

Official Minutes
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
August 8, 1959

The State Soil Conservation Board held its regular meeting at the Wooten Hotel, Abilene, Texas, on August 8, 1959, beginning at 8:00 A.M.

Members present were:

E. W. Wehman, Vice-chairman, A. F. Leesch, J. C. Porter, J. S. Sharp, and Frank Gray.

Others present were: A. C. Spencer and Garner Jones of the State Soil Conservation Board, W. S. Gibbs and H. B. Boswell of the Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and Clyde Graham and Homer Taff of the Soil Conservation Service.

Vice-chairman Wehman recognized the visitors present and welcomed Frank Gray as a new member of the State Soil Conservation Board.

Upon motion by J. S. Sharp, seconded by Arthur Leesch, the Board elected E. W. Wehman as chairman for the year 1959-60, and on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by Frank Gray, the Board elected J. C. Porter as vice-chairman for this period.

The minutes of the May 2, 1959 meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, were read and approved, on motion by J. C. Porter, and seconded by Frank Gray.

Preliminary field examinations on watersheds applying for assistance under Public Law 566 were considered. A favorable benefit-to-cost ratio was reported on the following watersheds:

Houston County No. 1, Davy-Crockett-Trinity County SCD
Mcho Arroyo, El Paso-Hudspeth SCD
Madden Arroyo, El Paso-Hudspeth SCD
Camp Rice Arroyo, El Paso-Hudspeth SCD

A motion was made by A. F. Leesch, and seconded by J. C. Porter, to approve these watershed applications. The motion carried. An unfavorable benefit-to-cost ratio was reported on the following watersheds.:

Lower Pedernales River, Gillespie County SCD
Upper Pedernales River, Gillespie County SCD
Running Water Draw, Parmer SCD

A motion was made by A. F. Leesch_x and seconded by J. S. Sharp to finally disapprove these watersheds. The motion carried.

Clyde Graham of the Soil Conservation Service reported on the progress being made on planning Public Law 566 watersheds, and concluded by stating the need for the designation of a planning priority, by the Board, of a watershed for the Trust Fund Planning Party. It was further stated that ten watersheds had requested an estimate of the cost of preparing a watershed work plan.

A discussion was entered into on the watersheds that had proposed to set up a Trust Fund to finance a planning party and it was concluded that not more than three actually had money available at this time. Following a discussion of the merits of these three watersheds a motion was made by J. C. Porter_x and seconded by Frank Gray to grant the next planning priority for the Trust Fund Planning Party to Bitter-Oaks -John Mann-Polecat Creeks watershed located near ✓ Memphis, Texas, in the Donley-Hall SCD.

The Board expressed the probabl^e need for holding public hearings on all watersheds desiring to finance a planning party before any additional priorities could be granted.

The progress on the Irrigation Survey of the State was given by Water Planning Engineer Carner Jones. It was stated by Mr. Jones that he had been informed by the Soil Conservation Service that they were getting the survey material to the field in the immediate future, and would be getting reports in soon. It was also pointed out that the Irrigation Survey was a cooperative undertaking with several agencies participating, namely: the State Board of Water Engineers, the U.S. Study Commission, the Soil Conservation Service, and the State Soil Conservation Board ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ connecting with Soil Conservation Districts.

The progress on the Great Plains Conservation Program was reported on by Homer Taff of the Soil Conservation Service, emphasizing that the program was an important tool for Districts to use in their programs. The Board requested

that a written summary of the report be furnished them, if possible. The Board members, and W. S. Gibbs of the Association of Soil Conservation Districts, requested that they be placed on the mailing list for the magazine, Land Improvement, beginning with the July issue. The Board suggested that periodic reports summarizing the program would be desirable, and an occasional detailed report given to keep them informed on progress.

A. F. Leesch suggested that he be replaced on the Great Plains program committee by Frank Gray since most of the activities of the program actually take place in State District One. A motion was made by J. S. Sharp, and seconded by J. C. Porter to appoint Frank Gray as the Board representative on the committee. The motion carried.

A. C. Spencer reported on the request by the Kaufman-Van Zandt Soil Conservation District for the assistance of the State Board in contacting the State Highway Department regarding alterations needed on U.S. Highway 80 bridges over Buffalo Creek. These alterations are in connection with upstream flood prevention work. He stated that Garner Jones had met on the ground with engineers from the Highway Department and the Soil Conservation Service to inspect and discuss the problem; and, at the present time, both agencies are considering possible solutions. Spencer observed that the problem with culverts and bridges points up the need for an understanding or working agreement between Districts and the Highway Department on projects which affect each others program.

The Highway Department has indicated willingness to meet with the State Soil Conservation Board, the Soil Conservation Service, and others to discuss arrangements for exchange of information pertaining to each others future plans. The Board expressed a desire to hold such a meeting when proper preparations have been made.

Frank Gray reported that public hearings on petitions for organization of Soil Conservation Districts for Potter County and Oldham County were held.

The hearing for the Canadian River Soil Conservation District taking in that part of Potter County not now in a district was held on the night of August 5, and the hearing for the Oldham County Soil Conservation District embracing all of Oldham County was held on the night of August 6. Mr. Gray reported that attendance at the Canadian River hearing was light, but enthusiastic; and that a good attendance of enthusiastic people in Oldham County was experienced. Mr. Gray recommended that the Board authorize elections for both new districts. Upon motion by Frank Gray, seconded by A. F. Leesch, the Board passed a Determination of Need for both above proposed Soil Conservation Districts.

The location of the 1961 Annual State Meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors was considered. Chairman Wehman asked W. S. Gibbs, President of the State Association if they had any preferences. After a discussion between Mr. Gibbs and the members of the State Soil Conservation Board it was agreed that the facilities at Dallas, San Antonio, and Waco would be inspected jointly by the Board and representatives of the State Association. J. C. Porter made a motion, seconded by J. S. Sharp, that the next meeting of the State Soil Conservation Board be held the night of September 8, 1959, at the Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Boswell were invited to attend. Inspection of the Dallas facilities will be made the morning of September 9, 1959.

A report on Supervisor Training meetings recently held at La Grange and Lufkin was made by E. W. Wehman and W. S. Gibbs. Both concluded that the meetings were very beneficial. The Board suggested that future meetings be planned in areas where sufficient interest exists or can be developed.

H. B. Boswell discussed recent correspondence with the Directors of the Brazos River Authority. Mr. Boswell had suggested that a meeting with representatives of the State Association, State Soil Conservation Board and Soil Conservation Service, and the Directors of Brazos River Authority be arranged. The date has not yet been set. The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Boswell

for this contact and agreed that such a meeting will be helpful. Chairman Wehman designated J. C. Porter and A. C. Spencer to attend the meeting and represent the State Soil Conservation Board.

The resignation of Harvey D. Davis, Assistant Executive Director, was read. After expressions of appreciation for Mr. Davis's services for the past 5 years, J. C. Porter moved, J. S. Sharp seconded, the motion that the resignation be accepted with regrets and that Chairman E. W. Wehman write a letter to Mr. Davis expressing the Board's appreciation for his services.

A. C. Spencer called attention of the Board Members to the recent Biennial Report of the Board and to the recent death of Mr. J. P. Martin, former member of the State Soil Conservation Board. A. C. Spencer was instructed to draw a resolution concerning Mr. Martin's services to the Board and forward it to Mrs. J. P. Martin.

It was reported that the Shelby-Panola and Nacogdoches-Rusk Soil Conservation Districts have been dissolved and that four new districts consisting of Shelby, Panola, Nacogdoches, and Rusk embracing the same territory have been organized.

The Teacher Training meeting at Alpine, Texas, on August 17 - 20, was briefly discussed. It was stated that L. F. Stewart and O. F. Armstrong, Field Planning Engineers for the State Soil Conservation Board, will attend. Mr. A. F. Leesch was designated to attend if he can make satisfactory arrangements.

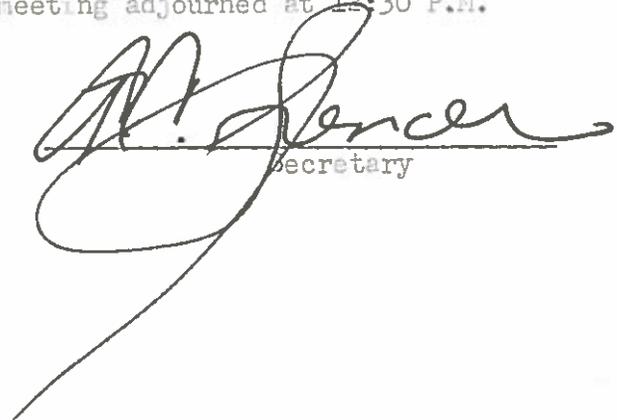
W. S. Gibbs suggested that a member of the State Soil Conservation Board and A. C. Spencer meet with him and H. B. Boswell to discuss fields of activity in which the State Soil Conservation Board should exercise leadership and fields of activity in which the State Association should exercise leadership in order to avoid duplication of effort and possible conflict. The Board members expressed agreement that such a meeting was needed and that the group should report back to the Board members and to the Directors of the State Association. Chairman Wehman designated A. F. Leesch as the Board member to

participate in this discussion.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.



Chairman



Secretary

September 8, 1959
Date