

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 15, 2015**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 15, 2015, at 2:30 p.m. at 4311 S 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 125, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor  
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor  
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Johnny Oswald, 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  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist  
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist  
Amy Devereaux, Fiscal Services  
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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

AGENDA ITEM 28: Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Clark updated Board Members on director qualifications, field staff projects, and technical help to SWCD's.

Ms. Devereaux handed out "Webinar Training for Governing Bodies SB1681" to Board Members.

AGENDA ITEM 41: Temple Facilities Update

Chairman Buckles called for a Closed Session. Sealed envelope in official Board Meeting folder.

Chairman Buckles reopened meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 42: Deliberation and Possible Vote Regarding Salary, Employment and Evaluation of Executive Director

Chairman Buckles called for a Closed Session. Sealed envelope in official Board Meeting folder.

Chairman Buckles reopened meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman

September 17, 2015

Date



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

September 17, 2015

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 July 15, 2015.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

September 17, 2015

Date

**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 16, 2015**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 16, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. at 5247 S. General Bruce Drive, Temple, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director  
Glenn Baker, Program Supervisor  
Carl Steffey, Program Supervisor  
Todd Oneth, Program Supervisor  
Lawrence Brown, Program Supervisor  
Ricardo Chapa, Program Supervisor  
Judy Albus, Program Supervisor  
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor  
Melissa Grote, Program Specialist  
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  
Charlie Upchurch, Program Specialist  
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer  
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator  
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator  
Ashley Wendt, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Jana Lloyd, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Wesley Gibson, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Liza Parker, Nonpoint Source Project Manager  
Steve Bednarz, Statewide Programs Engineer  
Kenny Zajicek, Chief Fiscal Officer  
Mel Davis, Special Projects Coordinator  
Aaron Wendt, Special Projects Advisor  
Loren Warrick, Public Affairs Specialist  
Rusty Ray, Public Affairs Specialist  
Lee Munz, Flood Control Program and Regional Office Coordinator  
Jared Bowen, Flood Control Specialist

Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist  
Clyde Gottschalk, Program Specialist  
Dawn Heitman, Human Resources Specialist  
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Andrew Lutostanski, Office of Attorney General  
Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
John Mueller, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Kelly Holligan, Texas Commission on Environment Quality  
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board

Chairman Buckles called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed those present.

**AGENDA ITEM 1:** Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

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

Mr. Kelly Holligan, Texas Commission on Environment Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Holligan commented on the TMDL Program and the Memorandum of Understanding between our agencies.

Mr. John Mueller, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Mueller commented on funding, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, watersheds, and the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner commented on their retiring chairman and their incoming chairman, the State Water Plan combined agencies report, rainfall, and the drought.

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

Ms. Tamara Daniel, Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, addressed the Board. Ms. Daniel commented on Mr. James' and Mr. Richmond's attendance at the NACD meeting in Spokane, Washington, resolutions, the NACD Task Force, and the upcoming NACD South Central Regional meeting.

Chairman Buckles acknowledged Mr. Andrew Lutostanski, Office of Attorney General.

**AGENDA ITEM 4:** Consider Approval of Minutes from Previous State Board Meetings

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Buckles called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20-21, 2015 Board Meetings.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the minutes as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 5:** Consider Approval of Soil and Water Conservation District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications.

Mr. Graham abstained from voting due to his approval as a director was for consideration. Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the following appointments as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Darrell Barron, Yoakum #150, Subdivision 3, Replace Blake McWhirter  
Bob Middleton, Oldham County #153, Subdivision 2, Replace Charles Robinson  
David Whitten, Oldham County #153, Subdivision 3, Replace Bob Middleton  
Joe Freeman, Llano County #233, Subdivision 5, Replace Harold Goehmann  
Andy Dunbar, Upper Nueces-Frio #238, Subdivision 1, Replace Marty H. Graham  
Marty H. Graham, Upper Nueces-Frio #238, Subdivision 3, Replace James L. Greer, III  
Blake Robinson, Freestone County #424, Subdivision 3, Replace Billy Ray Vestal  
Patrick H. McMahan, Bedias Creek #428, Subdivision 5, Replace James H. Nevill  
John G. Bryan, Jasper-Newton #441, Subdivision 4, Replace Robert Jackson  
Kathleen S. Hooten, Upper Sabine #530, Subdivision 4, Replace Allen L. Martin  
James Maass, Hill County Blackland #540, Subdivision 4, Replace Clyde Nowlin

**AGENDA ITEM 6:** Soil and Water Conservation District Activity

Mr. Gruner reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the Conservation Activity Program as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 7:** Consider Fiscal Year 2016 Allocations for Technical Assistance

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Graham moved for the approval of the allocations as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 8:** Consider Fiscal Year 2016 Allocations for Matching Funds

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the allocations as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 9:** Consider Fiscal Year 2016 Allocations for District Director Mileage & Per Diem

Mr. Zajicek 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 10:** Consider Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2016

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the operating budget as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 11:** External Funds

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 12:** Legislative Update

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented on the National Watershed Coalition meeting and Carrizo Cane.

**AGENDA ITEM 13:** Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 14:** Consider Fiscal Year 2016 Allocation for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Munz and Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the allocation as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 15:** Flood Control Rehabilitation Funding Status Report

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 16:** Consider Approval of Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation Projects for Fiscal Year 2016

Mr. Bednarz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the projects as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 17:** Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 18:** Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 Water Quality Management Plan Program Cost Share Incentive Priorities, Allocations, and Application Ranking Procedures

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the procedures as presented. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 19:** Consider Approval of the Water Quality Management Plan Program Approved Practice List

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the list as presented. Mr. Nichols seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 20:** Consider Approval of Requests for Additional Cost-Share Incentive Funding for Water Quality Management Plans in Accordance with 31TAC §523.6(f)(2) Relating to Criteria for Waivers

Mr. Munz stated that there is no information to present at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 21:** Consider Approval of Request for a Waiver in Accordance with 31 TAC §523.6(h)(5)

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the request as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 22:** Consider Water Quality Management Plan Cost-Share Requests from the Allocation for Statewide Use

Mr. Munz stated that there is no information to present at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 23:** Poultry Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 24:** Texas Nonpoint Source Management Program Status Report

Mr. Conine reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 25:** Water Supply Enhancement Program Status Report

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 26:** Consider Reallocation of Fiscal Year 2015 Grant Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the reallocation as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 27:** Rio Grande Carrizo Cane Eradication Program Status Report

Mr. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 28:** Long Range Planning Status Report

Mr. Clark reviewed the agenda information at the previous day's work session.

**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Consider Re-adoption, Revision, or Repeal of 31 TAC Chapter 520, Subchapter B, Requirements to Receive State Funds or Administer State Programs (§§520.11-520.13)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Ward moved for the approval to re-adopt as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 30:** Conservation Plans for the Lesser Prairie-Chicken

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 31:** National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to Improve and Restore the Gulf of Mexico

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 32:** Federal Rules Defining “Waters of the United States” Under the Clean Water Act

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information. State Board agreed to send letter to Environmental Protection Agency and Corps of Engineers.

**AGENDA ITEM 33:** Review Plans for 2015 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved to allow Chairman Buckles and hosting Area III Board Member Mr. Dodier to be able to make final decision on state meeting speakers if there were to be any cancellations. Mr. Graham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 34:** Texas Conservation Awards Program

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the revised guidelines as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 35:** Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 36:** Interagency Task Force on Economic Growth and Endangered Species Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 37:** National Association of Conservation Districts Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 38:** National Association of State Conservation Agencies Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 39:** Public Information/Education Status Report

Mr. Gottschalk reviewed the agenda information.

**AGENDA ITEM 40:** Human Resources Status Report

Ms. Heitman reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Heitman reminded everyone that guns cannot be brought to any open meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 41:** Temple Facilities Update

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Zajicek also reviewed the agenda information in detail with State Board Members in the closed session at the previous day’s Work Session.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval to pursue moving forward with the builder on a new facility. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 42:** Deliberation and Possible Vote Regarding Salary, Employment, and Evaluation of Executive Director

Agenda information was reviewed in detail with State Board Members in the closed session at the previous day's Work Session.

Mr. Jacobs moved for the approval as presented in previous day's closed session Work Session. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

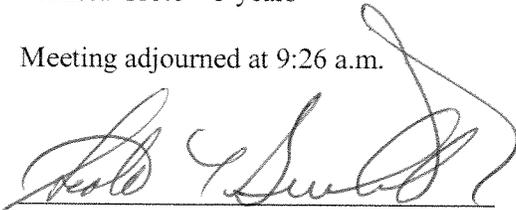
**AGENDA ITEM 43:** Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

September 16-17, 2015 in Temple.

Chairman Buckles presented service award plaques to the following staff:

Melissa Grote – 5 years

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.



Scott Buckles, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

September 17, 2015

Date

September 17, 2015

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 July 16, 2015.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

September 17, 2015

Date