

**Minutes**  
**TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**  
**Temple, Texas**  
**July 20, 1995**

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 20, 1995 at 8:00 a.m. in its Hearings Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

**Board members present were:**

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

**Staff members present were:**

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director  
James M. Moore, Assistant Executive Director  
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director  
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant  
Judy Jacobs, Accounting Clerk  
Danna Ryan, Information Specialist  
Clyde J. Gottschalk, Information/Education Director  
Sam Unberhagen, Soil Conservationist  
Bo Spoons, Director of Programs  
Cherié King, Director of Programs  
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director  
Mahendra Mohite, Engineer Assistant  
Rex Isom, Soil Conservationist  
Bob Gruner, Soil Conservationist  
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
Adrian Perez, Soil Conservationist  
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist  
David Powell, Soil Conservationist  
Joel Clark, Soil Conservationist  
Dub Crumley, Soil Conservationist  
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Norm Bade, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Dr. Allan Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

On motion of Albert Evans and seconded by Harvey Davis, the minutes of the May 17, 1995 board meeting were approved as mailed.

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration. He advised the Board the following district director appointments appeared to be in order:

John Duncan McDowell, Jr., Wheeler County SWCD #141  
Ralph M. Ebeling, Jr., Pedernales SWCD #218  
James Kelly Schmidt, Mason County SWCD #223  
Lamar Hicks, Winter Garden SWCD #326  
Mickey Don Crouch, Davy Crockett-Trinity SWCD #404  
John H. Childs, Shelby SWCD #449  
James E. Robinson, Taylor SWCD #513  
Jule W. Richmond, Pecan Bayou SWCD #553

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel the district director appointments were approved as presented.

Mel Davis discussed subdivision boundary changes for the Upper Pecos Soil and Water Conservation District #213. The district was requesting changes to account for a land transfer with the Toyah-Limpia Soil and Water Conservation District #209 and to better balance agricultural landowners between subdivisions. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel the boundary changes were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Bob Buckley discussed fiscal year 1995 Conservation Assistance allocations and said \$6,268.18 was available to reallocate at the end of the fiscal year because of

two-thirds reductions in May. He said more funds would be turned back by August 1 to be reallocated and asked the Board's direction on how to reallocate these funds. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board voted to allocate the money as in the past. Motion carried.

Mr. Buckley provided the Board the results of the Conservation Assistance (Matching Funds) District Survey for the 1996 and 1997 fiscal years. He said only 25 districts submitted surveys under the estimated maximum allocation of \$4,426.00. Mr. Buckley discussed a list of proposed allocations which showed fiscal year 1995 allocations, fiscal year 1996 requests and proposed allocations for each district for fiscal year 1996. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Albert Evans, the Board approved proposed allocations as presented. Motion carried. (Copy attached)

Mr. Buckley then discussed a list of districts who have not claimed their remaining balances for fiscal year 1995 technical assistance. He asked the Board's direction on how to reallocate any technical assistance funds that will not be claimed. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the staff was directed to handle the reallocation of funds as in the past. Dick Schendel asked if this process was working as it was designed to work and was told that it was.

Mr. Buckley provided the Board with a list of staff proposals for fiscal year 1996 technical assistance allocations which were the same as fiscal year 1995. He explained to Albert Evans how the allocations for Montgomery County and Walker County Soil and Water Conservation Districts were divided for technical assistance funding following their division and reorganization and that those two districts would

receive the maximum allocation for conservation assistance. After the Board members had an opportunity to discuss the proposed allocations with their respective field representatives, Dick Schendel asked for the following changes: reduce Nueces-Jim Wells-Kleberg-Kennedy SWCD #311 by \$300, increase Willacy SWCD #349 by \$300, reduce Hidalgo SWCD #350 by \$500 and increase Monte Mucho SWCD #331 by \$500. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel and Albert Evans the proposed fiscal year 1996 Technical Assistance funding was approved as presented with requested changes. Motion carried. (Copy attached)

The proposed operating budget for fiscal year 1996 was discussed. Mr. Buckley explained the estimated \$90,500 reduction and the 10% reduction in travel for all personnel including the field representatives. The Board expressed concern about the travel reduction for the field representatives since they are the link between the Board and local districts. Mr. Buckley explained a budget for fiscal year 1996 needed to be adopted and submitted to the Governor by September 1, 1995. He said this budget could be amended or adjusted at a later date if the Board chose to do so. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel the Board adopted the budget as presented.

Bob Buckley reported on the fiscal year 1995 budget versus expenditure report for the ten month period ending June 30, 1995.

Mel Davis discussed plans for the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in Galveston, Texas on October 16-18, 1995. He advised the Board that the Planning Committee had met on June 28, 1995 in

Temple and chose the Galvez Hotel as the headquarters hotel and meetings will be held in the Moody Civic Center as well as in the Galvez Hotel. He said because of the distance of the other hotels being used there will be shuttle buses running throughout the meeting. Mr. Davis said the "Get Acquainted" reception will be held in the Lone Star Flight Museum on Monday evening with everyone there enjoying a catered barbecue meal. He then discussed the outline of the program and said invitation letters have been sent to individuals that the planning committee would like to see as speakers. All spouses activities are scheduled for Tuesday. An estimated expense and revenue report was discussed along with a proposed registration fee. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Paul Robertson the registration fee was set at \$40.00 with \$15.00 for spouses. Motion carried. Dick Schendel expressed his concern to urge district directors who are to receive recognition for length of service to be in attendance at the meeting. A list of district directors receiving recognition was provided to the Board. The Board discussed sending a letter to the districts who would have recipients of these awards to encourage their attendance.

The Conservation Awards Program for 1996 was discussed by Cherié King. She provided current language and proposed language in the guidelines concerning soil and water conservation district directors and families, State Board members and their families, and State Board employees and their families participating in the awards program. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Paul Robertson, the proposed language was adopted. Motion carried. The new language reads: "(12) SWCD directors, State Soil and Water Conservation Board members, State Soil and Water

Conservation Board employees, and dependent members of the above mentioned individuals' households are **not** eligible to compete. (Exception: Children of the above mentioned individuals may compete in the poster and essay contests.)”

Paul Robertson reported on his attendance at an awards presentation on May 25 recognizing the first contract signed in Texas on the Great Plains Conservation Program. Wes Oneth, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service presented a plaque to the State Board for their participation in the GPCP. Mr. Robertson also informed the Board that he had attended a program in Lubbock on the FFA-Gulf of Mexico speech contest and presented plaques to nine area winners and one grand winner. Cherié King discussed a final expense report for the conservation awards program for 1995 and said the program lost money because of the increased expenses of plaques.

Bob Buckley reported on the status of the 1995 Farm Bill and said little action had taken place since the last Board meeting.

Mr. Buckley then discussed the fiscal year 1996 NRCS appropriations. He said debate had begun in Congress on the agriculture programs the previous night and was continuing as the Board was meeting and he hoped to have an updated report for the Board members before they adjourned.

Norm Bade gave the NRCS report. He reported on the Emergency Watershed Program and also said there had been an announcement that there would be another sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program.

The Board was provided a numerical summary of legislation filed and passed by the 74th Legislative Session and a list of Constitutional Amendments that will appear on the November 7, 1995 ballot. Mr. Buckley advised the Board that starting September 1, 1995, all personnel traveling on state business will have to pay hotel/motel taxes but can claim it as an expense on travel and be reimbursed.

Randy Jones introduced Danna Ryan, newly hired Information Specialist. Clyde Gottschalk then updated the Board on the information/education activities for SB 503 and other activities in which the Information Department is currently involved. He said teacher workshops have been completed for the summer and have been successful. He also advised that a popular brochure "Profile of a SWCD Director" is being revised and updated and would be available in the near future.

James Moore discussed letters of requests from two districts, Hansford SWCD #148 and Zapata SWCD #335, requesting to be included in an S.B. 503 program area. Paul Robertson told the Board that Sherman County SWCD # 159 had been in contact with him requesting to be included in the S.B. 503 program. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the staff was directed to work with these three districts to assimilate information adequate to determine if the districts have nonpoint source problems or concerns of a nature that would warrant inclusion in the nonpoint source assessment, and if so to proceed with inclusion so they could be considered under S.B. 503 at a later date.

James Moore discussed proposed S.B. 503 cost share allocations for fiscal year 1996 and provided the Board with a list of the proposed allocations. He said the staff

recommendation included a minimum allocation of \$5,000 and was otherwise as close to the previous allocation as funding allowed because of reduction in the statewide set-aside fund. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board accepted recommendations as presented by the staff.

Mr. Moore provided a list of Clean Water Act Sec. 319(h) proposals being considered for fiscal year 1996 funding. He said seventeen proposals were received and prioritized. He further stated that only eight were being submitted, because of limited funding, but are subject to change by EPA. For the Board's information Mr. Moore discussed a letter he had received from Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission concerning the drinking water for the City of Marlin. The letter stated that Atrazine, a herbicide, has been confirmed in samples taken at the surface water treatment plant. He said no action was required but the State Board may at some point in the future be requested to assist in finding the source of the Atrazine.

The Board was updated on S.B. 503 activities by James Moore. He said in fiscal year 1995 460 plans have been approved. He also provided a map showing counties across the state where complaints have been filed. Sam Unberhagen discussed the complaints and how they were handled. Mr. Buckley updated the Board on a complaint on a dairy in the San Angelo area and said State Board personnel would be meeting with State Representative Rob Junell on August 3 to discuss the progress of the dairy in implementing a water quality management plan.

Mr. Moore discussed the TNRCC Dairy Outreach Program and provided the Board a copy of a letter received from TNRCC which stated they will not inspect dairy

facilities which have or have applied for a water quality management plan. Mr. Moore told the Board the staff would continue to pursue this issue and will keep them informed.

Allan Jones expressed appreciation for the cooperation he has received with the State Board staff. He informed the Board that research is underway at Blackland Research Center on Atrazine and the use of filter strips to reduce potential pollutants from entering streams. He also said a proposal has been sent to Texas A & M to build another facility at the Blackland Research Center to bring all agencies' technical personnel together to work.

The Board then discussed letters of request from five districts requesting cost share allocations from statewide funds. The districts requesting these funds were: Nacogdoches SWCD #401, Lamar SWCD #415, Shelby SWCD #449, McLennan SWCD #512, and Dalworth SWCD #519. All districts except Dalworth SWCD #519 have certified water quality management plans and Dalworth is in the process of getting the plan certified. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel and Albert Evans, the Board approved \$51,845.42 in allocations to the above districts contingent upon Dalworth getting their plan certification. Motion carried. The Board then discussed reallocation of released fiscal year 1995 cost share funds. There was \$256,790.09 released funds to be reallocated with additional funds expected to be released. Dick Schendel moved to authorize the reallocation of funds adequate to cover the cost of the next two plans in the priority list for each district that has a request in for additional funding and give the Executive Director authority to

reallocate any remaining funds. Paul Robertson and Harvey Davis seconded the motion and motion carried.

James Moore explained the new TNRCC Confined Animal Feeding Rules. He said the new rules have been adopted and published in the **Texas Register** and are in effect along with the old rules.

Mr. Moore advised the Board that the Clean Water Act Reauthorization bill passed by the House had been sent to the Senate with no further action at that time.

Dick Schendel and James Moore updated the Board on a Coastal Coordination Council meeting they had attended June 29. A list of the council members, which includes Dick Schendel, was discussed. The council voted to publish amendments to the coastal management program rules as proposed by Railroad Commissioner Barry Williamson. These rules have been published in the **Texas Register** for public comment.

James Moore passed out a proposal to the Board members that would be presented to the City of San Antonio the following day on water conservation in the Edwards Aquifer. It proposes setting up a brush control program, improving agriculture irrigation efficiency, and installing water and sediment control structures. It was the consensus of the Board to pursue the proposal, particularly the brush control project.

A report was provided the Board on the activities of the Water Resources Committee of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts which is looking into the possibility of forming an Association of Watershed Sponsors. This

will be discussed at the Water Resources Committee meeting in Galveston at the Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors.

The Board was provided with a travel report. Confirmations were provided Board members attending the South Central Regional NACD meeting in Fort Smith, Arkansas on July 30-August 1, 1995. The Board was also provided preliminary information on the national NACD meeting to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 4-7, 1996. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, Dick Schendel or any Board member wishing to attend was authorized to attend the NACD meeting in Sparks, Nevada on August 13-16, 1995. Motion carried.

Randy Jones gave a staffing update and advised the Board the engineer from the Mount Pleasant regional office has resigned. He also said he would soon be interviewing for another Information Specialist to fill a federally funded position. He said the agency was advancing satisfactorily with the reclassification of the Soil Conservationists to Program Specialists I. He reported the State Board was the only agency in the state with soil conservationists. Mr. Jones showed the Board an award the agency had received relating to workplace safety and health of state employees, citizens served and preservation of state property and provided them with a copy of Executive Order GWB95-8 signed by Governor Bush on June 29, 1995.

Mr. Jones advised the Rio Grande Valley regional office is still being temporarily housed in Edinburg and that bids will soon be going out for office space in Weslaco. Three districts in the Rio Grande Valley had proposed to jointly build a building for the regional office but plans did not materialize. Mr. Jones also informed

the Board that the lease on the State headquarters building would expire in November, and explained certain changes would be requested in any new lease.

Mel Davis advised the Board that election material for district director elections in Zone 3 would be mailed the following day and provided the Board members a cover sheet of the mailing.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Charles D. Clark  
Chairman

Lois J. Cain  
Secretary

9-20-95  
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on July 20, 1995.

9-20-95  
Date

Robert H. Buckley  
Executive Director