program Committee was expressed. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. J. S. Sharp, appointed A. F. Leesch and H. W. Turney to serve on this Committee.

Mr. Davis discussed the coming supervisor elections to be held in October and concern for improving the elections. He proposed several items for promoting attendance and seeking well qualified men as supervisors. A letter to all districts encouraging this approach and consideration was recognized as being needed.

The 1967-1968 budget recommendations were reviewed for presentation and hearing with the Governor's Budget Office and the Legislative Budget Board at 2:00 p.m. Mr. A. F. Leesch was appointed as spokesman for the State Board at the hearing.

A Southern Conference of State Soil Conservation Boards is scheduled for September 11-13, in Mobile, Alabama. On motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board authorized all Board Members that can go plus two staff members to attend.

The South Central Area meeting of the NACD to be held in Houston on July 17, 18 and 19, 1966, was discussed. All staff members are to attend and assist with the meeting.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 21, 1966, at 9:00 a.m. in Temple, Texas.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m. for the Board and Staff members to attend a meeting with the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee and representatives of the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This meeting was for an explanation of the several

programs and for cooperation and better understanding of the problems and activities of the ASC Committee, State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Association of Conservation Districts.

The Board Members left this meeting at 11:00 a.m. to attend their budget hearing in the Sam Houston State Office Building in Austin, Texas, at 2:00 p.m.

The hearing and Board meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

J. L. Perry  
Chairman

Samuel E. Jones  
Secretary

September 8, 1966  
Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board meeting held on July 11-12, 1966.

9-6  
Date

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated July 11-12, 1966.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Connally