

Minutes
TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
August 13, 1992

The State Soil and Water Conservation Board met on Thursday, August 13, 1992, at 8:00 a.m. in its Conference Room at 311 North Fifth Street, Temple, Texas for a special called meeting.

Board members present were:

C. F. "Dick" Schendel, Chairman
Paul Robertson, Member
Charles D. "Buddy" Clark, 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
Beade Northcut, Engineer
Mel Davis, Soil Conservationist
Lois Cain, Office Services Supervisor

Others present were:

Wes Oneth, Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Clarence Richardson, Agriculture Research Service

Dick Schendel called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He welcomed James Moore back since he was unable to attend the July Board meeting because he was recuperating from back surgery. Bob Buckley reported on Board member Albert Evans's health. Mr. Evans was unable to attend the meeting because of his recent hospitalization. Mr. Schendel expressed his thanks to the Board and staff for their expressions of sympathy for the recent loss of his brother.

On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Harvey Davis, the minutes of the July 15, 1992 Board meeting were approved as corrected.

John Millican presented district director appointments for consideration and recommended they be approved. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the following district director appointments were approved.

Gale Stafford, Upper Pease SWCD #164
Bruce Barker, Dimmit County SWCD #320
Curtis E. Bachman, Red River County SWCD #423
Billy Ray Vestal, Freestone County SWCD #424
Sam West, Lower Clear Fork of the Brazos SWCD #551

Beade Northcut discussed the proposed rules for EPA's issuance of a general NPDES permit for confined animal feeding operations as published in the Federal Register. Two hearing dates concerning the rules are set in Texas, one in San Antonio on August 21, 1992 and the second one in Amarillo for September 1, 1992. Mr. Buckley discussed the history behind this situation and then asked the Board's permission to comment on the proposed rules. The Board concurred.

James Moore presented copies of the final draft recommendations of the Nonpoint Source Subcommittee of the Clean Water Council. He specifically discussed those recommendations dealing with agricultural strategies and indicated they were fairly close to the recommendations provided by State Board staff as directed by the State Board. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board instructed the staff to pursue development of the pilot project recommended in item #5 on page 18 and carry it out with or without Texas Water Commission participation.

John Millican reported on the arrangements for the Annual

State Meeting of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors to be held on South Padre Island, October 19-21, 1992. Mr. Buckley advised the Board that he and Mr. Millican would be traveling to South Padre Island to make final arrangements on August 27-28, 1992. Several backup speakers were named since some of the speakers previously invited had not been able to accept.

Bill Neiser advised the Board of rule changes that have been adopted by the State General Services Commission regarding travel by members of State Boards and Commissions and State employees. Each agency will be required to develop and adopt policies and procedures governing travel under the statewide travel management plan. More information will be provided at the next State Board meeting.

Wes Oneth reported on the activities of the Soil Conservation Service. He said the field day recently held at the Knox City Plant Material Center was well attended by 350 people. He also said the Chisholm Trail RC&D has been approved. Mr. Oneth reported on construction projects that are in progress now and ones that will begin construction soon. He said Texas was the only state with a backlog of plans. The Soil Conservation Service had an educational booth display at the Vocational Agriculture Teachers Convention held recently in Abilene. He advised the Board that the area office in Victoria had been closed and the area conservationist had been transferred to Bryan and in 1993 the area offices would be closed in Mount Pleasant and Temple. He told the Board he had requested permission to use emergency watershed funds

for repair work on PL 566 dams. The budget has been set and the Soil Conservation Service will be operating at the same level in 1993 as they did in 1992.

Dr. Clarence Richardson from the Agriculture Research Service in Temple advised the Board they were adding two new research positions, have hired a new engineer and have hired a new soil scientist to replace someone who had retired. He also discussed their budget and where it was at the present time and said they may have to take a 5% cut.

Bill Neiser gave a report on reallocation of Technical Assistance Funds. A total of \$4,264.36 was returned from soil and water conservation districts in Area III. The funds were reallocated as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
Live Oak SWCD #323	\$200.00	(H)
Loma Blanca SWCD #328	300.00	
Copano Bay SWCD #329	300.00	
Alamo SWCD #330	500.00	
Monte Mucho SWCD #331	300.00	
Starr County SWCD #332	400.00	(H)
Colorado SWCD #333	500.00	
Jackson SWCD #336	400.00	
Webb SWCD #337	264.36	(H)
Wharton County SWCD #342	500.00	
Victoria SWCD #346	600.00	

Bill Neiser presented Matching Fund claims for Bandera SWCD #229 for \$580.00, Alamo SWCD #330 for \$1,260.60 and Goliad County SWCD #352 for \$190.00. These claims were approved at the local Board meetings early in July but because of extenuating circumstances were received in the State office after the August 1st deadline for submitting claims. On motion of Paul Robertson,

seconded by Buddy Clark, these claims were approved for payment. Motion carried.

The 1994-1995 Budget Request was then discussed. Mr. Buckley advised the Board that the budget layout will follow the agency Strategic Plan. The Board then discussed the salary of the Executive Director which the Board is required to set. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board voted to ask for \$75,000 for the Executive Director's salary. Mr. Buckley thanked the Board for their vote of confidence. The Legislative Appropriation Request for the 1994-1995 biennium was reviewed and approved on motion of Buddy Clark and seconded by Paul Robertson. In summary the request will include the following:

1. Funding to cover current operations.
2. Increase in the Technical Assistance and Conservation Assistance (Matching Fund) programs for districts and increase Director per diem to \$30.00.
3. Increase for technical support to districts by expanding the engineering/technical staff capabilities.
4. Increase in the Information/Education program to provide districts more timely training and communication of conservation related matters.
5. A new Alternative Compliance Strategy to provide local assistance to districts in developing water quality management plans in identified problem areas.
6. Additional staff and support services to adequately service additional staff and duties.

7. Additional funding for districts to maintain watershed flood control structures and to implement brush control methods to increase water yields in areas of low annual average rainfall.

Bill Neiser presented proposed changes in agency rules which would address changes made necessary by the new audit requirements of the soil and water conservation districts. On motion of Paul Robertson, seconded by Buddy Clark, the Board voted to adopt the changes as presented. Motion carried.

Board member travel was then discussed. Some Board members' per diem allowances had been exhausted or would be before the end of the fiscal year. The Board was advised that there would be ample travel funds to pay all Board member travel. On motion of Harvey Davis, seconded by Paul Robertson, the Board voted to allow all Board members' travel and per diem be paid. Motion carried.

The next regular State Board meeting is September 16, 1992.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Clarence J. Achendel
Chairman

Lois Cain
Secretary

9-16-92
Date

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Board meeting held on August 13, 1992.

9-16-92
Date

Robert H. Buckley
Executive Director