

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2014

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 27, 2014, at 3:04 p.m. at 801 University Drive East, College Station, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
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
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
John Foster, Statewide Programs Officer
T. J. Helton, Nonpoint Source Programs Coordinator
Mitch Conine, Nonpoint Source Project Management Coordinator
Dave Morris, GIS Specialist
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
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Mike Nichols, Freese and Nichols, Inc
Ward Whitworth, Upper Llanos SWCD #225
George Greer, McCulloch SWCD #249

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Marty H. Graham
Marty H. Graham, Chairman

September 18, 2014
Date

Karen D. Preece
Karen D. Preece, Secretary

September 18, 2014
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 27, 2014.

Rex Isom
Rex Isom, Executive Director

September 18, 2014
Date

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Board Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2014

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on July 28, 2014, at 1:34 p.m. at 600 John Kimbrough Boulevard, College Station, Texas.

Board Members present:

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

Staff Members present:

Rex Isom, Executive Director
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
Johnny Oswald, Program Supervisor
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 Marshall, Nonpoint Source Project Manager
Dave Morris, Geographic Information System Specialist
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
Tony Resendez, Flood Control Specialist
Karen Preece, Accountant

Others present:

Ellen Sameth, Office of the Attorney General
Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Kevin Wagner, Texas Water Resources Institute
Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board
Mike Nichols, Freese and Nichols, Inc
Dan Sebert, National Watershed Coalition
Stephen Diebel, Victoria SWCD #346
Tom Goode, Wise County

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. and welcomed those present.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Opportunity for Public Comment

Mr. Dan Sebert told the Board that Rex Isom and John Foster had flown to Washington D.C. and spoke to NRCS Headquarters and Members of Congress about watershed rehabilitation funds. Mr. Sebert thanked them for their insight and help. Mr. Sebert also stated that their 2015 meeting would be held in Fort Worth.

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

Chairman Graham welcomed Ms. Ellen Sameth, Office of the Attorney General.

Chairman Graham acknowledged Mr. Kevin Wagner, who welcomed and thanked the Board and Staff for holding the meeting in College Station.

Mr. Cameron Turner, Texas Water Development Board, addressed the Board. Mr. Turner commented on the drought, reservoir levels, Water Loss Threshold public comments, State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) rules out for public comment, and upcoming meetings.

Mr. Kerry Niemann, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, addressed the Board. Mr. Niemann commented on TMDL Program public comments, Clean Water Act, new performance measures, Nonpoint Source Program, Trinity River success story, Water Quality Standards, upcoming meeting, and the Texas Clean Rivers Program.

Mr. Salvador Salinas, Natural Resource Conservation Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Salinas commented on the Farm Bill, the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife funds to open more land for hunting, Conservation Reserve Program, ongoing contracts with TSSWCB, administrative transformation at the national level, retirements, and new hires. Mr. Salinas also commented on their participation at our annual State Meeting.

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

No information to present at this time.

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

Ms. Preece reviewed the agenda information. Chairman Graham called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14-15, 2014 Board Meetings.

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

AGENDA ITEM 5: Consider Approval of District Director Appointments

Ms. Preece presented district director appointments for the Board's consideration and verified they were in order and met all qualifications with the exception of Janet Knight missing her Personal Data Sheet, and William B. Reed missing the resignation letter of John Crawford.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the following appointments contingent upon receiving Janet Knight's and William B. Reed's paperwork in the Temple office. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Johnny C. Hill, Donley County #127, Zone 5, Replace Doug Wright
Danny J. Robertson, Garza #158, Zone 4, Replace Donny Windham
Kenneth Blezinger, Austin County #347, Zone 5, Replace Allan Hillboldt
Janet Knight, Upshur-Gregg #417, Zone 2, Replace Melvin Reynolds (missing personal data sheet)
Aaron Low, Cherokee County #427, Zone 5, Replace Harold Parker
Stephen Petri, Bedias Creek #428, Zone 4, Replace George Delfeld
Terry L. Johnson, Sr., Lower Neches #437, Zone 1, Replace Raymond Steeley
William B. Reed, Dalworth #519, Zone 2, Replace John Crawford (missing John Crawford's resignation letter)
Robert Novak, Miller-Brazos #542, Zone 5, Replace Don Butler
Larry B. King, Parker County #558, Zone 1, Replace Joe Brinkley

AGENDA ITEM 6: Consider Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the operating budget for fiscal year 2015 as presented, and the approval of an allocation to soil and water conservation districts in fiscal year 2015 for information technology resources as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Consider Technical Assistance Allocations for Fiscal Year 2015

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the Technical Assistance allocations for fiscal year 2015 as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Consider Matching Fund Allocations for Fiscal Year 2015

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the Matching Fund allocations for fiscal year 2015 as presented. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Consider District Director Mileage & Per Diem Allocations for Fiscal Year 2015

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the District Director Mileage & Per Diem allocations for fiscal year 2015 as presented. Mr. Buckles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Consider 2016-2017 Biennial Legislative Appropriation Request

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the 2016-17 Legislative Appropriations Request for the Biennium Beginning September 1, 2015 as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Consider Allocations for Clerical Assistance Contribution Agreement

Mr. Zajicek reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the proposed allocation changes for the Clerical Assistance Agreement as presented, and to grant authority for the Executive Director to make allocation changes as needed until the agreement expires on September 30, 2014. Mr. Mahler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 12: Sunset Legislation Implementation Status Report

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 13: Legislative Update

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

AGENDA ITEM 14: National Fish and Wildlife Grant Application Status

Mr. Foster reviewed the agenda information. Mr. Foster commented that Texas Natural Resource Conservation Service has added funds for the development of the Lesser Prairie Chicken and Gulf Coast habitat. Applications have been submitted for grants.

AGENDA ITEM 15: Flood Control Programs Status Report

Mr. Munz introduced new hire Tony Resendez, Flood Control Program Specialist, to the Board. Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 16: Fiscal Year 2015 Allocation for Flood Control Program Funding

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 17: Consider Approval of Flood Control Dam Rehabilitation Projects for Fiscal Year 2015

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

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

AGENDA ITEM 18: Consider Approval of Fiscal Year 2015 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 cost-share incentive priorities, allocations, and application ranking criteria as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 19: Consider Approval of Requests for Waivers in Accordance with 31 TAC523.6(f)(2)

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

AGENDA ITEM 20: Consider Approval of 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 21: Consider Approval of the Water Quality Management Plan Program Approved Practice List

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Buckles moved for the approval of the Water Quality Management Plan Program Approved Practice List as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 22: Water Quality Management Plan Program Status Report

Mr. Munz reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 23: Poultry Water Quality Management 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. Oswald reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 26: Consider Reallocation of Fiscal Year 2014 Grant Funding for the Water Supply Enhancement Program

Mr. Oswald introduced Stephen Diebel from Victoria SWCD #346. Mr. Diebel stated that Victoria SWCD wants to set up a water yield study on Huisache in Victoria County. They have a ready-site, and their goal is to have equipment on the ground by October. Mr. Oswald proposed a \$55,000 grant to the United States Geological Survey for the water yield study.

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

AGENDA ITEM 27: Consider Adoption of the 2014 Revision of the State Water Supply Enhancement Plan

Mr. Wendt reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved that, in accordance with statute, the draft State Water Supply Enhancement Plan as proposed by staff be adopted, without changes, with the understanding that staff will continue to work with interested parties to help improve the plan as science and technology dictate. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 28: Consider Adoption of Proposed Amendments to 31 TAC Chapter 517, Subchapter B, Cost-Share Assistance for Water Supply Enhancement (§§517.22-517.37)

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved that, in accordance with statute, the proposed amendments to the Water Supply Enhancement Program rules, as published without changes, be adopted with the understanding that staff will continue to work with interested parties to improve the rules as science and technology dictate. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 29: Consider Approval of Subdivision Boundary Changes for Lynn County SWCD #119

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Nichols moved for the approval of the subdivision boundary changes as presented. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 30: Consider Approval of Subdivision Boundary Changes for Live Oak SWCD #323

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Dodier moved for the approval of the subdivision boundary changes as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 31: Review Plans for 2014 Annual State Meeting

Mr. Davis and Ms. Warrick reviewed the agenda information. Ms. Warrick stated that the meteorologist is available for the meeting; however her cost is \$2,500 plus expenses for herself and her son.

Mr. Dodier moved to decline the meteorologist due to cost. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 32: Consider Proposed Federal Rules Defining "Waters of the United States" Under the Clean Water Act

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

AGENDA ITEM 33: Consider Approval of 2015 Texas Conservation Awards Program Guidelines

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

Mr. Mahler moved for the approval of the 2015 Texas Conservation Awards Program guidelines as presented. Mr. Dodier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 34: Local Work Group Meetings

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

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: Customer Service Survey

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 40: Public Information/Education Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

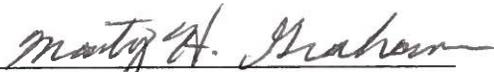
AGENDA ITEM 41: Human Resources Status Report

Mr. Davis reviewed the agenda information.

AGENDA ITEM 42: Set Date for Next State Board Meeting

September 17-18, 2014, tentatively to be held in Fredericksburg.

Meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.



Marty H. Graham, Chairman



Karen D. Preece, Secretary

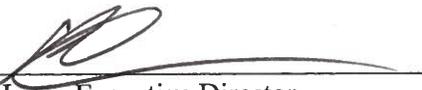
September 18, 2014

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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 28, 2014.



Rex Isom, Executive Director

September 18, 2014

Date