

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

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 21, 1993, at 8:00 a.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
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Janet Gonser, Planner
Stephen Deiss, Planner
Ramesh K. Chamala, Research Specialist
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor
Rex Isom, Soil Conservationist
Robert Gruner, Soil Conservationist
Johnny Oswald, Soil Conservationist
Joe Freeman, Soil Conservationist
Andy Garza, Soil Conservationist
Roy Freeman, Soil Conservationist
David Powell, Soil Conservationist
Joe McKay, Soil Conservationist
Dub Crumley, Soil Conservationist
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Kenton Inglis, Soil Conservation Service
Atlan Pfluger, Texas Water Development Board

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Bob Buckley introduced Randy Jones and the Human Resources Director recently hired by the State Board.

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel the minutes of the June 21, 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 Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the following district director appointments were approved:

Raymond King, King County SWCD #168
Bill Wight, Sandhills SWCD #241
S. F. Henderson, Sandhills SWCD #241
Louie G. Koonce, Midland SWCD #244
Bernadine Carruth, Jasper-Newton SWCD #441
Kenneth Ingram, Kaufman-Van Zandt SWCD #505

Bill Neiser discussed the Fiscal Year 1993 expenditure report ending June 30, 1993. He said expenditures are running very close to the budget and close monitoring of expenses at year end will be required.

Bill Neiser advised the Board that Technical Assistance and Subchapter H Technical Assistance funds have been released by several districts since the last Board meeting and provided the Board a list of proposed reallocations furnished by the field staff. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel the reallocations were approved as presented. (Copy attached.) Supplemental matching fund payments were then discussed. Paul Robertson moved to instruct staff to pay supplemental funds available as in the past after special supplemental payments to Upper Clear Fork SWCD #165 and Victoria SWCD # 346 in the amounts of \$2,000 and \$640.31 respectively. Dick Schendel seconded the

motion and motion carried.

Mr. Neiser discussed the Fiscal Year 1994 proposed operating budget beginning September 1, 1993 and pointed out changes made since the last Board meeting of June 21, 1993. He also advised the Board that additional Matching Funds for districts receiving less than \$3200 that requested additional funds were reflected in this proposed budget. The proposal also reflects additional Technical Assistance funds for districts that will be new to the program in FY 94. The Board then instructed staff to provide a minimum allocation of \$2000 for participating districts. Buddy Clark raised the possibility of restoring the partial per diem payment for employees and Board members. It was the consensus of the Board to have the staff look into the budget implications of paying partial per diem and report back to the State Board at its next meeting. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the operating budget for Fiscal Year 1994 was approved. Motion carried.

Mr. Neiser provided the Board a copy of a letter from Hopkins-Rains Soil and Water Conservation District #445 requesting their Technical Assistance funds allocation for Fiscal Year 1994 be increased. Mr. Neiser also provided the Board an allocation worksheet which kept all current participating districts at their Fiscal Year 1993 allocation level and included districts requesting Technical Assistance funds for the first time to receive their request up to a maximum of \$3500. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel a minimum of \$2,000 was set

and approved by the Board raising 19 districts to the \$2,000 level and giving 7 districts who had never been in the program an allocation of \$2,000. Motion carried. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel, the allocations as presented on the worksheet excluding the 26 districts already allocated were approved. Motion carried. (Copy attached).

A letter from Menard Soil and Water Conservation District #215 requesting an increase in their Fiscal Year 1994 conservation assistance funds request was discussed. Mr. Neiser provided the Board a worksheet of proposed allocations for Fiscal Year 1994. After some discussion of why Menard SWCD #215 was requesting additional funds Buddy Clark moved to approve this request. The motion failed because of lack of a second. Harvey Davis moved to adopt the conservation assistance funds allocations as presented. Paul Robertson seconded and motion carried.

Bill Neiser presented letters from Lipscomb Soil and Water Conservation District #134, Red River County Soil and Water Conservation District #423 and Hopkins-Rains Soil and Water Conservation District #445 requesting the Board to consider a waiver of rules under the conservation assistance program. Mr. Neiser informed the Board that these three districts' conservation assistance balances were reduced by two-thirds on May 15th because they were unable to claim their allocations due to their financial statement not being approved. He said the districts have all submitted financial statements and had been very cooperative in getting corrections done. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by

Harvey Davis, the Board granted a waiver of rules allowing the two-thirds reductions to be reinstated. Motion carried.

Mr. Neiser updated the Board on the implementation of the Uniform Statewide Accounting System which will go into effect September 1, 1993. He said the State Comptroller would not accept vouchers for processing after August 23, 1993. Agency vouchers after that date will have to wait until September to be processed for payment. Mr. Neiser informed the Board this agency should be better prepared for the conversion since we have remained involved in the implementation process.

John Millican reported on a committee planning meeting for the 1993 Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in Lubbock, October 18-20, 1993. The committee consisted of Albert Evans, Committee Chairman, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Paul Robertson, TSSWCB, Donald Swann, Association of Texas SWCDs, Mike Holt, Association of Texas SWCDs, Bob Buckley, Executive Director, TSSWCB, John Millican, Assistant Executive Director, TSSWCB, and Doris Weil, President, Auxiliary of the Association of Texas SWCDs. Possible speakers were discussed. The format of the meeting will be the same as in years past including special activities for the ladies. The Holiday Inn Civic Center will serve as headquarters hotel. Mel Davis provided the Board and staff with a list of District Directors who will receive awards for length of service and asked that it be carefully checked.

Mel Davis discussed the Conservation Awards Program sponsored

Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Association met on July 20 and adopted the use of the NACD Soil Stewardship theme be used each year for the poster and essay contests and that winning posters be judged and sent to competition in the NACD Auxiliary Poster Contest. In the essay contest prose and poetry could be used. Paul Robertson moved to adopt the same position as the Association. The motion died for lack of a second. The staff was then asked to come up with recommendations for entering posters in the national program that would not jeopardize or diminish the local or regional program and present them at the August Board meeting. The Board then discussed the use of prose and poetry in the essay contest and the possibility of adding a new category for Conservation Contractor. Buddy Clark moved that both proposals not be approved, Dick Schendel seconded. The vote was tied two for the motion and two against the motion. The Chairman voted for the motion breaking the tie to not use prose and poetry in the essay contest and not add a new category for Conservation Contractor.

Kenton Inglis reported for the Soil Conservation Service. He discussed co-location for the Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and the ASCS. He said as leases expire they will advertise for building space at the lowest price as long as it meets specifications. He said SCS in Texas now have 864 full time employees. Mr. Inglis said on a spot check on the Food Security Act they found only 2% to be in non-compliance. SCS has entered into an agreement with EPA to place an employee, Virgil Helm, in

the Water Quality Branch, State Programs Section. He reported that SCS also plans to hold a series of conferences with watershed sponsors this fall to explain changes in the National Watershed programs and to answer questions.

Atlan Pfluger reported that the Texas Water Development Board has 9 grant applications pending at the present time. They expect to receive funds in November and will award grants at that time.

Kenton Inglis discussed historical site preservation and how it would impact landowners in performing conservation land measures. He said SCS was operating under a new interim agreement signed with the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Offices regarding cultural resources reporting procedures which requires SCS to report to the SHPO the location of all cultural resources encountered on privately owned lands including those that will not be impacted by SCS or district assistance. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board agreed to send letters to the Texas Congressional Delegation, Senator Bill Sims, Speaker of the House Pete Laney, Governor Ann Richards and Lt. Governor Bob Bullock opposing the reporting of cultural resource sites on privately owned land by federal agencies to the State Historical Preservation Offices.

Albert Evans read and presented a letter of appreciation to Dick and Ellie Schendel and their family for the hospitality and barbecue everyone enjoyed on May 20, 1993 at the Ecletto Creek Watershed dam dedication.

Bob discussed a letter he received from Ray Abbott, City of

Temple, requesting the State Board to endorse a federal grant application from USDA for \$454,000 over a two-year period for a Central Texas Rural Technology Center to be located at Temple Junior College. The purpose of the Center would be to assist rural communities and would serve a nine county area. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board agreed to endorse the grant application. Motion carried.

John Millican reported on the Public Information/Education program. He said Clyde Gottschalk was in the process of making arrangements to purchase an exhibit to be used at the Farmer-Stockman Agriculture Exposition to be held in Lubbock, Texas, October 12-14, 1993. He also reported that numbers in attendance at the Teacher Workshops were down this year.

James Moore brought the Board up to date on the status of the nonpoint source program. He discussed a news release concerning a dairy field day which is part of the State Board's nonpoint source program at the Kow Castle Dairy in Stephenville on July 23 and invited the Board to attend. The purpose of the tour is to help dairy producers to become familiar with best management practices and nonpoint source management programs.

Mr. Moore informed the Board the revision of the agricultural/silvicultural nonpoint source management program had been published in the Texas Register with the public comment period ending July 15, 1993. He discussed some of the comments that had been received. Mr. Moore provided the Board a copy of a draft "Best Management Practices for Agricultural Nonpoint Source

Pollution in Texas." This document will be printed and used as an educational tool for districts and has been submitted to EPA for their review.

James Moore discussed the implementation of Senate Bill 503. He provided the Board a proposed outline of rules and discussed them in detail. He indicated that the staff would go to the Attorney General for assistance in drafting the rules.

Additional Technical Assistance funds in the amount of \$400 were returned to be reallocated. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel, \$200 was reallocated to Hopkins-Rains SWCD #445 and \$200 to Wood SWCD # 444. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Dick Schendel, the Board voted to allow the Executive Director to reallocate any additional Technical Assistance funds that are returned in consultation with the Board member whose districts are involved. Motion carried.

James Moore discussed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Water Commission. He said the Texas Water Commission would be the lead water quality agency but hoped to be able to get pass through grant funds for the Section 319 program in the future. He discussed basic items that need to be covered in the Memorandum of Understanding and indicated he would have a draft for Board review by the September meeting.

Mr. Moore provided the Board a copy of the State Board's Agency Response required by the Coastal Zone Management Program. It was the consensus of the Board to read the material provided them and to discuss at the August Board meeting.

James Moore discussed with the Board the Pre-Draft Action Plan for Nonpoint Sources in the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program. The purpose of the action plan is to reduce and eventually eliminate harm from nonpoint sources of pollution entering Galveston Bay including toxic contaminants, nutrients, pathogens, sediment, and oxygen-demanding materials.

Bill Neiser discussed proposed technical assistance rule changes. A letter received from the Upper Leon Soil and Water Conservation District #525 supporting the new proposed Technical Assistance rules was discussed. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the proposed changes to the Technical Assistance rules were approved on final adoption. Motion carried. (Copy attached).

Proposed rule changes for Subchapter H Technical Assistance were then discussed. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the proposed rules were approved on final adoption. Motion carried. (Copy attached).

Board member travel reports were provided each Board member. At this point there appears to be sufficient funding for travel for the remainder of the fiscal year. Travel to San Antonio for the South Central Region meeting was discussed. Mr. Buckley had been requested to have someone from the Board give the invocation at the meeting and Paul Robertson volunteered to do so.

State Board employees Joe McKay and Joe Freeman were recognized by Bob Buckley for their length of service and dedication to the program.

The next Board meeting was set for August 23, 1993.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Albert Evans
Chairman

Louis J. Cain
Secretary

8-23-93
Date

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

8-23-93
Date

Robert A. Buckley
Executive Director