

Official Minutes
STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
August 2, 1990

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, August 2, 1990, in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

Joe Antilley, Chairman
Harvey Davis, Vice Chairman
C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Member
Fred Squyres, Member
Albert Evans, Member

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
John Millican, Assistant Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Director of Programs
James M. Moore, Engineer
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Janet Gonser, Planner
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Ramesh Kumar Chamala, Research Specialist
Steven Deiss, Engineering Technician
Joe Camp, Hydrologist
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
Don Brandenberger, Soil Conservationist
Dub Crumley, Soil Conservationist

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Bill Harris, Texas Agricultural Extension Service
Comer Tuck, Texas Water Development Board
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agricultural Research Service
Dr. Allen Jones, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Clyde Hale, Association of Texas SWCDs
S. W. Dorrell, Association of Texas SWCDs

Chairman Antilley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Dick Schendel, the minutes of the May 6, 1990, Board meeting were approved as mailed to each Board member.

John Millican reviewed information on appointees for district directors for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Board approved the following district directors:

Jackie Moore, Rio Blanco SWCD #107
Gaylord Groce, Hale County SWCD #132
Linda Grau Powell, Yoakum SWCD #150
Mike Wilson, Andrew Kent SWCD #170
Charlie R. Arnold, LaSalle SWCD #354
William Jim Hopper, Mills County SWCD #554

Bill Neiser reported on technical assistance funds that had been released for reallocation to other districts. He provided the Board, for their review, a list of reallocations already made. He then asked the Board if it was their desire to continue the policy of allowing the Executive Director to reallocate any additional funds released by districts for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1990. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board voted to allow the Executive Director to reallocate the funds in consultation with the Board member of the area releasing the funds.

Mr. Neiser provided the Board a status report on fiscal year 1990 supplemental conservation assistance funds.

The Board was provided copies of letters requesting additional Technical Assistance and Subchapter H Technical Assistance funds for fiscal year 1991.

Bill Neiser handed out worksheets for district Technical Assistance and Conservation Assistance allocations for fiscal year 1991. After some discussion a motion was made by Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel allocating funds as presented for each state area as follows:

Area I	-	\$230,729.00
Area II	-	\$159,230.00
Area III	-	\$204,168.00
Area IV	-	\$169,333.00
Area V	-	\$266,941.00

After discussion on the fiscal year 91 Conservation Assistance funds a motion was made by Dick Schendel, seconded by Fred Squyres, to allocate the same amount for each state area with a maximum of \$3200 per district. Allocations per state districts were as follows:

Area I	-	\$151,825.00
Area II	-	\$122,750.00
Area III	-	\$131,175.00
Area IV	-	\$102,235.00
Area V	-	\$116,600.00

At this point the State Board Soil Conservationists left the meeting to work on allocations for their districts.

Mr. Neiser discussed the fiscal year 1991 proposed operating budget provided each Board member and advised the Board that the proposed budget was essentially the same as the 1990 fiscal year operating budget. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the fiscal year 1991 operating budget was adopted as presented.

Mr. Neiser presented a report on the 1990 fiscal year operating budget for the ten months ended June 30, 1990.

Bob Buckley advised the Board that a fax machine was to be ordered with funds from the Watershed Planning, Sedimentation and Erosion Control and Water Quality Planning account.

Mr. Buckley and Mr. Neiser reported on a budget hearing recently

held before the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Budget and Planning Office.

The Board was presented a proposed adjustment to the 1992-1993 Biennium Legislative Appropriations Request. Additional funding is needed to pay fixed overhead costs currently being funded by the Watershed Study activity. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Albert Evans, the amendment was adopted as presented.

Mr. Neiser reported on the Uniform Statewide Accounting System which will be effective for all state agencies September 1, 1991. The State Board volunteered to be a pilot agency for this project and will start using the new system on September 1, 1990.

John Millican presented a report on the proposed division of the Upper Pecos Soil and Water Conservation District #213. Joe Antilley and John Millican reported on public hearings held in Pecos, Barstow, and Monahans on July 11, 1990. It was reported that the directors of the Upper Pecos SWCD were now in disagreement as to how the boundary lines between the two proposed districts should be drawn. There also is considerable disagreement among landowners in the district as to how these lines should be drawn. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Albert Evans, the petition to divide the Upper Pecos SWCD #213 was tabled.

John Millican discussed the 1990 Annual State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held in Austin, Texas, on October 22-24, 1990, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. A proposed budget for the meeting was discussed and on motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the registration fee was to remain the same at \$15.00 and \$5.00 for spouses.

James Moore discussed the revised "Agricultural Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Management Programs for the State of Texas" with emphasis on the added conclusion written as discussed at the last board meeting to clarify the position of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board on future needs relative to nonpoint source management in Texas.

Mr. Moore reported on the status of the nonpoint source grant work programs the State Board is involved with.

Beade Northcut discussed the upcoming Water Quality Conference to be held in Dallas at the Sheraton-Mockingbird West Hotel on August 15-16, 1990 and advised the Board of the speakers who had accepted the invitation to attend.

James Moore briefed the Board on the progress of the Erath County Groundwater Study currently being carried out by State Board staff pursuant to a contract with the Texas Water Commission. He informed the Board that the staff was currently conducting to do 60 interviews with owners of subject water wells in Erath County, 50 of which will eventually be sampled.

Mr. Moore reported on the Agricultural Chemicals and Agents in Groundwater Management Plan. He advised the Board of an opportunity to enter into contract with the Texas Water Commission in order to receive \$5,000 reimbursement to cover State Board expenses relative to input into the management plan. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by C. F. Schendel, the Executive Director was authorized to enter into contract with the Texas Water Commission.

James Moore reported on proposed USDA water quality hydrologic unit projects on the Seymour Aquifer in Haskell and Knox Counties and in the

Lake Fork Creek Watershed in Hopkins, Rains and Wood Counties. He also reported on a proposed water quality demonstration project on the Lower Colorado River. He indicated that all soil and water conservation districts involved had been briefed on the projects and were supportive of them. He further explained that decisions on funding is expected prior to September 31, 1990.

Beade Northcut reported to the Board that there were no new applications in the P.L. 83-566 program.

Wes Oneth reported on activities of the Soil Conservation Service. He advised that Patrick Reardon was the new Range Conservationist in the State office. He reported on the results of the LCRA study of sediment flowing into Highland Lakes near Austin and said 80% of the sediment was coming from bedload and river banks and 20% from crops, building construction, etc. Mr. Oneth reported on the status of the Chief of the Soil Conservation Service. He advised that Wilson Scaling had resigned and Mac Gray would be serving as Acting Chief and a new Chief should be appointed in the next six months. He discussed the Great Plains Conservation Program and indicated that maximum cost share rates for brush management has been set at \$70.00 per acre for mechanical treatment and \$25.00 per acre for chemical treatment.

Dr. Bill Harris reported that the USDA-State of Texas cooperative water quality projects on Seco Creek and the North Bosque River sponsored by the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board are going well and comments are positive.

Dr. Clarence Richardson reported that on the national level ARS has

new initiatives requested in their budget which include water quality, global change and food safety.

Comer Tuck reported that their grants to districts program for water conservation and water quality has had two applications since the last State Board meeting. He advised the Board that a series of meetings beginning in mid-August will be held across the State to present to the public the newly revised Texas Water Plan.

Dr. Allen Jones reported on Texas A&M University strategic planning activities and indicated that Integrated Pest Management, Production, Water Quality and Sustainable Use make up over 50% of new initiatives. He explained the development of a Center for Natural Resource Technology and an Agricultural Satellite Network through the Texas A&M University System. He then informed the Board of an international vertisol workshop and indicated that work on the statewide data base for the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Watershed Study was going well.

Clyde Hale reported on the Association budget and his attendance at the NACD South Central Region meeting in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mr. Hale advised the Board that the Association's By-Laws Committee would soon be meeting to discuss possible revisions.

At this point the allocations of Conservation Assistance and Technical Assistance funds for the 1991 fiscal year were discussed again. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Fred Squyres, the allocations were approved as attached.

Mr. Buckley discussed proposals for recommendation to the 72nd Legislature. He discussed the proposed cost-share assistance program for soil and water conservation land improvement measures.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have a called Board meeting in Dallas on August 15, 1990, at 5:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Nonpoint Source Conference.

Mr. Buckley provided the Board members a copy of the NACD District Leader giving a report on federal legislation.

Mr. Moore advised the Board members that EPA had given the State Board a \$7,000 grant for the purpose of purchasing four chlorophyll meters for training appropriate personnel to operate them. He further explained that the meters would be used in Wharton and Matagorda Counties to provide assistance to rice producers to promote improved fertilizer management.

C. F. Schendel reported on the Gulf of Mexico program and said he attended a subcommittee meeting on July 9th on nonpoint source at Clear Lake, Texas. He advised the Board that the committee concluded that much of the nonpoint source pollution entering the bay was from urban areas going into Galveston Bay and not as much from agriculture as was first anticipated. He also advised the Board that EPA had approved a \$75,000 grant proposal for shoreline erosion for Galveston Bay covering a 2-year period. Mr. Schendel reported that he also attended a meeting on July 24th at the General Land Office of the Coastal Zone Management Advisory Committee.

Joe Camp gave the Board a progress report on the statewide watershed study. He said that the working relations with the Soil Conservation Service, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Water Commission, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Agricultural Extension Service are excellent and that these agencies are to be commended for their efforts at helping meet study deadlines.

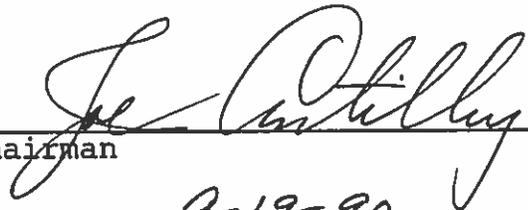
Albert Evans reported on his attendance at a meeting in Louisiana concerning wetlands management. On motion of C. F. Schendel, seconded by Fred Squyres, the Board approved payment to Mr. Evans for his expenses relative to attendance at this meeting.

Board members travel expense for fiscal year 1990 was discussed. On motion of Albert Evans, seconded by Harvey Davis, the Executive Director was given permission to reallocate travel money at the end of the fiscal year in order that all Board members' expenses can be paid.

Mr. Buckley advised the Board that \$25,000 was allocated for Board member travel for fiscal year 1991. On motion of Fred Squyres, seconded by Harvey Davis, each Board member was allocated \$5,000 travel expense money for fiscal year 1991.

Bob Buckley presented his personal financial statement to the Board. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Fred Squyres, Mr. Buckley's financial statement was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.



Chairman
9-19-90

Date



Secretary

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on August 2, 1990.

9-19-90

Date



Executive Director