

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
August 8, 1994

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on August 8, 1994 at 11:00 a.m. in its hearings room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas.

Board members present were:

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

Staff members present were:

Robert G. Buckley, Executive Director
William C. Neiser, Assistant Executive Director
Mel Davis, Assistant Executive Director
Leonard Pietzsch, Chief Accountant
Randy Jones, Human Resources Director
Cherie King, Director of Programs
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Bo Spoons, Director of Programs
Suzanne Cardwell, Planner
Lupe Pinto, Hydrologist
Mahendra Mohite, Research Specialist
Stephen Deiss, Planner
Lois Cain, Administrative Technician

Chairman Robertson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Minutes of the July 20, 1994 board meeting were postponed and will be considered at the September, 1994 board meeting.

Mel Davis presented district director appointments for consideration and advised the Board the appointments appeared to be in order. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Buddy Clark, the following district director appointments were approved as

presented:

Charles Wade Clifton, Concho SWCD #201
Albert Mechler, DeWitt County SWCD #339

Bill Neiser discussed the proposed 1996-1997 Biennium Legislative Appropriation Request. He advised the Board the date for submission of the request is August 17 and explained the addition of several items that had been incorporated into the budget request since the July board meeting. There was much discussion on how to increase matching funds allocations to districts for the 1996-1997 biennium. There was also discussion of reduction of fiscal year 1995 budget in the amount of \$74,760 for travel and early retirement reductions as required by the General Appropriations Act. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel the Board voted to take the reduction amount from the Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement strategy. Motion carried.

The transfer of 1996-1997 biennium requested funds from cost share to matching funds was discussed in depth. Dick Schendel made the motion to leave the 1996-1997 biennium legislative request as it was presented and not transfer funding. Harvey Davis seconded. Dick Schendel, Harvey Davis and Albert Evans voted for the motion; Buddy Clark voted against. Motion carried. Mr. Neiser asked for the board's guidance on listing strategies by priority. Motion was made by Harvey Davis, seconded by Dick Schendel to list the strategies on the priority table as follows: 1) Financial/Technical Assistance, 2) Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement, 3) Conservation Program Management, and 4) Statewide Management Plan. Motion carried.

After some discussion Dick Schendel made the motion to reconsider his previous motion on the transferring of cost share funding to be used for matching funds in the 1996-1997 legislative budget request. Harvey Davis seconded and motion carried. The Board was advised it would require about \$260,000 in funding to raise districts to the maximum amount of \$4,500 for matching funds. Albert Evans moved to approve the 1996-1997 legislative appropriation request with \$260,000 transferred from the cost share strategy to the Financial/Technical Assistance strategy contingent upon the approval of appropriate legislative leaders. Buddy Clark seconded and motion carried.

Bo Spoons gave a status report on the Nonpoint Source Management Program. The Board members had previously been provided a copy of a draft response to a comment letter received from the Sierra Club regarding the State of Texas Agriculture/Silviculture Nonpoint Source Management Program. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Evans the Board directed staff to send the letter as prepared. Motion carried.

Mr. Spoons presented a copy of a letter prepared to be sent to Keith Jones of the Governor's office for the Governor's use in submitting the State of Texas Agriculture/Silviculture Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program to the Regional Administrator of EPA. Harvey Davis moved to approve the Management Plan and forward it to the Governor for her submission to EPA, Albert Evans seconded and motion carried.

The Board was then given an activity report by Mr. Spoons on statewide 319 projects. He said by the end of August there will be 15 active projects in the state with another 12 planned by fiscal year 1995.

Beade Northcut gave a status report on Senate Bill 503. He said as of the Board meeting date 53 water quality management plans had been certified and 17 were pending. The Board was provided two sample plans - one for a dairy operation and one on cropland.

Bob Buckley discussed allocation of water quality cost share funds and asked the Board to authorize staff to reallocate unused funds before end of the fiscal year. He reported an additional need to allocate \$75,000 targeted for use on a statewide basis. On motion of Dick Schendel, seconded by Albert Evans the Executive Director was given authority to reallocate unobligated funds along with the \$75,000 allocated funds for statewide application. Motion carried.

Mr. Buckley advised the Board that one bid had been received for a regional office location in Wharton County. The Rio Grande Valley regional office site is still in question.

Mel Davis gave an update on the 1994 Annual Statewide Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held September 26-28, 1994 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin, Texas, and discussed changes and additions made to the program since the last board meeting. Cherie King provided the Board copies of the

resolutions that had been received as of the Board meeting date and advised the Board the resolutions committee would be meeting on August 15, 1994 in the State Board's hearing room in Temple.

Mel Davis discussed information provided by Jackie Vanderburg, District Technician from the Lamar Soil and Water Conservation District No. 415 concerning a proposal to form a State District Employees Association. The proposed district employees association is not intended to be a union and it would be affiliated with the State Association. The Board members reviewed the information and took no action.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting is September 21, 1994.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Paul E. Robertson
Chairman

Lois J. Cain
Secretary

9-21-94
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on August 8, 1994.

9-21-94
Date

Robert H. Buckley
Executive Director