

Minutes
State Soil Conservation Board Meeting
August 22, 1961
Student Union Bldg.
College Station, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by Chairman, J. S. Sharp.

Other members present were: A. F. Leesch, J. C. Porter, J. Frank Gray, and E. W. Wehman.

Others present were: A. C. Spencer, Executive Director, State Soil Conservation Board, Harvey Davis, Assistant Executive Director, State Soil Conservation Board and J. M. Norton, Engineer, State Soil Conservation Board. Clyde Graham, Soil Conservation Service and Howard Boswell, Executive Director of the Association of Texas Soil Conservation Districts.

The minutes of the July 26 meeting were read and approved.

A new application for a flood prevention project on Running Water Draw in the Plainview area was introduced and discussed by Mr. Graham and members of the Board. The application was disapproved pending a field examination to determine feasibility on motion by Frank Gray, seconded by J. C. Porter.

Based on presentation of results of preliminary field examinations by J. M. Norton, the following actions pertaining to watershed applications were taken:

1. Finally disapproved Upper Pedernales River on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by J. C. Porter.
2. Approved as economically feasible, Williamson Creek on motion by A. F. Leesch, seconded by E. W. Wehman.

A. C. Spencer reported that the public hearing was held at Kerrick, Texas on August 8, 1961 on the proposition of annexing 130,160 acres in the Northeast corner of Dallam County to the Dallam Soil Conservation District. There was no opposition registered at the hearing and since more than two-thirds of the landowners in the area petitioned for annexation of the territory, Frank Gray made a motion, seconded by J. C. Porter to determine a need for the annexation and to

declare the annexation practicable and feasible. The motion carried.

Requests for re-zoning the Frio Soil Conservation District and the Dallam Soil Conservation District to provide more even distribution of the number of landowners among the zones in the district were considered. Frank Gray made a motion, seconded by A. F. Leesch to approve the changes in zone boundaries as requested. The motion carried.

Clyde Graham reported on watershed planning as follows:

Salado Creek-San Antonio-Local sponsors have asked for additional survey work to check on possibilities of locating sites to eliminate as many problems as possible. The Trust Fund party will plan Valley Creek following Salado Creek. There are no other assured trust fund potentials except Starr County where there are already two projects authorized for operations. The Trust Fund Party costs approximately \$100,000 per year. About \$40,000 will be available from the Valley Creek trust fund. This leaves a need for about \$60,000 to operate the party for the coming year.

The 1961-62 appropriation was reviewed. The legislature appropriated \$110,000 for Operating Expenses and Watershed Planning. The division of the funds was left to the discretion of the Board. The Board's objective was to allocate the limited funds in such a manner as to keep the Trust Fund Planning Party in operation the full year and to provide for the minimum needs for operating expenses of Soil Conservation Districts.

E. W. Wehman made a motion that \$60,000 be allocated for watershed planning and \$50,000 for operating expenses of districts for the first year of the biennium. H. B. Boswell discussed at great length work with the legislature and indicated that he thought a high percentage of the appropriation should be allocated to operating expenses of districts. On direct question from Chairman Sharp, Mr. Boswell

declined to make any specific recommendation. For lack of second Mr. Wehman's motion died.

J. C. Porter made a motion that the \$110,000 be divided equally between operating expenses of Soil Conservation Districts and watershed planning. The motion was seconded by A. F. Leesch.

In discussion Wehman asked what would happen if funds for paying the cost of the planning party were exhausted before the end of the year since estimated needs are \$160,000 to finish out the year. Porter stated that the Soil Conservation Service would be asked to budget as closely as possible and that if additional funds were needed he felt the local sponsoring organization would raise them. Chairman Sharp called for a vote and the motion carried.

J. C. Porter made a motion that Chairman J. S. Sharp and A. C. Spencer be authorized to draw up and execute a contract with the Soil Conservation Service for developing watershed work plans to the extent of \$55,000 during the 1961-62 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Frank Gray and passed.

A. F. Leesch moved and Frank Gray seconded the motion to approve the allocation of funds to the four new districts Wharton County, Oldham, Chaparal and Ector as contained in the appropriation bill. The motion carried.

A. C. Spencer discussed the meeting to be held the following day with the State Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Committee. Suggestions from different Soil Conservation Districts of Texas as to needed changes in ASC operations to better correlate it with the Soil Conservation District program were reviewed. (Copy of suggestions attached)

The meeting recessed at 11:00 P.M.

August 23, 1961

Chairman J. S. Sharp re-convened the meeting at 8:00 A.M. to discuss means of distributing the \$55,000 to be allocated to Soil Conservation Districts. The

plan as set forth in the attached letter to district supervisors (see attached letter) was agreed upon by mutual consent.

The Board went to the State office of the ASCS where Board Member, J. C. Porter reviewed with State ASCS Committee members the responsibilities and operating procedures of the State Soil Conservation Board and local Soil Conservation Districts. A similar meeting was held with the State office staff and followed by a discussion of the problems enumerated on the attached pages.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

J. B. Sharp

Chairman
October 8, 1961

Date

Al Spencer

Secretary

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your minutes dated August 22, 1961.

RECEIVED Thanks very much for your cooperation.

OCT 26 1961

TEXAS STATE
SOIL CONSERVATION BOARD
TEMPLE, TEXAS

Sincerely yours,
Fritz Daniel