

**Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**July 20, 1994**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 20, 1994 at 8:00 a.m. in its hearings room at 311 North 5th Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Paul Robertson, Chairman  
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, Vice Chairman  
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member  
Albert Evans, Member  
Harvey Davis, 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  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director  
Beade Northcut, Engineer  
Clyde Gottschalk, Information/Education Director  
Lois Cain, Administrative Technician  
Cherie King, Director of Programs  
Bo Spoons, Director of Programs  
Lupe Pinto, Hydrologist  
Mahendra Mohite, Research Specialist  
Sam Unberhagen, Soil Conservationist  
Charley Rodgers, Hale Center Regional Manager  
John O'Connor, Mt. Pleasant Regional Manager  
Steve Jones, Dublin Regional Manager  
Bob Gruner, Soil Conservationist  
Rex Isom, Soil Conservationist  
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Andy Garza, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist  
Joel Clark, Soil Conservationist  
Dub Crumley, Soil Conservationist  
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service  
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agriculture Research Service  
Rooter Brite, Association of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Albert Evans the minutes from the June 16, 1994 board meeting were approved as mailed. Motion carried.

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration and advised the board the appointments appeared to be in order. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Dick Schendel the following district director appointments were approved as presented:

John Gilbert Burrow, Dallam SWCD #131  
Jim Myers, Llano County SWCD #233  
James W. Helfrich, Colorado SWCD #333  
Marshall Shelton, Limestone-Falls SWCD #501

Mel Davis presented a proposed subdivision boundary change for Toyah-Limpia Soil and Water Conservation District #209 which became necessary after the transfer of territory was completed between Toyah-Limpia SWCD #209 and Upper Pecos SWCD #213. New subdivision boundary changes had not been received as of the Board meeting date for Upper Pecos SWCD. On motion of Buddy Clark, seconded by Harvey Davis, the proposed subdivision boundary changes for Toyah-Limpia SWCD #209 were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser reviewed the 1994 fiscal year expenditure report for 10 months ended June 30, 1994. He said expenditures are going according to budgeted schedule.

Mr. Neiser gave the Board a 1994 fiscal year technical assistance grants status report and provided a list of districts that have claimed all of their technical assistance allocations for fiscal year 1994.

Mr. Neiser informed the Board there would be funds available for technical assistance supplemental payments to districts. He also discussed ways to minimize the unspent cash balance in district bank accounts at the end of the fiscal year by asking them to refund excess balances. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Executive Director was authorized to pay supplemental technical assistance from available funds. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser provided the Board a proposed budget for fiscal year 1995 and discussed each strategy in detail. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Dick Schendel the Board adopted the proposed budget for fiscal year 1995 as presented. Motion carried.

Bill Neiser then discussed proposed allocations of fiscal year 1995 grants to districts. The matching funds grants to districts for fiscal year 1995 was proposed to be the same as fiscal year 1994. The technical assistance grants to districts for fiscal year 1995 was proposed to be the same as fiscal year 1994. Each Board member and respective soil conservationists discussed the proposed allocations. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Buddy Clark the recommended allocations were approved by each Board member. Motion carried. (Copy of each attached).

The 1996-1997 biennium Legislative Appropriation Request was then discussed. Mr. Neiser informed the Board that the request was due in Austin on August 17, 1994. He provided each Board member a draft request so they can review and make comments before the next Board meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that the staff discuss the possibility of transferring some funds from cost share to matching funds with appropriate legislative people before the request is officially filed.

Randy Jones advised the Board that the agency is required to direct and maintain a risk management plan and provided a draft risk management policy statement for the Board's review and approval. After the Board's review, on motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board adopted the risk management policy statement as presented. Motion carried. (Copy attached).

Randy Jones gave a recruiting update and said staffing efforts have begun for two South Texas regional office locations in Wharton County and in the Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Jones informed the Board that bids are out for office space in either Wharton or El Campo in Wharton County and there is a good possibility office space will be built by cooperating soil and water conservation districts in the Rio Grande Valley on their property.

Clyde Gottschalk updated the Board on the activities of the Information/Education Department. He said Senate Bill 503 Reference Guides had been mailed to each soil and water conservation district; articles on SB 503 had been published in

trade journals and local newspapers; reprinting of brochures on SB 503 is underway because the first printing has been depleted; a series of radio Public Service Announcements on SB 503 is under development; TV interviews regarding SB 503 are being coordinated and developed; an updated video library catalog is being printed. He also discussed where the exhibit booths will be displayed in the upcoming months; advised there would be district director training workshops on October 17-18 and October 19-20 in Temple and a new district director training workshop is scheduled for January 10-11, 1995; announced the scheduling of a Boy Scout workshop on September 16-18 in the Capital Area BSA; indicated work is underway with a group on Watershed Fiesta to be held in Temple on October 11 that will involve 175 teachers with 3500 school kids from the Little River watershed area. Mr. Gottschalk informed the Board a Public Information/Education Committee meeting is scheduled in Temple on August 17, 1994.

Bob Buckley discussed USDA reorganization and advised the Board that no significant activity had occurred since the last Board meeting.

Wes Oneth discussed the Soil Conservation Service field office cluster pilot program. He said SCS in Texas now employs 788 people which is a 50% reduction since 1978 and another reduction of 40-65 additional employees is expected. Mr. Oneth said SCS would not be able to perform the work needing to be done and he plans to cluster districts in order to provide SCS technical help. He discussed a meeting with the districts in Taylor, Jones, Stonewall and Fisher

Counties to discuss a pilot clustering program. Mr. Oneth briefly reported on the meeting of the Cropland Alliance on April 30th and the meeting of the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative. Soil surveys for Smith and Brooks Counties have recently been completed. Mr. Oneth advised the Board that of the 79 employees who took the recent buyout offered SCS personnel 50 individuals have joined the Earth Team as volunteers.

Bob Buckley discussed Reinventing USDA Regional Forums sponsored by the Soil and Water Conservation Society. One forum will be held in Abilene, Texas on July 21 for agriculture input into the Farm Bill and a forum will be held in Dallas on July 26 for urban input into the Farm Bill. The Board was provided copies of the presentations to be presented by John Earl Smith and Rooter Brite from the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. There will also be six forums across the state for SWCD directors to provide input into the reinvention of USDA's Soil Conservation Service. They will be held in the following locations:

Stephenville	- August 2, 1994
Kenedy	- August 4, 1994
Plainview	- August 9, 1994
San Angelo	- August 11, 1994
Nacogdoches	- August 16, 1994
McAllen	- August 18, 1994

There will be two sessions at each location - one beginning at 1:30 p.m. and the second at 7:00 p.m. These forums are being sponsored by the Soil Conservation Service, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board and Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts to seek alternatives as to how SCS should do business to provide better service to customers.

Mel Davis discussed the Annual State Meeting of SWCD Directors to be held in Austin on September 26-28, 1994. He advised the Board, that the Governor had not confirmed as a speaker as of the Board meeting date, but that Speaker of the House Pete Laney had confirmed he would be attending. After discussing the program Mr. Davis informed the Board that Association Director for state districts 2 & 4 would be up for election and that Association officer elections would be held for President-elect and Vice President of the State Association. Mr. Davis discussed activities for the state meeting that were recommended by the Auxiliary. By consensus the Board decided that if they wanted a paid speaker they should sell tickets separate from State Board registration. It was also the consensus of the Board to make available to the spouses a shopping tour on Tuesday afternoon. Copies of four resolutions that had been received by the Board meeting date were provided the Board, and they were advised the deadline was still a week away and more resolutions were expected to be received before the deadline.

Mel Davis discussed the Conservation Awards Program for 1995 and provided a draft copy of an entry form for a Water Quality Management Award that the Board and the Association had agreed to add to the awards categories. No action was taken but will be discussed at the staff meeting. Buddy Clark asked about the TNRCC's awards program for Clear Texas 2000. Mel Davis said he would check with the Governor's office for more information for entering the 1995 Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence.

James Moore gave the Board a Non-Point Source status report. He said tentative approval has been given on the Agricultural/Silvicultural Management Plan which had to be published in the Texas Register for public comment. Mr. Moore said two comments were received from the Texas GLO and the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. To get approval of the Agricultural/Silvicultural Management Plan it has to be submitted to EPA by the Governor.

James Moore updated the Board on the implementation of SB503. He said the Dublin Regional Office had received a visit from the Governor's and Speaker's offices and they seemed pleased with progress of the program. He also told the Board he would be interviewed for a local TV farm show concerning SB503. Mr. Moore discussed a copy of a letter of complaint sent to the TNRCC concerning the Bobby Sicking Dairy in the Upper Elm-Red SWCD. Mr. Moore said the dairy has a plan filed with TNRCC and he would be discussing the letter of complaint further with staff of TNRCC.

Mr. Moore provided a brief summary of water quality management plans and felt we would have no problem in meeting the goal of 75 certified plans by the end of the fiscal year. As of the Board meeting date 15 plans had been certified and 8 plans remained pending. The Board requested that example plans be provided and discussed at the next Board meeting.

Beade Northcut reported on the water quality cost share program and said seven applications have been received. He also discussed two letters received from districts objecting to the

\$10,000 annual limit the board set for the cost-share program. Cherie King discussed conflict of interest laws relative to district directors participating in the approval of a plan for themselves or family members and receiving cost share funds. Ms. King explained a director cannot take part in any of the discussion if it concerns his family or part of his family.

James Moore discussed the Clean Water Act Reauthorization and provided the Board a draft copy of proposed legislation for the Board's review. The legislation will be reviewed to determine if changes suggested by the Board had been incorporated into the draft.

Dick Schendel reported on a meeting of the Coastal Coordination Council he had attended on June 28. Prior to that, on June 21, he was briefed by GLO staff bringing him up to date on program status. He reported that the comment period on the program rules had been extended 60 days. At the present time Mr. Schendel has no vote but he found the discussion offered ample opportunity for input and involvement. Mr. Schendel said there was discussion on "Brown Tide" and he was asked if the State Board would support work on this problem. He replied that he felt the Board would do what they could to help. Mr. Moore provided copies of the Coastal Coordination Council rules that had been published for comments. September 6, 1994 is the deadline for public comments.

Bill Neiser provided the Board with their travel report for the 10 months ended June 30, 1994.

The Board then discussed the need for an August Board meeting

and set the date and time to be August 8, 1994 to begin 11:00 am in the State Board hearings room in Temple.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Paul E. Robertson  
Chairman

Lois J. Cain  
Secretary

9-21-94  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on July 20, 1994.

9-21-94  
Date

Robert A. Buckley  
Executive Director